



# Western Outdoor Times

**FREE**

## Arizona Boating & Watersports™



April - May 2015

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BOATING | CAMPING | FISHING | HUNTING | RVING | WATERSPORTS | WILDLIFE

# Dive Into Spring

## Boating

Pages 4-6

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## Western Wildlife

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## Land Cruising

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Photo by Bob Brown, Media Directions



# Boating Safety Week: May 16-22

## Three Boating Tips Just For Springtime



TAKE CARE - An accidental slip into the water this time of year could mean big trouble.

Across America at boat launch ramps, the familiar growl of boat motors waking up from their long winter nap heralds the start of the boating season. But what makes boating, fishing or sailing this time of year different from all others? When it comes to safety, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has three tips to answer that question:

**1. The water is still cold.** Darn cold. Even though the white stuff is gone and you're in a T-shirt and can feel the sun's warmth on your face, lurking beneath your boat's keel is water that could make breathing difficult or disable you in minutes after an accidental fall overboard. It's a good idea to wear a comfortable life jacket, and if solo, rig a self-boarding ladder that can be deployed while in the water.

**2. Have backup plans.** For a routine breakdown while underway, having an on water towing plan from BoatUS can help. However, most important is to leave a note, or "float plan," for friends or family members advising them of your expected return. That's because early in the season there are way-too-few boaters out there who could provide aid if something unexpected happened, and if no one knows where you are, you could be in a heap of trouble. A sample float plan

See **TIPS**, Page 19



### ON THE COVER

## Spring Into Safety

Thanks again go to Bob Brown of Media Directions for another striking photo of a bathing beauty gracing a boat. Even though we know she should be wearing a pfd (and no doubt she donned one just after the photo shoot), this blonde bather is here to remind us that spring is the start of the boating and watersports season in the Southwest.

All of us hope you will enjoy the water safely this year and urge others to do the same.

### LAUNCH INTO SPRING

# Here's The Season's Fitting-Out Safety Checklist

*Complete safety inspection of the engine, hull, and other systems should take, at most, an hour or two.*

FROM BOATU.S.

#### Out Of the Water

**1. Inspect and lubricate seacocks.** Hoses and hose clamps (two at each fitting below or near the waterline) should be inspected and replaced as necessary. This is also the best time to replace gate valves, if any, with seacocks. Gate valves are prone to failure and not as reliable as seacocks. You also can't glance at a gate valve to see that it's



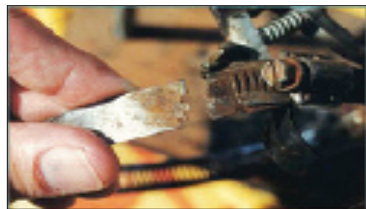
Corroded Outdrive



Control Cable



Cracked Fuel Line



Broken Hose Clamp

been closed.

**2. Replace deteriorated zincs.** They disintegrate and give a good indication of what would happen to vital underwater machinery if the zincs were not there. Note: If the zinc has vanished or has been reduced to powder, check the other metal surfaces, especially underwater, to ensure they didn't also suffer from electrolysis. Zincs that disappear after less than a season indicate a serious problem with the boat's bonding and/or electrical system. (Look first for chafed wires or battery

cables, which also can cause a fire.)

**3. Inspect prop(s)** for dings, pitting, and distortion that can create excessive vibration and can loosen everything from screws and bulkheads to dental fillings. Make sure cotter pins are secure. "Tired" props, incidentally, can be rejuvenated by a machine shop. Finally, grip the prop and try moving the shaft. Looseness indicates the cutlass bearing probably needs to be replaced.

**4. Check to make sure the rudder stock hasn't been bent.** Also try moving the rudder:

Any looseness must be corrected (the remedy depends on the type of installation).

**5. Inspect the hull for blisters, distortion, and stress cracks.** Small "pinhead" blisters can be dried, sanded, and filled. Large blisters may require professional attention. Distortion and/or stress cracks are two other hull problems that should be addressed by a marine surveyor or repairer.

**6. Make sure the engine intake sea strainer is free of corrosion and is properly secured.** Strainers that weren't drained properly in the fall could've been bent by ice over the winter. Replace questionable parts.

**7. Inspect rubber outdrive bellows** for cracked, dried, and/or deteriorated spots

See **CHECKLIST**, Page 19

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### Lakes

#### Bartlett Lake Store Is Open!

A fully stocked convenience store is now available on the way into Bartlett Lake Marina. Coming soon is the restaurant/**Page 6**



### Good Company

#### Highly Trained Dogs Help

K-9 SARs are the stars of the Big Creek Search Dog Team/**Page 5**



# Western Outdoor Times

## Arizona Boating & Watersports



### THE CREW

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www.westernoutdoortimes.com

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We send a sincere thank-you to the Arizona Game & Fish Department for once again providing the excellent family friendly Expo event. As promised, there was something for everyone.

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## DOWNSTREAM Events Calendar Beginning Mid April

### BOATING

**PARKER: SCSC Spring Power Boat Classic: April 18-19** — Blue Water Resort & Casino, GN boats, tunnel boats, mini boats compete for points & cash prizes, 7 am - 7 pm, [www.scsccracing.com/](http://www.scsccracing.com/)

**GLOBE: Through May 31** — Salt River Whitewater Rafting Season - White Mountain Apache Reservation, (not the tubing section of river), half-day, full-day, and overnight wilderness trips of up to 5 days, [www.azroa.org/](http://www.azroa.org/)

**LAKE HAVASU CITY: April 22-25** — 17th Annual Desert Storm Poker Run & Shootout — Thompson Bay, see some of the fastest, most impressive boats to grace the waves, events include a show and shine on Main Street on Thursday where you can view the boats up close, take a look at the massive motors putting out thousands of horsepower and talk to the drivers, 602-578-5975 or [www.golakehavasu.com](http://www.golakehavasu.com)

**LAKE HAVASU CITY: April 23** — Desert Storm Street Party 2015 — multi-million dollar presentation of racing boats displayed on Main Street, vendors, giveaways, food, free, noon - 9 pm, [www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/1787/](http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/1787/)

### COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

**CHANDLER: May 2** — Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival & Chihuahuas Races — the festival features Purebred Chihuahuas, see the King and Queen Chihuahuas crowned and watch the exciting, adorable racers compete for the fastest little dog in the West during Chandler's Cinco de Mayo event, music & entertainment, food, presented by Si Se Puede Foundation honors the Hispanic community's many contributions to the City of Chandler, free, 10 am - 7 pm, [www.chandleraz.org/cinco](http://www.chandleraz.org/cinco)

**SEDONA: May 2** — Cinco de Mayo Fiesta — Tlaquepaque, Mexican dishes, world-class musicians, and 2nd Annual Great Sedona Chili Cook Off, 11 am - 5 pm, 928-282-4838 or [www.tlaq.com](http://www.tlaq.com)

**COTTONWOOD: April 29-May 3** — 49th Annual Verde Valley Fair - Fairgrounds, old time fair, free entertainment, carnival, livestock

show & sale, fine art, homemaking arts, crafts, horticulture & floriculture, \$4-10, 928-634-3290 or [www.vvfair.com/](http://www.vvfair.com/)

**TUCSON: 104th Annual Pima County Fair: Through April 26** — Pima County Fairgrounds, 4-H animals, home arts & fine arts, entertainment, horse shows, concerts, games & rides, educational exhibits including a gem and mineral show, \$2-7, info line: 520-762-3247 or 520-762-9100 or [www.pimacountyfair.com/](http://www.pimacountyfair.com/) or [www.arizonafairs.com](http://www.arizonafairs.com)

### FISHING

**LAKE HAVASU CITY: May 7-10** — Bassmaster Elite Series Fishing Tournament — Lake Havasu State Park — Lot 4, the premier fishing league in the world with an invitation-only competition being held in Lake Havasu with crowds of more than 5,000 people a day expected, will be televised on ESPN1 and The Outdoor Channel, free to spectators, [www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/1849/](http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/1849/)

**YELLOWTAIL DERBY: May 2- June 7** — San Diego, Calif.; see story on page 7.

### HUNTING/SHOOTING/ ARCHERY

**NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY: Sept. 26.**

**CALENDAR OF OUTDOOR EVENTS: Ongoing** — [www.azgfd.gov/OutdoorSkills](http://www.azgfd.gov/OutdoorSkills) Google calendar.

