

THE RAM'S HORN

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

Vol. 17

Fall '83

#5



“Old Brownie”



Harquahala Mtns. in Unit 44A. Shot ram on second day. Green score 163. The Game Warden and Biologist of the area called the ram “Old Brownie.” One cannot be around the Bighorns without getting inspired — this is why I did the sculpture pictured.

W.R. “Mac” McCracken
Sedona, Arizona

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.

LIFE MEMBERS:

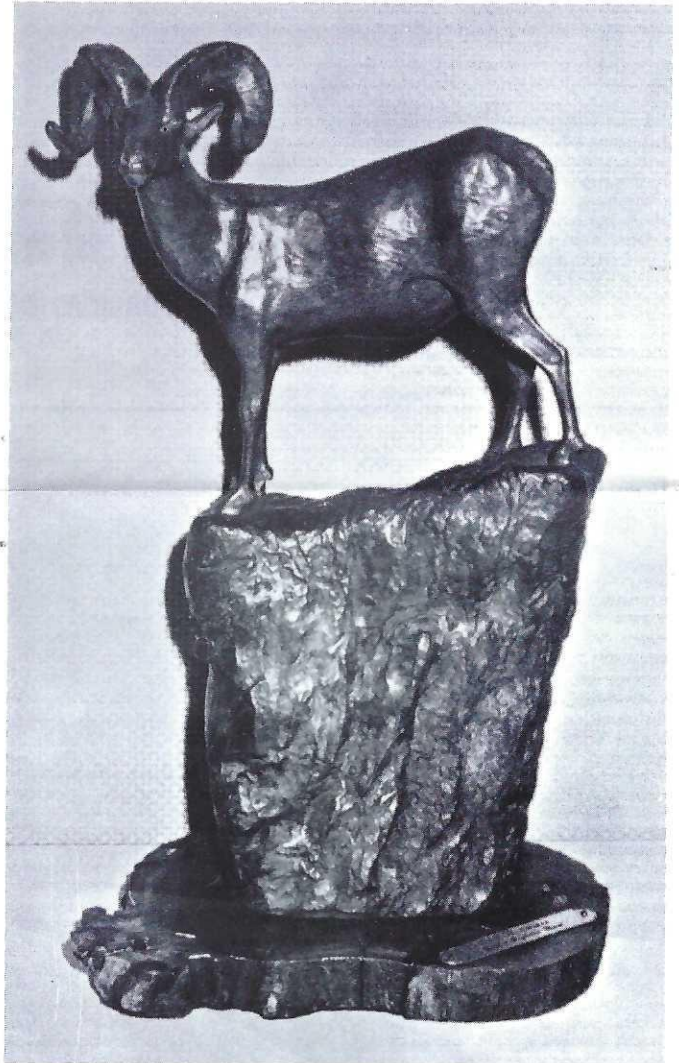
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Cover Photo Movin’ Out

Another picture of one of our huge southern rams. “Movin’ out” is the direction we’re going with our 1st annual fundraiser. Let’s all start preparing now to make big money in January! Call Tom Boggess, (O) 943-5023 or (H) 997-1161, or Joe Bill Pickrell, 943-0454, for any questions, comments, or suggestions. Photo by Dan Priest.



“Old Brownie” sculpture has been donated to the ADBSS Fundraiser for a raffle or auction item. Our sincere gratitude to “Mac” McCracken.

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 quarterly for the Society’s membership. Current Membership: 800.

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*Already in 1983 roster

Annual Membership Meeting



Art Fuller from the Arizona Game and Fish Department.



Chris Mendoza

Those of you who missed the annual membership and educational meeting at Pima Country Club not only missed out on an excellent dinner and election of officers, but also an exceptional presentation by Art Fuller on the Lake Mead sheep capture. Art's presentation gave Society members a behind-the-scenes look at, and appreciation for, the tremendous amount of preparation and organization that went into what might very well be, in the Society's opinion, the most important and successful operation ever undertaken for sheep management by the Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

Art had been involved in a successful drop net capture in Nevada awhile back and realized the potential to cut expense and danger to himself and his colleagues created by our present helicopter capture method. With the support of Region III Director Wes Martin, Art was able to receive Department approval to try the baiting and drop net method on an experimental basis.

