

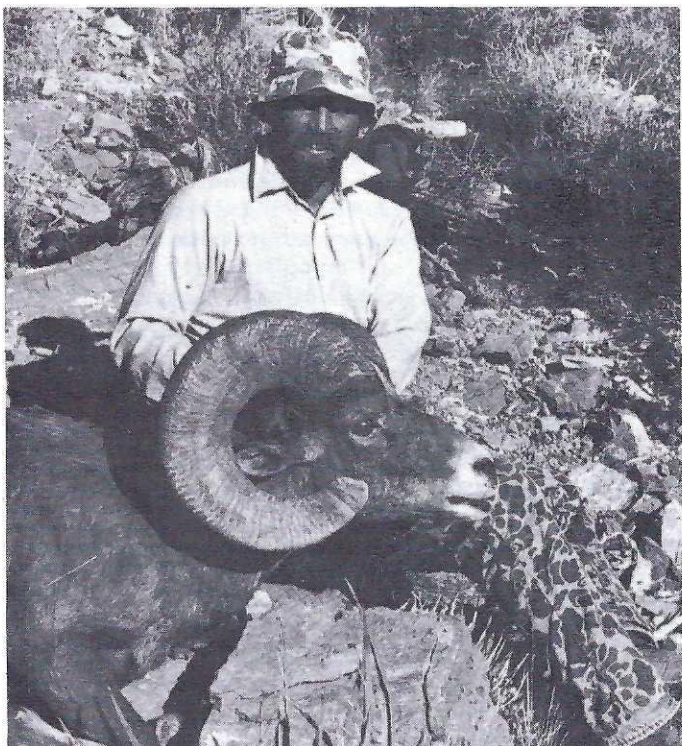
THE RAM'S HORN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.
A NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT CORPORATION

Vol. 14

MARCH, 1981

No. 1



Lanny Wilson, our featured speaker of the 1981 Awards Banquet. This is Lanny's huge ram taken during the 1980 Nevada hunt. Looks like 12 years of applying was worth the wait.

1981 A.D.B.S.S. AWARDS BANQUET

Be sure that you have reserved May 9, 1981 on your calendar. That date has been set for the 1981 ADBSS Awards Banquet. The featured speaker of the evening will be Mr. Lanny Wilson, State Wildlife Biologist for the Bureau of Land Management in Idaho. This past year Lanny was selected to be the Conservation Speaker at the annual Boone and Crockett Awards Banquet and also spoke at both the California and Utah Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Banquets. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, was the second recipient of the Achievement Award presented by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, and is currently serving as chairman of the Technical Staff of the Desert Bighorn Council. Lanny's research data has been used in many books on desert bighorn sheep and he has done extensive study of interaction between desert sheep and domestic livestock. He is the author of *Guidelines for Re-Establishing and Capturing Desert Bighorn Sheep* and has just completed the chapter on Wild Sheep Management for the book *North American Wild Sheep* which will be off the press this spring. Lanny will be discussing the past history, distribution and problems facing the wild sheep of North America.

The banquet will again be held at The Safari Hotel in Scottsdale. There will be sheep heads on display and many items to raffle and sell. If you have any questions, call Harry Hussey at 942-8104.

Make your reservations now by phone (ADBSS Office — 274-9069) or use the Reservation Form provided.

TIME: Doors open around 6:00 and dinner is to be served at 7:00.

PLACE: The Safari Hotel Convention Center
4611 North Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$17.50 per person
\$20.00 per person at door
(Your ticket could be drawn for a special door prize)

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET RESERVATION

Please hold reservations in my name. Tickets will be held at the door.

Name _____ No. _____

Address _____

City & State _____

Phone _____

Please enclose check payable to A.D.B.S.S., Inc.

Mail to:

ADBSS, Inc. Amount Enclosed
P.O. Box 5241 _____
Phoenix, AZ 85010 x \$17.50-\$ _____

Facts & Figures of 1980 Drawing

Project Information

Joe Bill Pickrell, Chairman

Please bring your own pair of leather gloves to all future projects. Most of us won't need to purchase a new pair, just bring back a pair we forget to turn in at a previous project. Inflation has affected everyone and the Game and Fish Department is no exception. The Department will have cloth gloves available for those who forget, but remember, if leather is your choice, please provide your own.