### WATERSPORTS

**Diving:**  
**SAGUARO DIVING & SPORTS: Ongoing** — Learn to Scuba Dive, Open Water Certification Dives, Private Class & Pool, Private Lake Open Water Certification Dives, San Carlos, Mexico; Lake Pleasant, and more; Saguario can plan your diving vacation for small groups or just one person. How about Grand Cayman, Curacao, Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, Bonaire, Turks & Caicos Contact Saguario Diving & Sports, 908 E. Impala Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480) 507-3988 or [sales@saguarosports.com](mailto:sales@saguarosports.com)

**Swimming:**  
**TEMPE: May 14** — Ironcare Splash & Dash



## Mother's Day

### May 10

+ Swim Only — Race 3 — Tempe Town Lake, presented by Triple Sports, **Splash 750m or 1500m/Dash 5km; Swim Only 750m or 1500m**, a unique event with a relaxed atmosphere that is suitable for all levels of athlete, \$35-40, 6 pm, [www.4peaksracing.com/](http://www.4peaksracing.com/)

**LAKE HAVASU CITY: May 9** — Bucket List Triathlon — London Bridge Beach — celebrate spring by crossing an item off your bucket list! novice to experienced triathletes compete in and around the Bridgewater Channel — swim/bike/run swim in the channel in sight of the famous London Bridge; other "bucket list" activities will also be available, free to spectators, start-time 7:30 am, [www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/643/](http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/643/)

**TEMPE: May 3** — Esprit de She Triathlon — Tempe Beach Park, women only triathlon, swim 750 meters, bike 12.4 miles, run 3.1 miles, Esprit de She Super Sprint Triathlon: women only, triathlon: **swim .23 miles**, bike 6.64 miles, run 1.69 miles, 6:30 am, [www.trifind.com/az.html](http://www.trifind.com/az.html)

**TEMPE: April 30** — Ironcare Splash & Dash + **Swim Only** — Race 2 — Tempe Town Lake, an evening of fun and racing, a unique event with a relaxed atmosphere that is suitable for all levels of athlete, for those fine tuning for that big race or getting your feet wet at your first multisport event, splash 750m or 1500m/dash 5km | swim only 750m or 1500m, 6 pm, [www.4peaksracing.com/](http://www.4peaksracing.com/)

### WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

**SIERRA VISTA: May 9** — Hummingbird Banding at San Pedro House — get a close-up look at these tiny travelers as staff and volunteers from the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory capture, band, measure, and release them as part of long-term studies of the bird life of this internationally important migration route, free, 4-6 pm, 520-417-6960 or 520-432-1388 or [www.visitsierravista.com/](http://www.visitsierravista.com/) or [www.sabo.org](http://www.sabo.org)

**PAYSON: May 9** — 21st Annual Payson Wildlife Fair — Green Valley Park, wildlife-based activities, parents and kids can fish, play games and get a close-up look at wildlife including birds of prey, rattlesnakes, Gila monsters and alligators, booths from a variety of conservation groups, coop between Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Mogollon Sporting Assn, US Forest Service & Parks & Rec., free, 9 am - 3 pm, 928-947-5242 ext 7 or [www.paysonparks.com](http://www.paysonparks.com) or [www.paysonrimcountry.com](http://www.paysonrimcountry.com)

**SIERRA VISTA: May 6-9** — 2nd Annual Southwest Wings Spring Fling - a series of workshops and outings for serious birders who want an intensive birding experience, focuses on birds in the area present during the spring nesting season, birders may see species like the Elegant Trogon, Violet Crowned Hummingbird and up to 5 species of owls, guided trips to

some of the most famous birding spots in the U.S. including the San Pedro River, Garden, Sawmill, Sheelite, Huachuca, Ramsey, Carr, Miller, Madera and Ash Canyons, California Gulch, Patagonia and the Chiricahuas, [www.swwings.org/](http://www.swwings.org/)

**PRESCOTT: May 4** — Zoo by Moonlight — Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary, bring a flashlight and see the nocturnal residents, \$5, 8-9:30 pm, 928-778-4242 ext. 16 or [www.heritageparkzoo.org](http://www.heritageparkzoo.org)

**WINDOW ROCK: May 2** — 8th Annual ZooFest — Navajo Nation Zoological and Botanical Park, at the only tribal zoo in the U.S., learn about animals and plants native to the Navajo Nation, tour a Hogan, purchase handmade arts and crafts, for the kids: face-painting, zoo games, inflatable games, door prize, free, 9 am - 5 pm, 928-871-6574 or [www.navajojozoo.org/](http://www.navajojozoo.org/)

**SIERRA VISTA: May 2** — Hummingbird Banding at San Pedro House — get a close-up look at these tiny travelers as staff and volunteers from the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory capture, band, measure, and release them as part of long-term studies of the bird life of this internationally important migration route, free, 4-6 pm, 520-417-6960 or 520-432-1388 or [www.visitsierravista.com/](http://www.visitsierravista.com/) or [www.sabo.org](http://www.sabo.org)

**COTTONWOOD: April 23-26** — 15th Annual Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival - Dead Horse Ranch State Park, field trips, local tours, workshops & seminars, educational activities for kids, exhibits, key-note speaker, entertainment, \$, 928-282-2202 or [www.BirdyVerde.org](http://www.BirdyVerde.org)

**PHOENIX: April 18** — Earth Day — Phoenix Zoo, join more than 100 of the top zoos and aquariums across North America (including the Phoenix Zoo) to create the largest combined Earth Day celebration in the country, features activities, crafts, music, and more among some of the planet's most intriguing and inspiring wildlife, [www.phoenixzoo.org](http://www.phoenixzoo.org)

**EMPTY PET FOOD BANK IN TEMPE: Ongoing** — A unique food bank which serves cats and dogs needs your help. Lost Our Home Pet Foundation has been providing food and pet supplies to the pets of family in need since 2009, all through community donations. Donations can be made at the shelter location at 2323 S. Hardy Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282. Lost Our Home Pet Foundation is a no-kill pet shelter that rescues abandoned animals and provides support services to families in crisis. In addition to their pet food bank, they have a Temporary Care Program which provides up to 90 days of care for people experiencing a life crisis; 2323 S. Hardy Dr., Tempe, AZ 85254; Jodi Polanski, [Jodi@lostourhome.org](mailto:Jodi@lostourhome.org). (See more on page 18 of this issue.)

*Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events — "Downstream" — to [editor@azbw.com](mailto:editor@azbw.com). To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the eighth of the month prior to publication. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but we assume no responsibility for print errors or omissions. We also reserve the right to edit each item. Please include the name of the event, the date and time, the location, the organization, and contact information.*

# Good Company

## Lost Our Home Pet Foundation Now Hiring

FROM SUSAN EKBACK  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, LOST OUR HOME PET RESCUE

The position does full-time animal-care tech duties throughout the day and has personal use of the overnight studio 24/7. There is no overnight work; we just want to have someone in the building overnight in case of any emergency.

The daytime work hours are divided into three shifts (6:30-10 a.m., 3- 6 p.m., 8- 9 p.m.). What is nice about the schedule is that the person has most of the day hours off for school, errands, etc. (10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.), plus full days off on Monday and Friday (work weekends).

This position is great for an individual or a couple (significant others are welcome to stay in the overnight studio too). The pay is minimum wage for the animal care shifts.

Please email resumes with a cover letter to [Michelle@LostOurHome.org](mailto:Michelle@LostOurHome.org). Please be sure to include in the cover letter any experience working with animals to help us understand why you qualify for the job.



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Update your boating safety knowledge

### It's the LAW!

All vessels, except sailboards and certain racing shells or rowing skulls, must have at least one type I, II, III, or V personal flotation device. Vessels 16 feet in length or longer (except for canoes or kayaks) must have at least one type IV throwable device.

#### TYPE I: Offshore Life Jackets



These vests are geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take awhile. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for floatation, and will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water

#### TYPE II: Near-Shore Vests



These vests are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. A Type II may not turn some unconscious wearers face up in the water.

#### TYPE III: Flotation Aids



These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. They are not for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up.

#### TYPE IV: Throwable Devices



These cushions and rig buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. Since a Type IV is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.

#### TYPE V: Special-Use Devices



These vests, deck suits, hybrids PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, or waterskiing. To be acceptable, Type V PFDs must be used in accordance with their label.

### Our waterways are ready, but are YOU? Brush up on your boating skills by taking one of the many Boating Safety Education classes.

April 2015				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd. Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219
U.S. Power Squadron	April 22, 29 and May 6, 13 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Arizona 333 E. Flower Street Phoenix	\$25	(602) 525-6318
U.S. Power Squadron	April 25 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Cabela's 9380 W. Glendale Ave. Glendale	\$25	(602) 908-7380
U.S. Power Squadron	April 25 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sportsman's Warehouse 19205 N. 27th Ave. Phoenix	\$25	(623) 465-2647
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 25 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219

May 2015				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game and Fish Department	May 9 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game and Fish Department	May 16 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game and Fish Department	May 16 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd. Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219
U.S. Power Squadron	May 20, 27 and June 3, 10 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Arizona 333 E. Flower Street Phoenix	\$25	(602) 528-6318
U.S. Power Squadron	May 30 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sportsman's Warehouse 19205 N. 27th Ave. Phoenix	\$25	(623) 465-2647

Clean, Drain and Dry your boat. It's the Law.



Stop Aquatic Invasive Species.

### Renew Your Watercraft Registration Online!

The Game and Fish online watercraft registration system allows you to renew your registration and have immediate use of your watercraft. Visit: <https://az.gov/app/watercraft>. (A \$2.50 online service fee applies). You can also renew your registration by mail or in person at any Game and Fish office.



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# Boating



## National Safe Boating Week Is May 16-22



BY CAPT. DAVE ESPARZA  
BIRTHDAY BALL COORDINATOR

May 15th is 'Wear Your Life Jacket To Work Day,' and May 16th is 'Wear It Day' Life Jacket

### World Record Day.

Last month's article was about Arizona's best kept secret, the volunteers of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This month we are letting everyone know about one of the major fourth cornerstone activities of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Everyone loves going to a birthday party; well, here is one you won't forget. This is the 225th Birthday for the United States Coast Guard and the 76th Birthday of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Last year this was a great success; we had representatives from Sector San Diego

and Sector Los Angeles attending, as well as members from the Cactus Coast Guard Brunch Club and local members of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

We have a fine dinner and dancing planned with great atmosphere and a lot of fellowship.

Come and meet new people, fellow Coast Guard family members, or just come for the great dinner.

Join us for the celebration of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary's Birthdays —

**Saturday June 20, 2015**

**Hosted by Division 10**

**1800-2300**

**Oakwood Country Club**

**24218 S. Oakwood Blvd**

**Sun Lakes, Arizona**

**Social Hour: 1800**

**Opening Ceremonies: 1900**

**Meal Choices:** All include vegetable, salad, and rolls.

- Roasted Salmon w/smoked wild mushroom cream sauce served with rice pilaf blend (\$32)

- 10 oz Roasted Prime Rib w/au jus & horseradish cream served with roasted potatoes (\$40)

- Chicken Florentine w/ Fontina Cheese and spinach sauce served with roasted potatoes (\$25)

### Dinner Dress

White Jacket, Dinner Dress Blue Jacket, Service Dress Blue or Appropriate Civilian Attire

### To Register

Send check payable to USCG Auxiliary Division 10, in care of Cathy Harrach, 13406 N 130th Lane, El Mirage, AZ 85335-5372



## Coast Guard, National Safe Boating Council Remind Mariners Importance Of EPIRBs

The Coast Guard and National Safe Boating Council remind recreational boaters of the importance of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons in conjunction with 406Mhz Beacon Awareness Day.