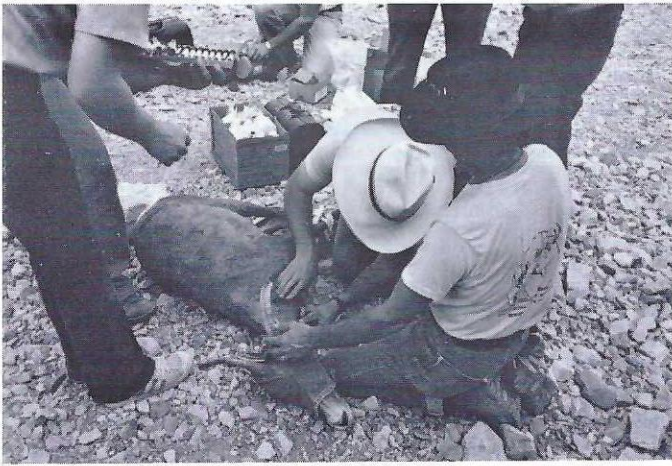
The first major step was locating, packaging and transporting an enormous amount of apple pulp to refrigerated storage space donated by Coors warehouse in Kingman. The next step in the experiment was to find someone who could spend all summer on Lake Mead experimenting with baiting the sheep. Wildlife student Chris Mendoza was selected to "shepherd the flock." (Chris also gave an excellent talk at the educational meeting.) At first it appeared the experiment might fail due to a wet year and the sheep were not as concentrated near the lake as usual. Also, they simply were not eating the bait, but persistence paid off. Mendoza managed to get portions of the bait up on to the rugged sheep trails above the lake. The sheep gradually began eating the bait and with the scorching summer heat more and more sheep came to the lake and got hopelessly hooked on the fermented apple pulp. The rest is history. (The sheep have since gone cold turkey and kicked the habit — Chris Mendoza is reportedly trying to taper off.)

With his borrowed net from Utah and his homemade poles and equipment, Fuller made it look easy on national news coverage. With that kind of dedication the future of the Region III sheep herd looks even more optimistic than ever.



President Harry Hussey passes sheep's foot to 1984 President Bill Hook

ARIZONA'S FIRST DROP NET CAPTURE



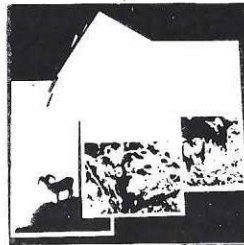
quiet, it would be next to impossible. Anyway, it was noisy. The sheep were there just standing and watching — a little nervous — but not much. Some sheep even stood under the net as photographers walked within thirty steps and began taking pictures. We all know that bighorns usually won't take off like a people-wise whitetail buck, but they sure won't stand eyeball to eyeball with people. These sure did. They get so hooked on the apple pulp that their reaction to people becomes abnormal. Needless to say, that first morning proved to be very successful. After a few minutes a bunch of sheep were under the net, and with everyone having been given assignments earlier as to what to do, the net was blasted off the poles and everyone went to work. The sheep were blindfolded, legs tied, tagged, some fitted with radio collars, checked for general health (all the sheep by the way were very healthy), loaded into boats, and then taken across the lake to Calleville Bay on the Nevada side. The time lapse between the net drop and the boats heading across the lake was about 30 minutes — not bad for a bunch of first timers. After the sheep hit Calleville Bay they were loaded into trucks and taken to the Grand Wash Cliffs of the Arizona Strip and released. They were all standing in their new home within just a few hours.

Nevada's done it. Colorado's done it. Would it work in Arizona? At the end of July, 1983, we found out. Guess what! It works in Arizona too. Here's what happened. The place was Lake Mead's south shore in the vicinity of Canyon Ridge. Several weeks earlier buckets of apple pulp were placed in some specific places to see what reaction our desert sheep would have to this foreign substance. At first the sheep really didn't pay much attention — just a few sniffs, a little later a nibble or two, then after that, look out, a few good gulps and they're hooked. After being "hooked" on the pulp they almost have to be driven away. It was amazing that first morning to say the least. Imagine this — well over fifty people and over a half dozen boats pull into the cove where the sheep have been baited. Even if that many people tried to be

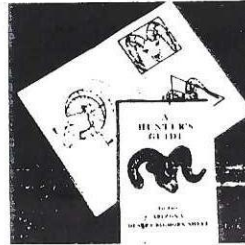
The second day of the capture took place in the same location as day one. Ten sheep were caught on this second day and all of these went to Colorado. After those ten sheep were taken care of and heading across the lake, the net was moved to a new location and set up for the next day's capture.

continued on next page

The following items are offered for sale in consideration of minimum donations as specified:



Note cards and envelopes reflecting a variety of super sheep pictures.