The traditional Saturday evening dinner provided by the Society will be free this year. As a means of recovering the cost, we have purchased a rifle to auction. The drawing will be held at the annual Sheep Hunters Clinic. Tickets are \$5.00 each and 5 for \$20.00. You can purchase tickets only at the water hole projects — so come on out to a project, have a free dinner on the Society and maybe win a rifle. Remember, all donations are tax deductible and you can purchase tickets only at the water hole projects.

Due to increased cost, the Society has decided to charge for the annual BBQ dinner held on the Friday before the Sheep Hunters Clinic. However, there is a way to avoid this charge . . . simply show up at a water hole project and you will receive one complimentary ticket to the dinner. For every project you attend . . . another free ticket! Show up for every project and treat your friends to a free dinner and fun evening!

Report on Northwest Eagletail Mountain Waterhole Project — January 10 & 11, 1981 Waterhole Inspection Program

The A.D.B.S.S. is interested in instituting an inspection program of all the existing waterholes. The program will include visits to three or four waterholes per year, and will include inspection of the condition of all structures, level and quality of water, the condition of the habitat, all animals' signs in the general area, and all sightings of animals. A report will be provided for each inspection. Anyone interested should contact the ADBSS office at 274-9069.

NOTES OF INTEREST . . .

Of the permits available, 28 were issued on 1st choice, 22 were issued on 2nd choice.

Five permits went to non-residents — three on 1st choice, two on 2nd choice.

• • • • •

If you have not sent in your 1981 dues, now's the time!
If you have, why not try to recruit another member.

R-Resident NR-Non-Resident UNIT	PERMITS AVAILABLE	Number of Applicants for 1st Choice	Number of Applicants for 2nd Choice	Number of 1st Choice Permits Issued	Number of 2nd Choice Permits Issued	Number of Non-Res. Permits Issued
601 15 A & B	9	R 196 NR 61	R 93 NR 27	5	4	1
602 15C N	7	R 158 NR 78	R 205 NR 57	4	3	1
603 15C S	3	R 40 NR 12	R 101 NR 53	1	2	0
604 15 D	3	R 35 NR 7	R 37 NR 6	3	0	0
605 16A & B	1	R 31 NR 5	R 32 NR 7	1	0	0
606 31	2	R 31 NR 7	R 59 NR 6	2	0	1
607 33	2	R 120 NR 10	R 65 NR 5	2	0	0
608 39	1	R 37 NR 1	R 35 NR 3	0	1	0
609 40 A	2	R 70 NR 4	R 66 NR 14	0	2	0
610 40 B	1	R 27 NR 6	R 29 NR 6	1	0	0
611 40 B	1	R 19 NR 1	R 21 NR 1	0	1	0
612 41	1	R 41 NR 1	R 28 NR 0	0	1	0
613 43 A & B	2	R 39 NR 15	R 39 NR 7	1	1	0
614 44 A	1	R 41 NR 2	R 36 NR 8	1	0	0
615 44 B	3	R 166 NR 78	R 129 NR 63	2	1	1
616 45 A	4	R 330 NR 202	R 201 NR 121	4	0	0
617 45 B	2	R 39 NR 15	R 127 NR 73	0	2	0
618 45 C	4	R 72 NR 82	R 175 NR 107	1	3	1
619 46 B	1	R 18 NR 4	R 18 NR 0	0	1	0

THE RAM'S HORN

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Desert Bighorns of Region III, Kingman Past and Present

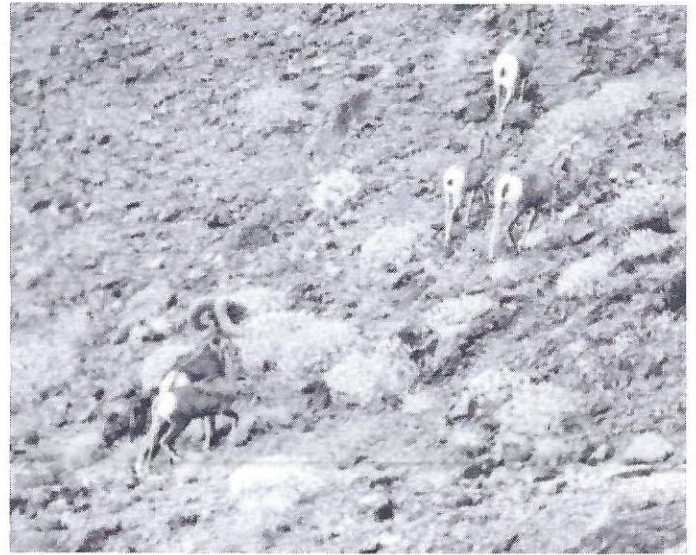
The following information was made available by George Welsh of Kingman:

George started with the Arizona Game and Fish Department during 1957 in the Prescott area. Since 1960 George has been working out of Kingman where his work with sheep began. He is a charter member and former board member of the ADBSS. Working with game animals requires many hours of survey work and sheep are certainly no exception. During the last fifteen years George has helped develop and perfect the helicopter survey. Though the Colorado River runs through Region III there is still need for water in many areas that are distant from the river and George, in cooperation with the BLM, has played a major role in the development of seventeen water holes under the Sykes Act for sheep in the Black Mountains. The ADBSS in conjunction with the Arizona Game and Fish Department has constructed 10 water holes in this region with more on the way. The ADBSS is proud to have within its membership a man such as George Welsh.

This area, as far as desert bighorns are concerned, takes in Unit 16A and Units 15A-B-C-D. These northern units, with the exception of Unit 16A, have been a bright spot the last few years in the state's sheep herds. A conservative estimate of the sheep population in Region III numbers between 1,300 and 1,500. Last year's surveys are as follows: 82 sheep counted in 15D, 429 in 15C and 431 in 15A and B. Depending on the area in these northern units, the Game and Fish estimate that they see 70-85% of the total sheep population on spring surveys. There were 97 legal rams seen on surveys last year.

Due to above normal rainfall the past few years, the sheep herds in Unit 15 have been in excellent condition, although the rainfall this past summer and winter has been sparse and conditions are due to worsen. Horn growth on rams has been very good with $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ year old rams having horns 33 to 35 inch lengths. The sheep of the north are considered to be the sub-species Nelsoni characterized by being typically paler in color and smaller and having a distinctive flair to their horns. There are a few tight curls but they are few and far between. If a tight curled ram is your goal, it would be better to stick to the southern part of the state. The average ram taken in the northern area has been between 153 and 155 Boone and Crockett points and is six years old. The largest ram of this region was taken a couple years ago by Susan Nelson and it scored 174+ Boone and Crockett points. What is really phenomenal about this ram was its aging by the Game and Fish Department to be $6\frac{1}{2}$ years old. Up until this time John Houzenga had taken the largest ram of this region with 170% Boone and Crockett points. Seems that with this good growth rate and a good population of rams, the possibility of another ram such as the famous "Spots" from Nevada definitely does exist. Because of the increase in sheep numbers in this region, twelve sheep were transplanted to the Virgin Mountains on the Arizona Strip. All are doing fine as of this writing. All ewes lambed and only one lamb died.

Unfortunately, high sheep populations do have their problems, two of them being the high risk of disease and



A fine example of a mature northern ram. Picture taken in Unit 15C.

the possibility of drought conditions. This is why our surplus must be utilized by transplants, research and hunting. Some northern herds are also faced with the problem of competition with domestic livestock, domestic sheep and especially ferral burros. All this makes for more range depletion than our desert sheep can tolerate. It is hard to describe what an appalling sound it is when a ferral buro brays in prime sheep habitat knowing that that animal does not belong there. With the hot summer weather the recreational use of the Colorado River and Lake Mead increases along with increased use by sheep for water. There are always a few *people* (?) who can't resist taking a pot shot with the result that some sheep are killed and left to rot. There are documented cases of this happening. There is much sheep movement between 15C north and 15B across the Kingman-Las Vegas highway and across the Davis Dam highway between 15C south and 15D. This movement has accounted for many sheep deaths over the years. *Continued on back page*

UPDATE — February 19, 1981

Precipitation in the summer and winter months has been poor and range conditions have suffered. Sheep in some areas, notably Cottonwood Road in 15C, are in very poor shape. In November, 1980, eight sheep were captured and taken to Texas where Dr. Tom Bunch and Dr. Bob Glaze are doing research on sinusitis. These sheep had increased severity of scabies mites. This area is also grazed by domestic livestock and ferral burros and forage quantity and quality are poor as of this writing.