An EPIRB is used to alert search and rescue forces in the event of an emergency. It does this by transmitting a coded message on the 406 megahertz distress frequency via satellite and earth stations to the nearest rescue coordination center, which then notifies local search and rescue forces.

"Having a properly registered beacon greatly enhances the speed with which the Coast Guard can respond to any mariners in distress," said Ed Huntsman, recreational boating safety program manager. "An EPIRB could mean the difference between life and death during a maritime emergency."

The National Safe Boating Council is the foremost coalition for the advancement

See **EPIRB**, Page 5

### THE 'GREATEST GENERATION'

## Coast Guard Vet Celebrates 100th Birthday

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — The Coast Guard hosted a celebration to honor a Coast Guard WWII veteran on his 100th birthday in Portsmouth, Va.

Linwood "Tick" Thumm and his family joined with Coast Guard personnel at the Portsmouth Federal Building to celebrate his 100 years of life with gifts, sea stories and cake.

Thumm commanded an 83-foot cutter crew based out of Little Creek who spent the first part of WWII escorting convoys



from New Jersey to Cape Hatteras, N.C.

He and his crew were credited with a possible kill of a German U-boat and were also commended for saving the lives of an oil tanker crew during a fire. Thumm's crew used a net they fashioned from sheets and blankets to catch survivors as they jumped from the burning tanker.

For more information about Thumm and his service, see the feature story: "100 years and Ticking" at [www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2483846/](http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2483846/)



## Pleasant Harbor ... Living the Life!

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[www.pleasantharbor.com](http://www.pleasantharbor.com)

Located on beautiful Lake Pleasant 45 minutes from downtown Phoenix, AZ!



## Boating

# K-9 SAR: The Big Creek Search Dog Team

BY DEBBIE ROSCH

*This article is reprinted with the permission of Mike Fields, executive director of the National Water Safety Congress.*

Ever since dogs were domesticated, they have been assisting humans with hunting, herding, protection, as well as providing companionship. The relationship has evolved along with man and beast, and dogs are still beloved and valuable participants in our lives.

Searching for missing persons is among the many tasks canines perform for us. Search and Rescue/Recovery is commonly referred to as SAR, and you likely have volunteer K9 SAR teams that are active in your area. There are many different SAR specialties, including tracking/trailing, and air-scenting dogs who can detect the odor of live humans or human remains.

### Detection Dogs

One of the sub-specialties of human-remains detection dogs are water-recovery dogs, who can locate the position of submerged drowning victims in slow or swift water. There are documented recoveries of subjects submerged more than 100 feet, but variables such as length of time submerged, water temperature, air temperature, current and wind speeds, size and condition of the drowning victim, and other factors make it difficult to provide exact capabilities.

These dogs are highly trained to detect the odors of human decomposition as it rises up through the water. The various molecules that comprise human tissue rise to the surface in the form of gases or liquid, and evaporate from the surface into the air, where they can be smelled by a trained dog. The dog performs a trained

behavior to tell the handler when/ where the odor is detected.

Once the odor is detected, the handler must analyze factors such as current and wind direction and speed to estimate where the actual drowning victim might be, which may quite a distance away from where the odor is detected by the K9.

### Boat Handlers, Operators

Another important component of the water recovery team is the boat operator. Dogs are trained to use their noses to sniff the wind and evaporation gases off the water surface, but they rely upon a skilled boat operator to effectively drive the boat in a grid pattern, at the appropriate speed and direction to allow the dog to use the wind to his advantage.

Based upon the dog's behavior and body language as the boat moves through the search area, the handler and boat operator will direct the boat to where the odor is strong enough that the dog can perform its trained indication. The spot is marked with a GPS, ideally, or a marker buoy (which we don't like because it looks like a ball, and can be a distraction to

subsequent dogs working the area).

The boat operator approaches the area of interest from several directions, and the handler and dog continue to narrow down and eventually pinpoint exactly where the odor is emerging from the water. Teams practice this coordination between dog, handler, and boat operator frequently to make communication, operation, and detection safe, smooth and efficient.

Handlers and boat operators must have demonstrated proficiency in a basic swim test, boating safety, and basic lifesaving techniques.

Often, another dog or dogs are brought to search the same area to confirm the area to searched by divers. Divers must still be used for the actual physical recovery, but accurate K9 water recovery teams limit the amount of time and area divers must search and, therefore, reduce their risks.

### Qualifications

The dogs, their handlers, and boat operators must be comfortable wearing Personal Flotation Devices, and must be comfortable riding in various designs of watercraft such as inflatable craft, flat-hull



and V-hull boats, of varying sizes and height above the water. The dogs must comfortably move around the boat to access the scent coming from the water, and must be patient enough to remain calm in the boat for an hour or more while still actively working.

### Big Creek Team

Big Creek Search Dog Team has four teams certified in water recovery by the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR).

### More Information

For more information about the team and their work, contact Debbie Rosch at (440) 251-0796; or visit them online at [www.bigcreeksearchdogteam.com](http://www.bigcreeksearchdogteam.com) or on Facebook - Big Creek Search Dog Team.

## Here's The BoatUS 2015 List Of Top Ten Boat Names

Big and small, power or sail, there are many different kinds of boats and so many different kinds of boat owners. But, the one thing they seem to agree on is how boating makes them feel, at least if your looking at a boat's name on the transom.

"Serenity" has been named the #1 boat name for the second year in a row with the release of the 2015 list of Top Ten Boat Names from Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS). It is also the name's tenth appearance on the popular list of boat names issued annually since 1992 by the recreational boat advocacy, service and safety group.

"Calm, peaceful and untroubled is what boating is all about for so many boaters," said BoatUS spokesman Scott Croft.

### The BoatUS 2015 list of Top Ten Boat Names

- Serenity
- Seas the Day
- Andiamo (Italian for "let's go")
- Aquaholic
- Second Wind
- Island Time
- Happy Ours
- Journey
- Serendipity

See **BOAT NAMES**, Page 6

### EPIRB

Continued from page 4

and promotion of safer boating through education, outreach and training. To learn more about the NSBC and its programs, visit [safeboatingcouncil.org](http://safeboatingcouncil.org).

For more information on the 'Save by the Beacon' campaign and EPIRBs please visit [savedbythebeacon.com](http://savedbythebeacon.com) and the U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District External Affairs, (618) 225-9008

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## Boating

# AZGFD Outdoor Expo Draws More Than 31,000

*One aspect of recreational boating that was a popular draw was paddling a kayak in the on-site pond.*

Despite record temperatures, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's 2015 Outdoor Expo presented by Shikar Safari Club International, held March 28-29 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, was visited by 33,100 people.

This does not include the Friday Youth Day, geared toward school children, teachers and chaperones, which was attended by 5,900. The Youth Day also was held at the Ben Avery facility.

The annual Expo showcases activities such as fishing, hunting, shooting sports, archery, camping, off-highway vehicle recreation, boating recreation, and wildlife viewing and education.

In addition to the hands-on activities,

more than 170 exhibitors were on hand, including sportsmen's and conservation organizations, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services.

"This year's Expo continues to build a strong Arizona community of active outdoor clubs, retailers and manufacturers," said AZGFD Chief of Wildlife Recreation Scott Lavin. "It is the support of this ever-growing community that helps keep the Expo free to the public and helps educate people of the importance of conservation and healthy outdoor lifestyle."

Title sponsor of this year's Outdoor Expo was Shikar Safari Club International. Gold sponsors were Cabela's and Arizona

State Credit Union.

Silver sponsors were Sportsman's Warehouse, Bass Pro Shops, HPR Ammunition, Iron City Polaris, Strategic Armory Corps, A to Z Equipment Rentals & Sales, Smith & Wesson, Weatherby Foundation International, and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation.

Bronze sponsors were Bill Luke Dodge, Beretta USA, Mule Deer Foundation / M.U.L.E.Y.

Next year's Outdoor Expo will be held on April 2-3 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. More information will be posted at [www.azgfd.gov/expo](http://www.azgfd.gov/expo) as it becomes available.

## BOAT NAMES

*Continued from page 5*

### • Relentless

Croft says boaters frequently come to BoatUS to get ideas for a name by taking a peek at the Association's online list of over 8,000 boat names, then use the free and easy layout program to, "Start playing around with a boat name to get an idea of what it will look like, picking letter styles and colors."

Boaters can then choose to either order online or if they want some more creative help, may use the BoatUS Premium Boat Graphics service that offers the talents of a professional designer. An online photo gallery can also help boaters also narrow down a choice.

"Picking a boat name can be harder than naming one's own child," said Croft, who has had to name several of his boats through the years. "Boat names can reflect your lifestyle, your relationship to loved ones or what you do for a living. And that's only the beginning."

For the record, Croft's first boat name was *Constitution* because, "We happened to name her on a July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and I had only a limited choice of ugly hardware store letters." For his second boat name, Croft chose *Aiden R.* after his only son and used the BoatUS graphics service. "Kids sometimes think it's pretty cool to have their name on a boat. It's also a real safe bet for parent to choose – but only if you have one child," he said with a smile.

The BoatUS Graphics service also offers easy video instructions on how to remove or add a graphic to a boat as well a 30-day "Oops Assurance Guarantee" that allows the buyer to receive replacement decals free of charge if the graphic was damaged during installation. For more, go to [BoatUS.com/boatnames](http://BoatUS.com/boatnames).