Guide — A collection of facts and articles by knowledgeable sheep hunters.



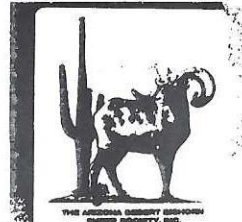
T-Shirts in Blue, Tan with Society Emblem. (S, M, L or XL)



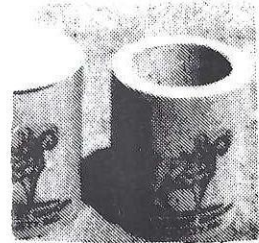
Lightweight Outdoor Caps. Blue & White, Yellow & White



Colorful Blue & Gold Patch



Colorful 6" x 4" ADBSS Decal



Koozie Kups plain or with cup.

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society

Make checks payable to: A.D.B.S.S. Inc., P.O. Box 5241 Phoenix, AZ 85010

FORWARD ORDER TO:

Name _____
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 City _____
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ORDER FORM

Patch	\$ 2.50
Decal	1.50
T-Shirt	6.00
Hunter's Guide	1.00
Caps	5.00
Stationery - 14 pak	5.00
Koozie Kup - Plain	3.00
Koozie Kup - With Cup	4.50

Postage prices are as follows:

Cap — 1.00 ea.
 T-Shirt — 1.75 ea.
 Kups — 1.75 ea.
 All other items are .75 ea.

CAPS: Specify color and size.

T-SHIRTS: Specify size, style — emblem front or back, color.

Drop Net Capture Continued



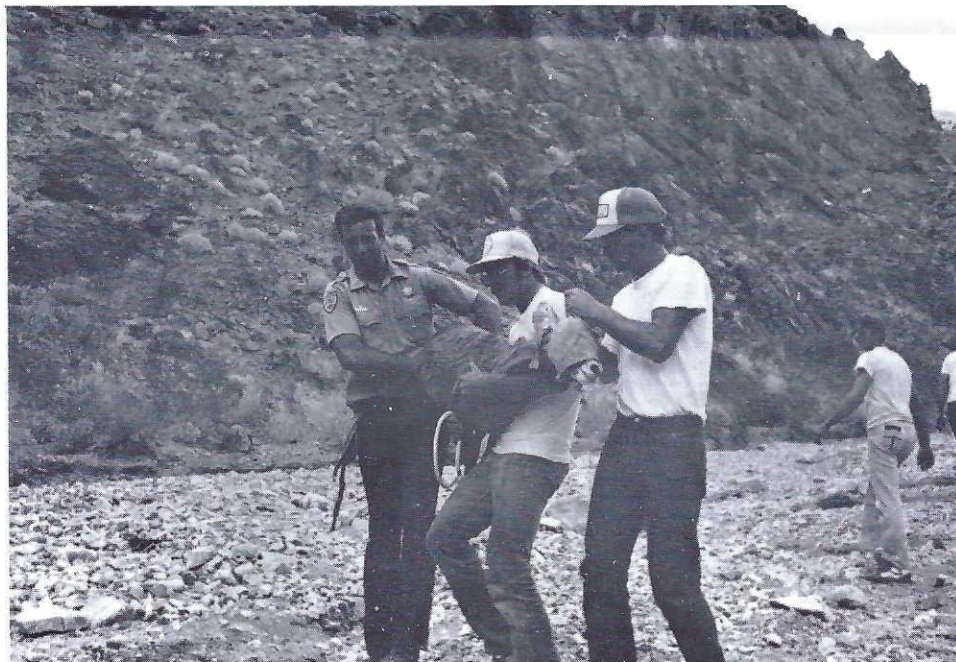
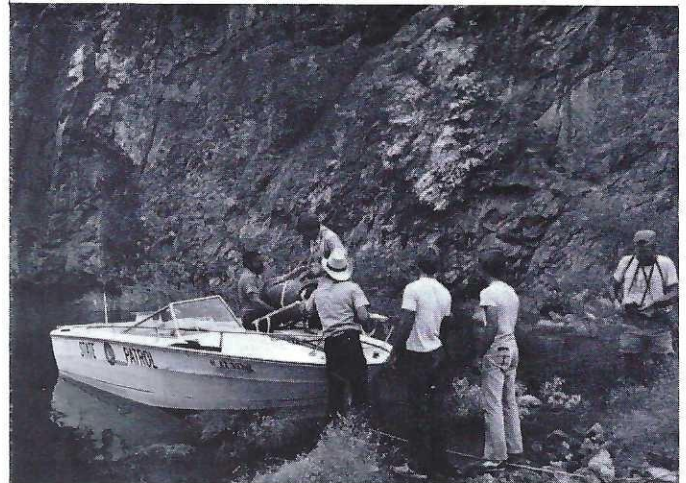
The third day's location had been baited a few weeks previous so these sheep were also "hooked." This particular herd was a little more wary than those at the first location, and for that reason we all had to remain hidden. After a few minutes of waiting the sheep were under the net and the third day of the capture went without a hitch. The eleven sheep captured this day went to Texas. It should be pointed out here that the Colorado sheep and the Texas sheep were part of a trade for other wildlife to benefit Arizona.