We must use the currently high sheep population for transplants, research and restocking of depleted ranges before it nosedives.

WADE DOMINY

On December 10, 1980, Wade Dominy was doing one of the things he enjoyed most — hunting sheep. Wade, a sheep guide who has worked with John Houzenga for the last seven years, was guiding hunter Tom Knoell. The ram Knoell wanted had been spotted, the stalk was on, and that afternoon Wade and Knoell got into position for a shot. The hunter fired and had his ram. After the usual chores of field dressing, Wade began to head back to the truck, but he hadn't walked very far from the ram when he was stricken with a heart attack and died.

All of us in the Sheep Society who knew Wade will feel the piercing loss of Wade's death. There will be many memories of Wade's active participation in various Sheep Society projects.

Wade was an Arizona native and had a great love for the state. He was a charter member of the ADBSS and took a ram from Unit 40A in 1967. He was 46 years old, a truck driver and is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Wade will never be forgotten by many Arizona hunters and Society members alike. I think the ADBSS should anticipate naming a future waterhole project in memory of Wade. Dominy Tank.



Wade Dominy

COMING UP . . .

I wonder when the *Ram's Horn* will be out?

I've wondered that myself a time or two over the past few years. If you don't know the times of the year to expect it how do you know that it doesn't get lost in the mail from time to time? It has happened to me.

During 1981 you can expect your *Ram's Horn* before or during the months of March (this issue), May, July, September, November and then in January, 1982.

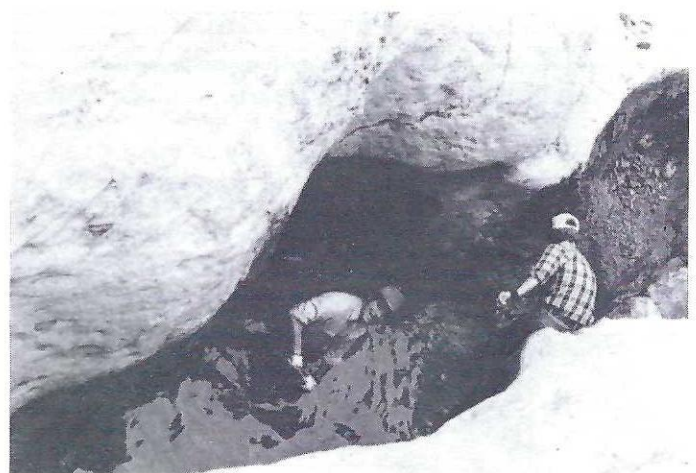
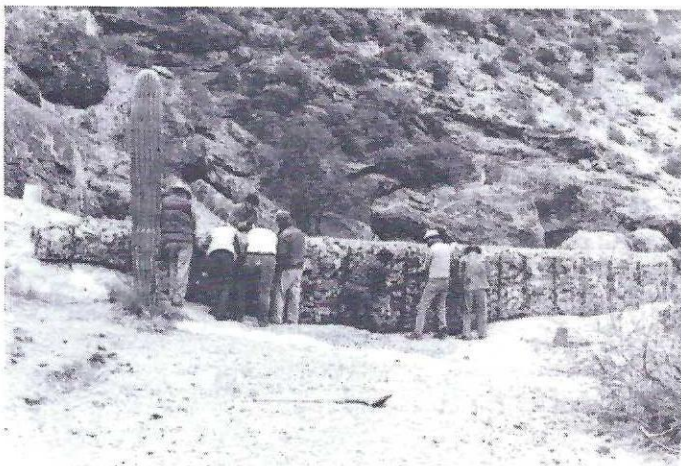
Expect more hunt pictures in the next issue; hopefully a short story of a hunt and also articles of interest about

various sheep regions and sheep experts.

I am looking forward to an interesting and informative *Ram's Horn* for the remainder of the year. It is the newsletter of the ADBSS and you are the Society. The *Ram's Horn* will achieve its purpose when there is regular input from the Sheep Society members. So if you have any news items or articles you would like to contribute, or if you have any suggestions which would make this a better newsletter, I would encourage you to drop a note to the ADBSS office or give me a call at 973-1925.