**NOW OPEN!** – Bartlett Lake Marina's new boat store is open and stocked with almost everything one could ever need for boating, fishing, and camping nearby. This handy boat store (above the lake and marina) supplements the large stock of inventory that is carried in the marina's dock store. Coming soon and adding to the convenience and enjoyment of visitors will be a full restaurant that adjoins the store. Visitors will then be able to relax and dine while enjoying a spectacular view of Bartlett Lake.

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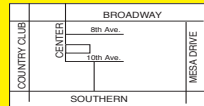


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# Tackle & Target



## LAKE POWELL FISHING

# Keep Your Eye On The Weather

BY WAYNE GUSTAVESON  
[HTTP://WWW.WAYNESWORDS.COM](http://www.wayneswords.com)

The unseasonably warm water experienced lately has now turned seasonably cooler. The cold front chased bass off their nests, sent strippers deeper and slowed fishing success temporarily. But in reality that makes this a normal April with the various changes that occur every spring.

Now it is easy to predict what will happen next by looking at the temperature and weather forecast. Plan the fishing trip for three to five-day warming periods and avoid cold fronts if possible.

### Both Large And Smallmouth Bass

Both large and smallmouth bass made nests and some spawning probably occurred. But as water cools bass leave the beds and wait for the next warming period when the nests can then be freshened up and more eggs laid. During a normal spring, male bass will guard four to six different batches of eggs and fry.

Weather is predicted to warm up now. Expect bass to return to shallow rocky structure when surface water temperature exceeds 62F in the morning period. The next spawn will include many more fish than the few that made nests during the

first week of April.

Bass fishing success will also increase. One major change is that bass fishing success will be much better in clear water. Bass can now be caught on virtually all rocky habitat over the length of the lake.

### Walleye

Walleye will get more active with the next water warm up. The key to catching walleye is to fish low light periods in morning and evenings with slowly worked plastic baits that creep along the bottom in 12-25 feet of water.

Another friend of walleye anglers is wind and wave action that ruffles the water surface and reduces visibility allowing walleye to see bait and lures more clearly through their light sensitive eyes. Walleye numbers are much higher from Bullfrog to the Colorado River inlet near Trachyte Canyon. Runoff water makes the water murky which also enhances walleye success.

### Striped Bass

Striped bass moved from shallow warm water back to deep water with the recent cooling period. In the past few days the best success for larger strippers was found by those trolling deep diving lures in the 20-45 foot strata. Adult and juvenile

stripers are divided by size. Smaller fish are near the surface where plankton is found. Young strippers can feed on these random open water congregations of tiny microscopic animals and maintain good condition by the food obtained.

But all strippers are habitually required by nature to consume any fish or lure that invades their personal space. A shallow running lure that zips through the feeding school will be whacked. While trolling lipless vibrators recently we often feel many little ticks before hooking a stripper.

My guess is that the trolled lure runs through a school of plankton eating strippers that just nibble at the lure before one finally opens its mouth enough to take the hook. When nibblers are contacted, mark the spot and return to cast lures to the location for a quick catch of strippers.

### Try Buoy 25

It was recently reported that strippers were seen in the famous Buoy 25 coves that were so good two years ago. We investigated and found that to be true. Many nibblers were found with respectable numbers caught while trolling LVs. The clear water makes it easy for strippers to just go deep to avoid boat traffic trolling overhead.

I have predicted that bait fishing will be



Wayne Gustavson

**HEATING UP** — Carl Lind, Peoria, Ariz., caught some nice fat strippers while trolling in the back of Last Chance Bay in Lake Powell. All fish species are heating up and becoming more catchable with the warm weather. The quality of fish caught this spring is unsurpassed.

slow this spring but this spot may be the perfect place to find lots of success using anchovies. Stripper numbers are large and the friendly deep water with shallow benches tend to hold strippers that come up to eat plankton and dive to avoid trouble. It would be worthwhile to try bait at Buoy 25 just like the good old days.

At press time, lake elevation was 3,590.9 and water temperature was 56-62F.

## CLOSE TO HOME

# Water's Warming And So Are The Fish

FROM AZGFD

Sixteen tons — of fish!

You may have heard the old song by Tennessee Ernie Ford, "16 Tons." Well, by early April, that's how many catfish and sunfish will have made their way into Community Fishing waters. We stocked the first catfish of the season March 19, and more recently, we stocked all the "core" waters with bluegill sunfish.

Another 14,400 pounds of feisty catfish are beginning to make their home in the Phoenix and Tucson core waters.

See the Community Fishing Program stocking schedule for full details, including which waters are "core" and which are "expansion."



Sunfish

Our expansion waters will get stocked the week of April 20-24. Get your family, grab a picnic basket, and come on outside because it's the perfect time of year to hit the lakes and try your luck at fishing!

### 1,000 Youth Fishing Licenses To Be Donated

Glendale City councilmember Jamie Aldama has partnered with generous sponsors, including West Valley Foundation, Glendale Chamber of Commerce, Glendale Pawn & Jewelry, Gorman & Company, Inc., to donate youth fishing licenses to get kids engaged in fishing.

The Department, in cooperation with the City of Glendale, will host a free fishing clinic at Bonsall Pond, located at 59th Ave. and Bethany Home Rd., on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The first 1,000 youths, age 10-17, will receive a free fishing license! The licenses are valid for 365 days. Grab your kids and come on out for



Avondale's Friendship Pond

a fun-filled fishing clinic.

### CFP's Newest, Avondale's Friendship Pond, Now Open To Fish

We've recently stocked Friendship Pond with a huge stocking of bluegill — nearly 300 pounds of whopper-sized sunfish. The first stocking was a big kick-start to providing a new opportunity in the West Valley.

Friendship Pond is located at 12325 W McDowell Rd. The lake is slightly less than one acre, and the park has bathrooms, ball fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, ample parking, and kids' playground areas.

Come on out and hit the lake — there's lots of fish to be caught.

### Golden Alga Responsible For Minor Fish Kill

Recent stockings of catfish and sunfish were followed by minor fish kills at Gilbert's Water Ranch. Staff from the Department's Water Quality Program collected samples on March 31 and detected golden alga. The lake will be treated with

an approved algacide to control the golden alga bloom.

Golden alga is a microscopic flagellated form of algae that, when conditions are just right, release toxins into the water that can be lethal to gill-breathing organisms. It has been present in Phoenix area lakes since 2005, but the alga poses no risk to humans or pets.

Future fish stockings for Water Ranch Lake are suspended until follow up tests are negative for golden alga.

Contacts: Specialist Joann Hill (623) 236-7268; Call 1-800-352-0700 to report fishing violations.



## Bassmaster Elite Coming To Havasu

Bassmaster Elite is the premier fishing league in the world with an invitation-only competition being held in Lake Havasu with crowds of over 5,000 people a day expected.

Bassmaster Magazine ranks Lake Havasu as #20 as the "100 best bass lakes" in 2014, and the top prize is \$100,000.

The event will be televised on ESPN2 and The Outdoor Channel.

Dates: May 7-10

Times: First light

Location: Lake Havasu State Park — Lot 4 (formerly Windsor 4) on London Bridge Rd.

Admission: Free to spectators  
 Contact: Michael Mulone; mmulone@bassmaster.com

URL: <http://www.golake-havasu.com/events/details/1849/>



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## Tackle & Target

# BoatUS Renews Title Sponsorship Of Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship

The Association of Collegiate Anglers (ACA) announces that Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has renewed its title sponsorship of the 2015 Collegiate Bass Fishing Series Championship. Now in its 10th Anniversary year, the event will be held May 20-22 on Pickwick Lake in Florence, Ala.

### Final Of Four

The Championship is the final of four tournaments in the rapidly expanding Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing Series slated for this year. BoatUS has been the title sponsor of the Championship since its inception.

Starting with the first Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship held on Lake Lewisville in 2006, student anglers have benefitted, both on the water and off, from the relationship with BoatUS. A decade later, collegiate anglers continue to be able to tap into BoatUS' 24/7 on-water towing and roadside assistance services, information, and more at each Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing Series event.

"Ten years ago there were little to no opportunities for college students to compete against their peers in the angling arena," said BoatUS Foundation President Chris Edmonston. "And we were very fortunate to partner with a group of folks committed to growing the sport. We felt BoatUS could add significantly in terms of giving the services needed by these young anglers, and helping to instill a higher level of safety."

### Collegiate Angling Has Exploded

"While collegiate angling has exploded, BoatUS remains committed to those principles as well as to our sponsorship of the biggest and best collegiate tournament angling program in the country."

Wade Middleton, president of CarecoTV and director of the Association of Collegiate Anglers, said, "College bass fishing probably would not exist in its current state without BoatUS first stepping up to the plate over a decade ago. Since first becoming involved in college fishing,



**HELPING HANDS** — These collegiate bass fishing anglers will continue to get the helpful services they need both on and off the water with assistance from BoatUS.

"BoatUS has provided so much over the past decade from education on safety issues and boating issues, offering important services like insurance, towing and more as well a wide range of services both on and off the water to help ensure this next generation of anglers are prepared to safely and properly enjoy the waters across the nation."

Leading up to the May event is a full week of festivities in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the series, to be announced soon. To find out how you can get signed up for your BoatUS membership and participant's incentive plan, visit the Championship's Discounts and Incentives page.

### About the Association of Collegiate Anglers (ACA):

The Association of Collegiate Anglers, a division of Careco TV, is a sanc-

tioning body developed to facilitate growth, development, and structure within competitive collegiate bass fishing. The ACA provides support to dozens of school-operated regional events nationwide and owns the Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing Series, the largest participatory collegiate tournament circuit in the country.