One more day and this capture could be considered history. The net was moved to the third location which, like the others, had been previously baited. The sheep in this area had a little different feeding pattern than those of the previous three days. Up until now the sheep cooperated by feeding on the apple pulp in the early morning hours — not this bunch. We were all in position for the capture early, but these bighorns had different plans for us. They didn't show up until around 11:00 A.M., so on the fourth day we all had a little waiting game to play, but that made things more fun anyway. Eventually the sheep surrounded the bait so the net

was dropped. Within a few minutes twelve more sheep were on their way to the Grand Wash Cliffs.

This type of trapping program may be a step in the right direction toward increased sheep numbers in this state. It sure seems to be better than the "dart out of a helicopter" method. Cost is one item that really outweighs the dart/helicopter method; another is less stress on the sheep (not one sheep was lost in the drop net capture); and another is the fact that there is much less risk to people. All in all it had to be considered a very successful capture. A big reason things went so smoothly on this operation was due to the work of some very dedicated Game and Fish personnel from Region III. Art Fuller of Kingman did an excellent job to see that everything went as planned. As one can imagine, the whole capture had to be a good team effort and the Region III (Kingman) people really pulled this off in a fine manner.

Sheep Society participants on this project were as follows: Don Johnson, Harry Hussey, Tom Boggess, Tommy Boggess, Chuck Bain, Joe Bill Pickrell, Donnie Higgins, Dan Priest.



Old Man Luck

H.L. VanderHoek



Harry VanderHoek

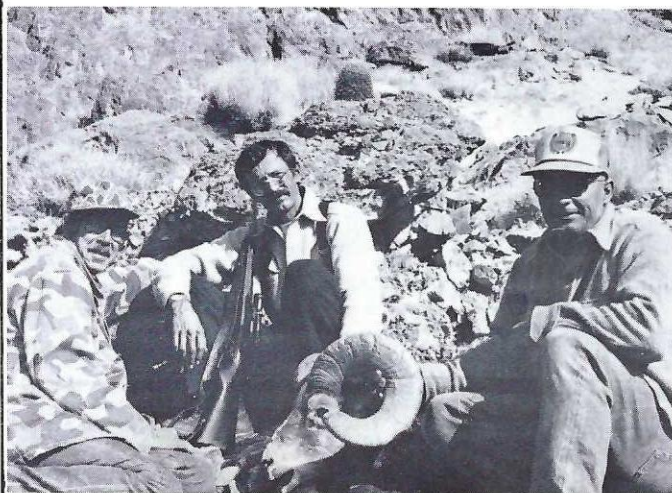
Every sport has its zenith. Basketball has its last second winning shot, baseball its grand slam homerun, and runners the timeless marathon. Big game hunting too has its zenith, its pinnacle if you will. Last year Society member Harry VanderHoek, along with a few chosen others, reached that pinnacle when he received word he would be hunting desert sheep on Nevada's "Desert National Wildlife Range" north of Las Vegas.