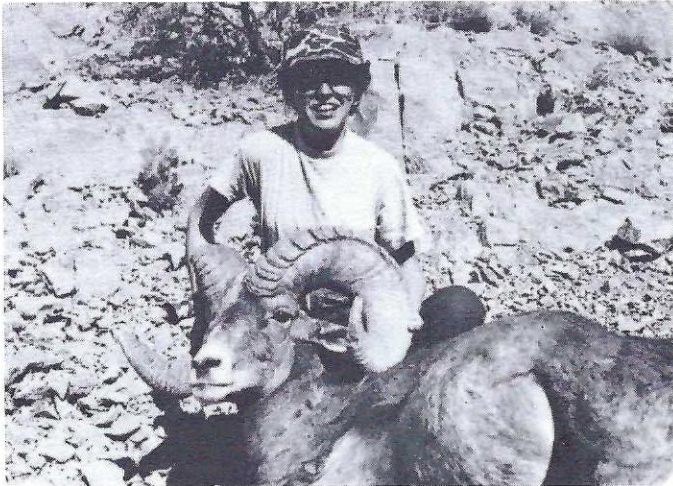
Dan Priest,
Ram's Horn Editor

Trinket Information Page will be reduced to half page. However, it was not available for this month's *Rams Horn*. Look for it in our next issue . . .



Photos of Dead Deer Tank/January Project.

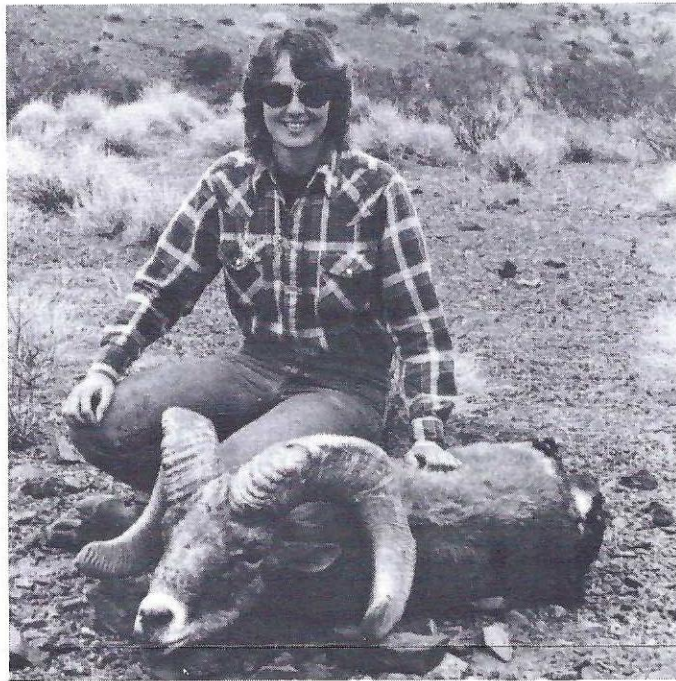
HUNT PICTURES



Vicki Clark with her ram raken from Unit 45C. Ram was taken on December 8. Vicki reported seeing lots of sheep. Assisted by her dad, Ronnie Clark.



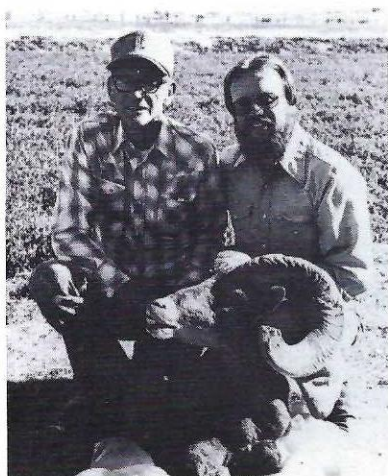
Chuck Nash of Texas. Castle Dome ram. Pictured with Chuck are Dean Bowdoin, left, and Tom Saad, middle.



Northern ram taken by Gail Sanders of California. Assisted by Ed Shannahan. Unit 15C.