With dedicated collegiate fishing programming on several television networks, four nationally televised collegiate bass fishing events, and thousands of members, the ACA is the leader in competitive collegiate bass fishing.

For more information on the ACA, or the Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing Series, visit [www.CollegiateBassChampionship.com](http://www.CollegiateBassChampionship.com). For more information on Cabela's visit [Cabelas.com](http://Cabelas.com), for more information on CarecoTV, visit [www.carecotv.com](http://www.carecotv.com).



Apache Trout

## Fisheries Management Discussed April 21

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has hosted one and plans another public meeting to discuss a change in the management of sport and native fisheries in the West Fork of the Black River in Apache County.

The remaining meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 6 p.m. at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters Quail Room, 5000 W. Carefree Highway in Phoenix.

The Department currently manages the headwaters of the West Fork of Black River and several tributaries as a wild, native Apache trout fishery, while the middle and lower reaches contain wild brown trout and a put-and-take Apache trout fishery.

The project calls for the Department to establish wild Apache trout throughout all of the West Fork of Black River and its tributaries with the goal of expanding the wild fishery for this native trout species.

The project calls for maintaining other native fishes that currently exist, but also reintroducing loach minnow into the lowest most reach of the West Fork.

The project will consist of constructing a fish migration barrier, treating the stream to remove non-native fishes, then reintroducing Apache trout, loach minnow, and other native fishes.

# Take Aim On The Seven Deadly Sins Of Shotgunning

BY JOHN ANDERSON

With the price of shells going through the roof, it pays to improve your shooting. One of the best ways to do that is to spend some time at the sporting clays range. The Ben Avery Sporting Clays Center on the Carefree Highway just west of I-17 has a great range with five-stand, two sporting clays courses and several trap and skeet



Greenwell Coaches Anderson At Sporting Clays.



John Greenwell Of Confident Shotgunning.

ranges.

John Greenwell, a National Sporting Clays Association Certified Level II Instructor, teaches shotgun shooting at Ben Avery's Clay Target Center. After thousands of hours of shooting, observing and instructing, he has noticed that most errors fall into seven categories.

Avoiding these "seven deadly sins of shotgunning" will help you avoid embarrassment and save you money as well.

### Number One: Inconsistent Gun Mount

A shotgun must be brought to your cheek and shoulder and anchored in the same place every time you pull the trigger.

You must be seeing straight down the top of the barrel. If you have a front and mid-bead, line them up.

Remember the feel of the comb on your cheek, and where the butt of the stock fits in your shoulder pocket. Do this every time you shoot the shotgun.

Greenwell advises practice, practice, and more practice, and recommends a safe at-home exercise to help. With an unloaded and safe gun, stand in front of a mirror, look at your right eye (if you are a right handed shooter), mount the gun with the hands moving together (no see-saw action), and pretend to shoot your eye.

Do this slowly, since the brain remembers the movement, not the speed of the

movement. You are training your muscle memory.

### Number Two: Prairie-Dogging

If you lift your head off the stock just as you are about to shoot, the gun is no longer mounted correctly (see Number One). Greenwell says that your dominant eye (hopefully the one over the gun) is just like the rear sight on a rifle. As long as it is aligned with the front sight, everything is okay.

But move the rear sight, the gun will shoot somewhere else. Avoid the temptation to get a better look at the target by lift-

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## Tackle & Target

# Upgrades Coming To Ben Avery Shooting Facility's Main Range

When the Ben Avery Shooting Facility's main range opens bright and early June 4, recreational shooters will zero in on several improvements:

An earthen berm that serves as a backdrop for 67 shooting stations that will be higher, more level and — most important — safer.

New LED light fixtures that will brightly shine above every shooting station.

A 3-inch layer of closed-cell polyurethane foam insulation on the underside of the steel canopy that will provide sound dampening.

In order to complete more than \$100,000 in improvements, the main range will be closed to the general public May



27-31 and again June 3. The main range is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Christopher Dean, range manager for the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, said the week following the Memorial Day holiday will provide the best opportunity for crews to complete the projects, while minimizing

the inconvenience to recreational shooters.

"Unfortunately, we're going to lose six days of shooting time, but in the end we're going to have a better range; we're going to have a reinforced berm . . . It's going to be so much better for everybody," Dean said.

The closure also will preclude accessibility to the adjacent specialty ranges designated for user groups — Smallbore, Rifle 2 (which also will see improvements to its berm), Pistol 3 and Pistol 4. Dean said user groups will be notified by mail about the closure.

Located on 1,650 acres in north Phoenix, the Ben Avery Shooting Facility is one of the nation's largest publicly-op-

erated shooting facilities, drawing more than 120,000 shooters each year. A City of Phoenix "Point of Pride," the facility has received a five-star rating from the National Association of Shooting Ranges.

For more information about the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, visit [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) and click on "Shooting," or call 623-582-8313.

### Did You Know?

*The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives NO Arizona general fund tax dollars? We hold the state's wildlife in trust for the public without a dime from Arizona taxpayers.* [www.azgfd.gov/in-side\\_azgfd/funds.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/in-side_azgfd/funds.shtml)

## Elk, Pronghorn Antelope Hunt Draw Results Available Now

*Hunters can check 2015 results online or by phone.*

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has completed its 2015 hunt draw for elk and pronghorn antelope.

The results are available by visiting <https://az.gov/azgfd/draw/home.xhtml> and scrolling down to "View results and bonus points," or viewing them on your portal account. You also can call the department at (602) 942-3000 and press "2."

### By The Numbers

**25,932:** The total number of permit-tags issued.

**150,915:** The total number of those who applied for hunts or bonus points.

**111,588:** The total number of applications submitted (paper application and online).

Permit-tags for successful applicants, along with refunds for those who were unsuccessful in the hunt draw, are expected to be mailed by April 17.

### Leftover Tags

In the meantime, there are 126 leftover elk permit-tags that will be available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis as follows:

**By mail** —Applications will be accepted by mail beginning at 8 a.m. on April 20 and must be addressed to: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Attn: Draw/First Come, 5000 W. Carefree High-



Pronghorn Antelope

way, Phoenix, AZ 85086. Do not mail applications to a Post Office (PO) box.

**In person** —If any leftover tags remain, they will also be available for purchase beginning at 8 a.m. on April 27 at any of the seven Arizona Game and Fish Department offices statewide.

Some of the leftover elk tags are for Hopi hunt open areas and are available to everyone, both tribal members and non-tribal members, through the first-come, first-served process.

A number of leftover elk tags remain for military hunts at Camp Navajo, for those who qualify. For more information, visit [www.azguard.gov/CampNavajo.htm](http://www.azguard.gov/CampNavajo.htm), or call (928) 864-6239.



Jeff Stress

**Y'ALL COME** — to beautiful, bountiful San Diego to join in celebrating Southern California's spectacular sportfishing. Two great events are on the calendar just ahead: Day At The Docks on Sunday, April 19 (<http://www.sportfishing.org/>) and the Yellowtail Derby, Saturday, May 2 to Sunday, June 7 ([johnncinsd@gmail.com](mailto:johnncinsd@gmail.com)). A special thank you goes to Jeff Stress, San Diego photographer, for this remarkable shot of the San Diego skyline.

## Project ChildSafe To Debut New Firearms Safety Video

Project ChildSafe supporters and Phoenix Police Department officials unveiled a new safety video for parents "How to Talk to Your Kids about Firearms Safety" this week.

The video, starring champion shooter, veteran, author and mother Julie Golob, serves as a first-of-its-kind resource to guide parents in conversation about gun safety with children.

In addition, free gun locks will be distributed to help Phoenix-area families responsibly store their firearms, while encouraging those families to begin dis-



cussing firearms safety in their homes.

For more information about Golob, visit [www.juliegolob.com](http://www.juliegolob.com). For more information about Project ChildSafe, visit [www.projectchildsafesafe.org](http://www.projectchildsafesafe.org).



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# Western Wildlife



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## IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

# Arizona AG Supports Bison Management

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich issued a letter supporting federal legislation that allows skilled sportsmen to aid in the management of bison herds in Grand Canyon National Park.

"This legislation is a sensible solution to address the impact of bison on the Grand Canyon's natural and cultural resources," Brnovich wrote in the letter. "Hunters were the first conservationists and hunting plays a valuable role in sustaining healthy wildlife populations."

Brnovich issued the letter to U.S. Sens. John McCain and Jake Flake, who sponsored S.782: Grand Canyon Bison Management Act. U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar sponsored companion legislation (H.R. 1443) in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Grand Canyon Bison Management Act seeks to enlist hunters to help control a rapidly expanding bison population of 600. The animals have migrated into the Park from their range on the Kaibab National Forest and are trampling natural and cultural resources unencumbered.

In the letter, Brnovich supports the "sensible solution" of allowing the State to exercise its trust responsibility to actively manage and conserve wildlife populations inside the park just as it does across Arizona's landscapes statewide.

"Hunting can play a valuable role in



sustaining a healthy wildlife population," Brnovich said. "This legislation is a sensible solution to address the negative impact of this particular herd of bison on the Grand Canyon's precious natural and cultural resources. Harvesting bison in the national park will ultimately help achieve the

desired objective of moving this herd safely back to the Kaibab National Forest."

H.R. 1443 is co-sponsored by U.S. Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick, Kyrsten Sinema, Matt Salmon, David Schweikert and Trent Franks.

# Pronghorn Fawns Get Help Through Coyote Removal

The Arizona Game and Fish Department was finishing a successful program to help the state's struggling antelope population. The department conducted lethal removal of coyotes until mid-April, to improve low fawn survival documented in the antelope herd in Game Management Unit 21.

The removal efforts have been conducted in limited areas of Unit 21, located north of the Phoenix metropolitan area. Arizona's antelope populations have been struggling due to drought and other factors. The department is trying to help antelope in specific areas where herd declines have been severe. Coyote predation management will also help mule deer fawns in the unit.

"Fawns are most susceptible to predation during the first few weeks of life. Our intent is to reduce the predation to provide newborn fawns a window of survivabil-



*Helmut Buechner, Smithsonian Zoologist*

## Doe With Hour-Old Fawns

ity," says April Howard, Game and Fish Department predator, furbearer and large carnivore biologist. "Reducing predation will give newborn fawns a chance to survive long enough so they can escape predators."

Biologists say other factors impacting pronghorn and mule deer populations in the state include loss of habitat, due to de-

velopment or from encroachment of woody plants, and habitat fragmentation due to road building and fences.

"Research has clearly and repeatedly shown that coyote-caused fawn predation can be a significant limiting factor affecting pronghorn fawn survival and recruitment rates," says Howard. "It is particularly devastating to populations facing other habitat-related challenges, such as the long-term drought."

Predator control has been a short-term effort to assist antelope herds in trouble. These efforts are part of a much larger project that addresses habitat quality within the unit by thinning encroaching juniper and installing water catchments.

Game and Fish biologists are working with land management agencies, conservation groups, ranchers, and interested publics to address long-term habitat concerns in these areas.



## TOO MANY TORTOISES, NOT ENOUGH HOMES

# Are You Interested In Sharing Your Yard With One?

Are you fascinated by reptiles? Do you have a yard big enough for a dog, but no time to take one for daily walks? Is someone in your family allergic to pets with fur or feathers? If so, consider adopting a desert tortoise through the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

"We cannot stress enough how detrimental removing tortoises from the wild and backyard breeding are to the species," said Tegan Wolf, Arizona Game and Fish's tortoise adoption program specialist. "This iconic desert species has become overpopulated in captivity and there aren't enough homes for them."

Enclosure requirements include an enclosed area of the yard free from potential hazards, such as a dog or pool. The enclosed area must include a burrow for the tortoise to escape Arizona's extreme temperatures.

Those interested in sharing their yard with a tortoise should visit [www.azgfd.gov/tortoise](http://www.azgfd.gov/tortoise) for more information on feeding, caring for, and creating a habitat for a tortoise. A desert tortoise adoption packet, which includes the adoption application and checklist, can also be downloaded at this site.

# Valley Man Charged In Captive Bengal Tiger Case

A Valley man charged with possessing two Bengal tigers, which are restricted in Arizona, appeared in Maricopa County Superior Court last week. After a nearly year-long investigation, Fahad Zeshawn Rafi (also known as Shawn Rafi) was charged with possessing prohibited live wildlife and other related violations.



**Bengal Tigers**

ceived an anonymous tip reporting a juvenile tiger in the backyard of a Phoenix home. Responding Game and Fish officers found the orange tiger tied with a dog leash on the back patio of the residence.

The home owner indicated that the tiger belonged to Rafi and provided further details about the white tiger, which was reportedly being held somewhere in Gilbert. Officers seized the orange tiger and transferred it to Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center for temporary holding.

Final disposition of the tigers will be

determined at the conclusion of the criminal case against Rafi.

## Now At Out Of Africa

Department investigators tracked the location of the second (white) tiger to a residence in Gilbert. The animal was tied to a rope in the backyard. It was seized and also taken to Southwest Wildlife for holding. Reports indicate that the tigers are littermates. Both tigers have since been transferred to Out of Africa Wildlife Park for temporary housing until the case is resolved.

Wildlife officials repeatedly attempted to contact Rafi throughout the investigation, but he was uncooperative, and all efforts failed.

Rafi faces several charges including possession of restricted live wildlife (in this case two Bengal tigers, a Class II Misdemeanor), sale or trade of restricted

## One White, One Orange Juvenile

The Arizona Game and Fish Department first received a call to its Operation Game Thief (OGT) hotline on Dec. 27, 2013 reporting that a Valley man had posted photos on a social media site of two young tigers that he claimed to own.

Upon investigation, Game and Fish officers discovered photos of a white juvenile tiger and an orange juvenile tiger. The photos were taken at Rafi's business, Phoenix Tires and Wheels Outlet, and two Phoenix-area residences.

Four days later, the department re-

# RV Land Cruising



## Celebrate Earth Day At 'Bat Day,' April 18-19 At Kartchner Caverns

Kartchner Caverns State Park will celebrate Earth Day and the return of the *Myotis velifer* bat colony to Kartchner Caverns State Park at "Bat Day" on Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day will be filled with family activities, presentations and hands-on activities. The cave will be open for tours but those should be reserved in advance.

### Special Features

The event will include presentations in the theater by State Park Rangers and guest speakers including Dr. Ted Fleming, Joel M. Diamond, PhD and Author Conrad Storad. There will also be live animal displays by the Arizona Game & Fish Department, Huachuca Area Herpetological Association and Forever Donkeys, Rescue and Adoption.

Also featured this year is CaveSim, an electronic simulator with 60-feet of crawling passage and realistic cave formations that are electronically sensed to give users feedback with videogame-type scoring. This caving experience is for beginner and experienced cavers aged six and older.

### Guided Tours

There are two guided tours inside the cave (the Big Room tour runs October through April). The Rotunda/Throne Room Tour is half of a mile in length and takes approximately an hour and a half to complete.

The Headlight and Helmet Tour allows visitors to experience the cave as the discoverers did in 1974 using only the light provided by the headlamp on your helmet. This tour is a half-a-mile long and takes an hour and 15 minutes to complete.

Note: Headlight and Helmet Tours are not available for children younger than 10 years of age. The Rotunda/Throne Room Tour is \$23 for those aged 14 and older. It is \$13 for youths aged 7-13 and free for those younger than 6.

The Headlight and Helmet Tour is a specialty tour and is \$30 for those aged 10 and older. Reservations for cave tours or camping can be made 24-hours a day at AZStateParks.com or by calling (520) 586-2283 between 8am and 5pm (Mountain Standard Time) seven days per week.

For more information call (520) 586-



Bat: Cave Myotis

2283 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/KACA. Kartchner Caverns State Park's Entrance Fee is \$6 per vehicle for above ground activities. Full hookup camping sites are available at a fee of \$25. Kartchner Caverns State Park is located on Highway 90, nine miles south of I-10 near Benson, Arizona.

### Bat Nursery

During the summer months, the cave's Big Room serves as a nursery for around

1,000 female cave myotis bats (scientific name *Myotis velifer*). Pregnant females return to Kartchner Caverns around the end of April, where they give birth to a single pup in late June.

Arizona State Parks conducted several studies before development to see how the bats could be best protected. The results of the studies led Arizona State Parks to close the Big Room for tours while the bats are using it. The bat populations are monitored each summer to see that they remain stable.

### For More Information

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs and State Historic Preservation Office call (602) 542-4174 (outside of the Phoenix metro area call toll-free (800) 285-3703). Campsite reservations can be made online at AZStateParks.com or by calling the Reservation Call Center at (520) 586-2283. Open 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MST. Follow AZStateParks on Twitter and Facebook.



## Estrella Mountain Regional Park Seeks Input On Master Plan Update

The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department is currently updating the 1988 Master Plan for Estrella Mountain Regional Park and is seeking input from the community. The goal of the Park Master Plan is to develop a long-range vision for the park that takes into account park visitors needs while also protecting the resources and natural open space found within the park.

"The department is beginning the initial phase of the planning process and it is important for us to make sure that the community is a part of that process," said Maricopa County Board of Supervisor Steve Gallardo, District 5. Estrella Mountain Regional Park abuts the suburbs of Goodyear and Avondale.

"The April 30th meeting is the first public meeting that will be hosted at the park. During this phase of the planning process, I've asked staff to gather input from park users regarding their recreational needs and preferences. This will help to guide us in the development of the draft master plan," said R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department Director.

The public comment period for the first phase of the project will remain open for thirty days, concluding at the close of business on May 30.

To learn more about the public meeting being held at April 30, at 6 p.m. in the Estrella Mountain Regional Park's Nature Center or the project, visit [www.maricopa.gov/parks/estrella/emproject.aspx](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/estrella/emproject.aspx) and click on the park project tab.

## Grand Canyon Joins National 'Find Your Park' Movement

*This is the theme for the 2015 National Park Week: April 18-26.*

Grand Canyon National Park joins parks, programs and partners across the country to encourage everyone to find their park and share their stories online at

FindYourPark.com. Launched March 30 by the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation, Find Your Park, is a public awareness and education campaign celebrating the milestone centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 and setting the stage for its second century of service.

### Public Invited

Find Your Park invites the public to see that a national park can be more than a place — it can be a feeling, a state of mind, or a sense of American pride. Beyond vast landscapes, the campaign highlights historical, urban, and cultural parks, as well as the National Park Service programs that protect, preserve and share nature, culture, and history in communities nationwide.

"Find Your Park" will also be the theme for this year's National Park Week, April 18 – 26. To kick off National Park Week, Grand Canyon will hold Earth Day festivities on Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19. As part of the celebration, *The Emerald Mile* author Kevin Fedarko will present an evening program at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at the Shrine of the Ages Auditorium. The author will sign books after the presentation and the following day during the Earth Day celebration.

### Earth Day Festivities

Earth Day festivities continue Sunday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center plaza. Join park rangers, Green Team members, and the park's partners in a "green" celebration of unique and interactive activities related to the environment and all nature has to offer at Grand Canyon National Park. This event is free and open to all ages.

Also in celebration of National Park Week, Grand Canyon will waive entrance fees on Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19. Park visitors are reminded that fee-free designation applies to entrance fees only and does not affect fees for camping, reservations, tours, or use of concessions. Visitors who plan to spend time in the park beyond April 19 will need

to pay the regular entrance fee for the remainder of their stay.

For additional information about the park's Earth Day events, please contact Marty Martell at 928-638-7834. Visit [www.nationalparkweek.org](http://www.nationalparkweek.org) to learn more about how you can join parks, programs, and partners in celebrating National Park Week across the country.

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# RV/Land Cruising



## SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK, COLOSSAL CAVE

Visit It At The Most . . .

# Gorgeous Time Of Year

View From Top Of Hamburg Trail.

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

This is a gorgeous time of year to visit Saguaro National Park. There are two different parts to this park: the Tucson District west of Tucson, and the Rincon District which is just southeast of Tucson.

The Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Park is easy to get to: Take the Old Spanish Trail from Tucson to the Rincon Visitor Center. There is a loop drive through the western part of the Rincon District that you should definitely investigate. You can ask for trail maps and

information at the visitor center, buy some souvenirs, then follow the signs to the loop drive.

### A Scenic Drive

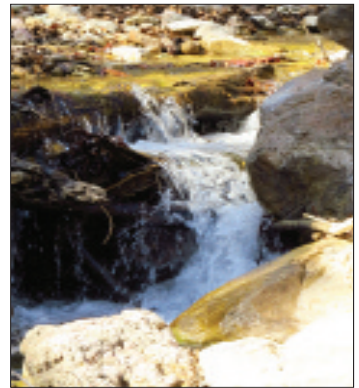
This scenic drive is about eight miles but it will take you a while because you'll want to stop and look around and take photos. It's a combination one-way and two-way road, but trailers over 35 feet are not permitted.

We stopped at the first pull-out and we were lucky enough to run into a ranger who was tracking tortoises with an antenna. They tag the tortoises, then listen to beeps as they walk along with the antenna in order to find them and gather information on how far they travel, etc. He said that the tortoises spend a lot of their time underground.

### Several Trailheads, Hikes

You can access several trailheads from this loop road and there are plenty of pull-outs and vistas. When we went in March, the wildflowers were just starting, and it was beautiful. The Rincon Mountains are the backdrop, and you'll see why this area is called the Cactus Forest — saguaros abound.

If you have small kids or just want to sample a short hike and find out what the names of some of the native plants are, stop at the Desert Ecology Trail. It's almost perfectly flat, barely a quarter of a mile long, and paved all the way — totally wheelchair and stroller accessible, and a fun little hike. Plenty of signs tell you interesting facts about the area, and there are frequent benches.



As Hamburg trail moves away from the creek and out of the Preserve, it gets steeper and heads up Huachuca Mountains.



Ramsey Canyon has a lovely, shady trail.

There are several other easy trails in the Rincon District. The Freeman Homestead Trail takes you one mile to an old desert homestead and has plenty of signs to give you information about the history and ecology of the area. It's an out and back trail. There are some moderate grades and they have wide rock stairs.

The Mica View Picnic Area Loop is a two-mile loop and it's the easiest loop in the park. There are many other awesome hikes and the entire area is just gorgeous,

especially this time of year. No matter what the temperatures are, wear long sleeves, a hat, sunscreen, and take a lot of water with you. Also, boots are a good idea. When the weather starts to warm up, snakes begin to wander around. Don't forget your camera — the wildflowers and flowering cacti are amazing.

### Colossal Cave County Park

We were heading to Sierra Vista, so after taking the Loop Drive we exited the Park and headed south on the Old Spanish Trail. A few miles down this road is the Colossal Cave County Park. It costs \$5 per car to enter, and if you want to tour the cave, it's \$13 for adults, \$6.50 for ages 5-12, and kids 4 and under are free. They have military discounts.

The cave tour is worth the \$13, and even if you are a bit afraid of caves, you'll probably like this one. It's spacious and airy, and just dark enough to be romantic and mysterious without being spooky. We had a bit of a wait before our tour, but there is a really cool little museum/gift shop that has all kinds of interesting things to look at and read. The place was built by the CCC and there is a lot of history there.

### Inside The Cave

The cave itself was discovered by Solomon Lick in 1879. Our guide told us that old Solomon found a small hole (very small) and squeezed into it, dropping



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# RV/Land Cruising

## SAGUARO

*Continued from page 12*

about 10 feet to the floor of the cave. The cave is enormous and the CCC widened many parts of it and built paths and stairs to make it easy to navigate. They also installed the lighting.

You'll see some of the equipment they used — the head lanterns and things. It's all amazing. I don't generally like being underground, but I really enjoyed this tour. It's always about 70 degrees inside the cave, and the tour is about a half mile. It took us just about 45 minutes and our guide was awesome. He told us all kinds of fun stories, showed us some great stuff that you can only see when the shadows are just right, and even managed to show us a bat. I highly recommend this tour!

If you're feeling much braver, there are other tours you can sign up for that are more intensive and will involve climbing and ladders and things. They include a buffet dinner and prices start at \$70. You'll see parts of the cave that haven't been open to the public since the 50's.

The rest of the Colossal Cave Park is

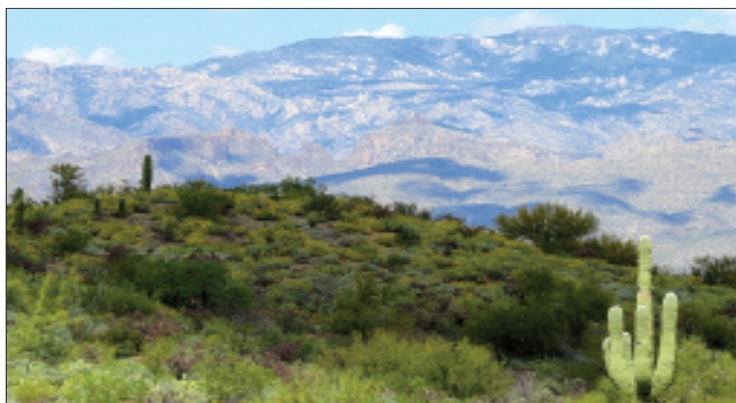
worth checking out, too. There is a big and unusual sundial where you can be the gnomon, a butterfly garden, tortoises, and lots of places to picnic and play.

### On To Ramsey Canyon

Once we left that park we continued on to Sierra Vista, which is a good-sized town with lots of great hotels and restaurants. Our first visit near there was Ramsey Canyon, a world-famous birding area. Ramsey Canyon is a Nature Conservancy Preserve, and parking is limited to about 23 spaces. There is a \$6 fee, \$3 if you are a Cochise county resident or a Nature Conservancy member. Children under 16 are free, and admission is not charged on the first Saturday of every month. They have a wonderful little gift shop and information center with lots of bird lovers items and books. The trail starts at the back door of the shop and it is wonderful hike even if you don't like birding.

### Trees, Birds, Deer And More

Ramsey Canyon is thickly forested with a variety of trees, and the trail follows the creek for the most part. It's like walk-



Saguaro National Park, Rincon Mountains

ing in paradise with the sound of the running water, the shade, and all the beautiful bird songs. There are a couple of little loops that take you to interesting places before returning to the main path. Take them all. We saw a pond, crossed little bridges, and investigated ruins and old abandoned buildings, and took tons of photos. Two little Coues deer came within 30 feet of us and didn't seem at all startled by us. It's a fantastic place.

Although most people call this trail the Ramsey Canyon Trail, it is actually the Hamburg Trail. For about the first mile you are on Nature Conservancy property, then the trail really starts to climb. The steeper areas have the typical trail stairs — wood holding back dirt, or stone.

### The Climb Is Worth It

The climb is worth it — although the forest is beautiful. When you reach the sign that tells you you're in the Miller Peak Wilderness, you're nearly to the overlook. Once you're there, you can see

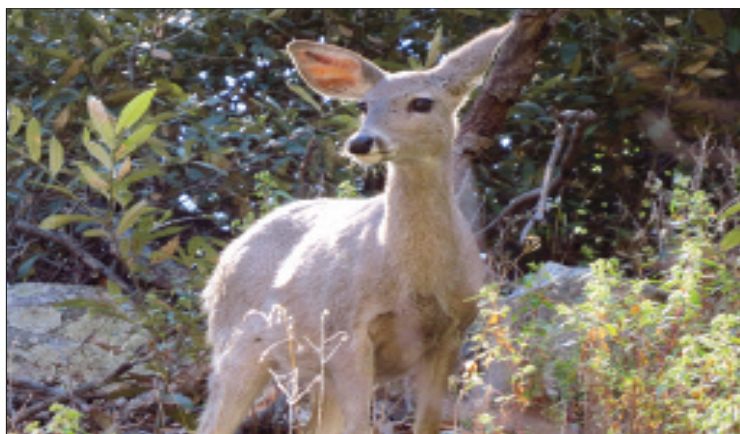
out over the canyon and it's beautiful.

If you keep going along the Hamburg Trail (and it's downhill from here), you'll reach the Brown Canyon trail in half a mile. We headed back to the Preserve once we reached this high point, and we thoroughly enjoyed the hike.

Since the Coronado Forest page says the Hamburg Trail is 2.8 miles and we were half a mile from the Brown Canyon Trail when we turned back, I'm saying that it's about 2.3 miles from the Ramsey Canyon info center to the lookout point. It's a lot of uphill, so be prepared. But the way back is all downhill!

### Beautiful Country

We had many other adventures down Sierra Vista way, so I'll be telling you all about them in later issues. Meanwhile, if you want to visit Southern Arizona, there are many excellent places to stay whether you want to camp, take your RV, or stay in a hotel. It's beautiful country, so if you haven't been down there yet, plan to visit soon.



This little Coues deer walked within 30 feet of the Andersons.

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**TORTOISES**

*Continued from page 10*

If you are interested in adopting a tortoise in the Tucson area, contact the state-sanctioned adoption facility Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum at (520) 883-3062. Adoption events will also be held in Yuma on April 18 and at the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary on May 2.

Desert tortoises are native to the south-

western desert and can live up to 100 years. They grow to be about 15 pounds and hibernate in the winter months. Desert tortoises eat plant material, including grasses and wildflowers.

Once captive, desert tortoises cannot be released back into the wild as captive animals can pass an upper respiratory disease to wild tortoise populations. It is also illegal and harmful to desert tortoise populations to collect tortoises from the wild.

**TIGER**

*Continued from page 10*

wildlife (Class VI Felony), and forgery (Class IV Felony).

**Operation Game Thief**

Tigers and other carnivores are illegal to import and/or possess in Arizona without special permits from the department. People should be familiar with state regulations prior to importing any wildlife into

the state as regulations differ across the country, and should query their state wildlife officials before importing any wildlife across state lines.

This investigation was made possible because citizens reported the incident to Operation Game Thief. If you suspect or have knowledge of illegal activity involving wildlife or habitat, call Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700. Callers may remain anonymous.

**SHOTGUNNING**

*Continued from page 8*

ing your head. Keep your gun mount consistent as you are pulling the trigger.

**Number Three: Shifting Focus From Target To Barrel**

Shooting a shotgun is very different than shooting a rifle. Typically, the rifle's target is stationary, while a shotgun's target is moving, but in both instances you must keep your eye on the target in order to hit it.

With a correct and consistent gun mount, the gun is shooting where you are looking. By keeping your eye on the target until it breaks, you are keeping the gun moving with the target.

If you "check your lead" by looking at the front sight or end of the barrel just before you pull the shotgun's trigger, the gun will stop moving with the target and you will miss. Remember: the target continues to move so the gun must continue to move.

**Number Four: Inserting And Moving Muzzle Off The Target's Line**

That moving target is traveling in three dimensions. It is critical to understand what the target is doing in all three dimensions, so look at it with both eyes open. Greenwell is emphatic that you really look at the target: Don't just glance at it; don't assume what it will — really look at it. A hard focus on the target will help you get the shotgun's muzzle on the target's line of trajectory.

**Number Five: Riding The Target**

Most of us have some degree of hand/eye coordination which we use when shooting a shotgun correctly. When you mount the gun and ride the target across the sky for a long period of time, you begin to measure the target's lead and turn off that natural hand/eye coordination. Once you mount the gun, very little time should elapse before you pull the trigger.

Let the hand/eye coordination take over. Remember, you are looking hard at the target, seeing the line and speed. Turn your brain off and shoot. Trust yourself.

The inverse of this problem is shooting too soon, that is, shooting before you really understand what the target is doing. Understand the target line, then move the muzzle with the target's speed and line, mount the gun and pull the trigger — all in one smooth move.

**Number Six: Being Out Of Sync With The Target**

The barrel needs to move with the same speed and trajectory as the target, so avoid chasing the target with the barrel. If you do that, you'll have to slow down to shoot. Think about merging onto I-17 when the traffic is doing 65 mph. If you try to merge doing 30 mph, you feel like you have to speed up, then slow down once you merge.

Sliding in closer to the traffic speed leaves you much more comfortable and in control. Greenwell says to pick a hold point that allows you to comfortably move the shotgun's barrel while matching the speed and line of the target.

**Number Seven: Being Off Balance When The Trigger Is Pulled**

The right stance will keep you from being off balance when you take the shot. For a right handed person, the left foot should be pointing toward where you will break the target, with the right foot slightly behind at a comfortable distance (no wider

than your shoulders) pointing to about two o'clock using the left foot as a twelve o'clock reference.

This gives you a comfortable arc in which to take the target before you run out of swing, and avoids having the shoulder drop, which causes the gun to arc down. Put a little weight on the leading foot and lean forward slightly. This will help keep the gun on the target's line and help the body absorb the gun's recoil.

Greenwell says that avoiding these seven common shooting sins will definitely improve your ability to hit what you are trying to shoot.

A few hours of professional instruction can work wonders on your shooting. Greenwell offers instruction and coaching to all levels of shotgun shooting at Confidence Shotgunning, (480) 948-9053 or (602) 361-1128 (cell).

**Problems With Cross-Dominant Eyes**

A cross-dominant shooter (right handed, left eye dominant) will have to make an adjustment to force the brain to receive primary information from the eye over the gun. He can learn to shoot with the other hand, put a small dot or small smear of lip balm on the shooting glasses' lens that covers the dominant eye, or learn to slightly squint the dominant eye just before mounting the gun.

If at all possible, learn as much as you can about the target's line using both eyes, then the cross-dominant solution will help the brain to receive primary information from the eye over the gun.



**Memorial Day**  
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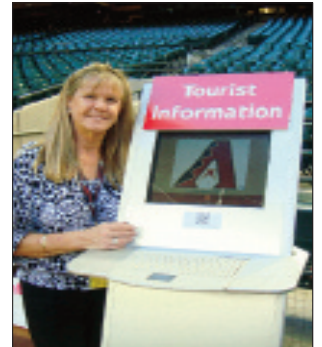
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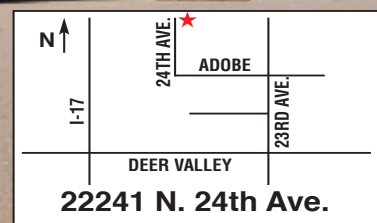
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**CHECKLIST***Continued from page 1*

(look in the folds). Replace suspect bel-lows.

**8. Replace deteriorated outdrive zincs.**

**9. Check power steering and power trim oil levels.** Follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule or use a factory-authorized mechanic.

**10. Control Cables: Inspect Outer Jacket.** Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean the cable must be replaced. (Note: Don't try to remedy the problem by squirting lubricant into the cracks or wrapping duct tape around the outer jacket; most lubricants are incompatible and will only make things worse.)

**In The Water**

**1. Check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes** for steady leaks and looseness. Some weeping or even an occasional drip should be evident at the engine-shaft stuffing box (not the rudder). If leaking can't be stopped by tightening the nut, repack the gland. (Caution: Over-tightening the nut prevents leaking underway, which will burn out the packing material.)

**2. Use a hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches.** Renew caulk or gaskets as needed. Don't rely on a bilge pump to overcome a multitude of deck leaks.

**3. Engines and fuel systems:** Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for indications of softness, brittleness, or cracking. Any that are suspect should be replaced with Coast Guard-approved J1527 hose. Check joints for leaks (or use your finger and look for stains under or around the fitting) and make sure all lines are well supported with non-combustible clips or straps without rough edges.

**4. Inspect outer jacket.** Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean the cable must be replaced. (Note: Don't try to remedy the problem by squirting lubricant into the cracks or wrapping duct tape around the outer jacket; most lubricants are incompatible and will only make things worse.)

**5. Inspect all fuel-system components**

**Corroded Exhaust Manifold**

for leaks — fuel tanks, fuel pumps, filters. A dry rag can be used at connections or trust your nose. Clamps should be snug and free of heavy rust.

**6. Clean fuel filters:** Exhaust manifolds should be removed and inspected every few years for corrosion, which could be restricting water flow.

**7. Clean and tighten electrical connections,** especially both ends of battery cables. Loose connections can "arc," which creates an enormous amount of heat and is a fire hazard. Studs, nuts, and washers should be copper — not aluminum or steel. Dissimilar metals have the potential to cause galvanic corrosion. Problems ranging from a weak contact to arcing could be the result of poor washer choice. Wire brush batter terminals and fill cells with distilled water.

**8. Cooling hoses and fittings** should fit snugly and be double-clamped. Hoses showing signs of age — rot, stiffness, bulges, leaks, and/or cracking — should be replaced.

**9. Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks.**

**Sailboat Rigging**

standing rigging is nearing the end of its useful life. Ensure spreaders bisect the shrouds at equal angles.

**Sailboat Rigging**

**1. Fittings, especially swage fittings, should be inspected** for cracks and rust.

Wire halyards and running backstays also should be inspected for "fish-hooks" and rust, which snag fingers and indicate that the

**Cracked Hose**

**2. Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads** (preferably with Teflon). Give the turnbuckle a twist or two to prevent mechanical freezing. Replace with fresh tape.

**3. Chainplates mounted through the deck should be caulked** as necessary, preferably every two or three years. Leaks can cause problems, ranging from delaminated cores to rotted bulkheads. Hint: Remove *all* old caulking.

**A Few Other Chores**

**1. Refill or replace fire extinguishers** as necessary. (Mount extinguishers where they'll be clearly visible.)

**2. Stoves and remote tanks should be examined** for loose fittings and leaking hoses.

**3. Throw out or take ashore all propane canisters, solvents, and rusted cans.** They're a fire hazard and shouldn't be stored aboard.

**4. Clean bilge.** Inspect bilge pump and float switch to ensure they're working properly.

**5. Replace outdated flares.** Keep old flares aboard as spares.

**Trailers**

**1. Inspect tire treads and sidewalls.** Cracks on sidewalls, or lack of tread, indicates the tire may be replaced. Use a gauge to check pressure. Don't forget the trailer's spare tire.

**2. Sand and paint rusted areas.**

**3. Inspect bearings.** Repack as necessary.

**Work Trailer Wheel**

**4. Test tail and back-up lights.** Replace burned-out bulbs and chafed wires. Corroded terminals should be cleaned. Make sure the white ground wire is securely attached to the trailer's frame.

**5. Test the winch,** manual or electric to ensure it's working properly.

**TIPS***Continued from page 1*

can be found at: [BoatUS.com/floatplan](http://BoatUS.com/floatplan).

**3. The number one reason** why boats sink in the springtime is being in a hurry to get in the water. Check every engine hose and clamp. Remove leaves in scuppers and clear clogged cockpit drains. Check to see that freezing water didn't crack the sea strainer or seacock/valves.

Go to [BoatUS.com/springchecklist](http://BoatUS.com/springchecklist) to get a copy of a Spring Fitting Out Safety Checklist.

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