Hunt preparations started with a scouting trip where good numbers of sheep were located, including some very respectable rams. Mernice Alkire and Bryon Wiley, both Sheep Society members, were along on the trip. The first week of hunting was a little frustrating as fewer sheep were located with the changing weather. And change it did! After a week Ed Shannahan, Mernice and Harry returned to Phoenix with plans to try again in a few weeks.

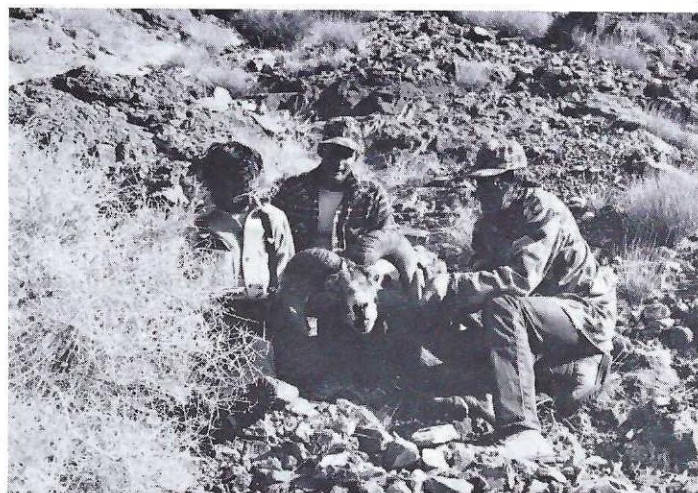
A couple of weeks later Bryon joined the trio for another

try at a trophy ram. The country in the Desert Wildlife Range varies from a moon-like landscape at 3,000 feet to Ponderosa pines at 9,000 feet making sheep hunting very interesting. Rams were located — quickly raising hopes of finding a good ram for Harry. On the second day out several sheep were spotted and at about 10:00 a solitary old ram was spotted in its bed. Mernice and Bryon watched through spotting scopes as Ed and Harry performed the classic stalk and collected the ram from his bed. The ancient, full curl ram was later aged at 15 years making Harry's desert sheep hunt truly the pinnacle of hunting experiences for four happy sheep hunters.

Here's one that's a little hard to swallow — VanderHoek got another desert sheep permit this year and to top it off, that permit is for one of the best areas in the state, Unit 44B North. I won't say much more other than I feel sorry for Harry because that's sure going to cut into some prime quail hunting time. Sure wish more of us could have that problem!!



(Left to Right) Ed Shannahan, Harry, Mernice Alkire



(Left to Right) Harry, Bryon Wiley, Ed Shannahan

FUNDRAISER OFF TO AN EXCELLENT START

January 18, 1984 — keep that evening open. The first annual ADBSS fundraiser will begin at 6:00 P.M.

The organizational meetings for that evening have been going well, and remember, all of you are encouraged to get involved in these meetings and help prepare for January 18. There have already been many excellent items donated. Here are some examples: dog food and dog care, vet service, dog training, camper shell, boots, sculptures, taxidermy items, rifles, lion, bear and other miscellaneous hunts, dinners, secretarial service, and helicopter "show me" trips in sheep country. There are many more. One thing we must really focus on is the fact that this fundraiser can easily bring thirty, forty or fifty thousand dollars. The potential is there. Remember — all that money goes directly toward Arizona's bighorn sheep. If everyone does just a little we could even pass that fifty thousand mark. One thing that is guaranteed, if we can raise the proper amount of money over the next few years, this state's bighorn herds are bound to prosper.

Waterhole Projects Planned for 1984

Jan. 14-15	Lazarus & Little Bones — Plomosas Mtns.
Feb. 4-5	Kofas (F & W)
Feb. 18-19	West Gilas
Mar. 10-11	New Water Mtns.
Apr. 7-8	Gila Mtns. — Dripping Springs
Apr. 28-29	Black Mtns. — Lost Drill Bit & Van Deeman
May Date	Still open

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 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.

New membership prices are as follows:

Regular membership	\$25.00/yr.
Youth membership	\$15.00/yr.
Sustaining membership	\$100.00/yr.
Lifetime membership	\$500.00

RENEWAL NEW MEMBERS DATE _____

NAME _____ TEL. NO. _____

ADDRESS _____

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