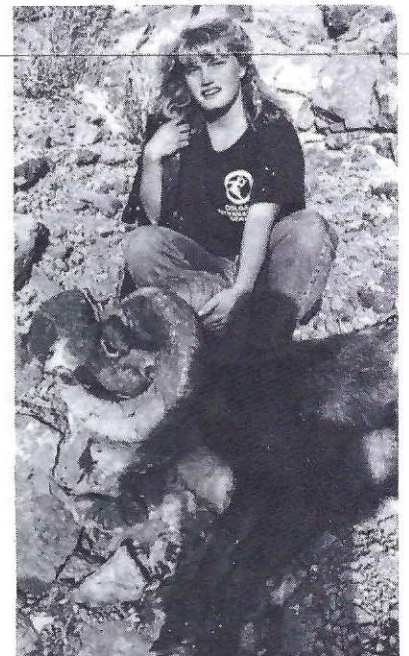


Jim Simon (left) of Nebraska, took this ram in the Plamosa Mts. Also pictured is Danny Nasca and Danny's and Jim's wives.



Pete Jameson on the left with his ram from Unit 41. Pete was assisted by Neil Sutherland, right, of Tucson and Lowell Whittaker of Welton.

Another Castle Dome ram. The proud hunter is Francis Boggess. Assisted by her dad Tom Boggess.



**INTERESTING DATE FROM REGION III'S
LAST THREE SPRING SURVEYS:**

1978 46.3 hours flight time
Observations increased by 50 animals over 1977.
Size of the 87 groups sighted ranged from one to twenty-eight and sheep were seen at the rate of 10.1 per hour including ferrying time.

1979 39.4 hours flight time.
Observations increased by 187 over 1978.
Size of the 104 groups sighted ranged from one to thirty-two and sheep were seen at the rate of 16.6 per hour.
Thirty-five ram bands were seen in groups of one to eleven, the average being three rams. This includes 15A, B, C, D.

1980 39.3 hours flight time.
Observation increase by 289 over 1979.
Size of the 136 groups sighted ranged from one to thirty-one. Unit 15A and B sheep were seen at rate of 28.7 per hour (the highest ever recorded in Arizona for unit coverage) and sheep were seen at rate of 21.0 per hour in Unit 15C and D. Fifty ram bands were seen in groups of one to fourteen, the average being 3.4 to 3.7 rams.

Daily conditions and pilot efficiency will make a substantial difference from year to year in surveys. Very important also is the ability of the observer to see sheep and to know what area the sheep will be in. The sheep population in this area has been on the increase in the last few years but it must be mentioned that the increased power and maneuverability of the Bell 206 Jet helicopter and the quality of the pilot results in a much improved survey.

NEWS SHORTS . . .

Educational meeting — March 25, 1981 at the Black Angus, 2501 East Camelback. Featured speaker will be James deVos, Jr., on bighorn sheep transplants. Call Bill Hook (work) 949-3474 or 945-7379 (home) for further information and reservations.

It's common practice in most organizations for 15% of the members to do 95% of the work. This minority usually enjoys its involvement and despite all the bellyaching of the other 85%, finds its accomplishments gratifying. They nevertheless need your support. Imagine what the 15% would be able to do if they could count on you to back them by writing a letter now and then and making a donation to make up for the lack of active participation.

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P.O. BOX 5241
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85010

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

Individuals who are interested in promoting the welfare of the Desert Bighorn Sheep and desire to affiliate with an organization dedicated to this purpose may do so by joining the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.

The membership roster of the Society includes conservationists, sportsmen, professional wildlife managers, educators, biologists, photographers and just plain folks all interested in the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep.

The Society undertakes an annual program of several (usually 5) major habitat improvement construction projects in cooperation with and under the direction of the State and Federal agencies responsible for management of the Desert Bighorn Sheep.

One of the more important projects of the Society is the conduction of the annual Sheep Clinic training program.

In addition to projects, members of the Society participate in other conservation and game management activities; a special legislative committee of the Society closely watches legislation that may affect the sheep or its habitat and general welfare.

While the opportunities for active participation are numerous, such participation is not a prerequisite for membership. All interested persons are encouraged to join, the Society needs and welcomes your moral and financial support.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby make application for membership in the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc., and enclose my membership donation. DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Annual Minimum Donation Is \$12.00

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER DATE _____

NAME _____ TEL. NO. _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.
P.O. BOX 5241 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85010



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED