



Western Outdoor Times

Arizona Boating & Watersports™



February 2016

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

100 Years!

Happy Birthday, National Park Service

Boating

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& Target**

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Wildlife**

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Cruising**

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2016 Salutes The Past, Present, And Future

The 25th Annual Lake Havasu Boat Show Preps For Silver-Anniversary Celebration

Arizona and Nevada's largest boat show is set for April 8-10.

The count-down to the 25th Annual Lake Havasu Boat Show, presented by Frontier Communications and Mohave State Bank, has begun. This year, the Lake Havasu Boat Show opens on Friday, April 8 and runs through Sunday, April 10 at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4 on London Bridge Road.

'A Very Special Boat Show'

"This will be a very special boat show since it's our 25th annual," said boat show organizer Bob Brown. "We'll have more



boats and exhibitors than ever before plus plenty of great added attractions and some new surprises. Regardless of what kind of boat you're looking for, it will be at the Havasu show. Pontoon boat selection will be especially spectacular as will the always-popular, high-performance sportboats. In fact, there will more high-performance boat brands on display at Havasu than at any other boat show west of Miami."

Chili, Salsa Spice It Up Even More

But more exhibitors and new boat models aren't the only things that Lake Havasu Boat Show attendees have to look forward to on April 8-10. The boat show will host the 4th Annual Lake Havasu International Chili Society chili cook-off competition sponsored by Havasu Regional Medical Center

See **BOAT SHOW**, Page 15



Boaters Urged To Be Safe In 2016

Safe boating is no accident.

BY ED HUNTSMAN
USCG DISTRICT EIGHT RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM MANAGER

Recent rain and snow storms' bringing both snowpack up north and flooding across the West and Midwest have many thinking that water levels in surrounding lakes and rivers will be increasing as the year progresses.

Add lower gas prices to the mix and boaters will be coming back to the water

this spring in droves. Power boaters, sailors, paddlers — many will be ill prepared to deal with the problems of a sudden spring or summer storm that this record-breaking *El Nino* season will be offering.

Time To Take A Course

If you haven't taken a boating-safety course, this is the time to find one and learn how to deal with weather and other emergencies. Most states offer classroom and online boating-education courses for free. The Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary offer classroom and online courses for a slight fee that are all convenient and

See **SAFETY**, Page 15



ON THE COVER

We Celebrate This First Century Mark

It's been 100 years! Well, almost. But, this summer it will be..

On Aug. 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill that created the National Park Service. And, Arizona has benefitted greatly from this; our state boasts four national parks and 22 national monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and memorials.

In addition to the premier attraction, Grand Canyon National Park, three other natural gems in Arizona are Petrified Forest National Park, Saguaro National Park, and Tumacacori National Historical Park.

During this significant year, *Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times* plans to highlight many of these national and state treasures.

Happy Birthday, National Park Service (and thank you, President Wilson)!

ISE Moves 2016 Expo To WestWorld Of Scottsdale

Visitors will enjoy a venue double the size of previous expos.

The 16th annual International Sportsmen Exposition & Arizona Boat Show has moved across town to WestWorld of Scottsdale. And more than doubled its size!

Now there are two full buildings — one for the Arizona Boat Show, and one for the

Sportsman Expo, plus vast outside space. All this space will be showcasing more than 100 new exhibitors — 300+ in all.

The Valley's only boat show will spotlight more than 15 dealers, plus marinas and marine accessories companies.

For The Family

For the family, the expo has doubled the entertainment.

See **EXPO**, Page 15



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Tackle And Target

Lites And Lasers Added

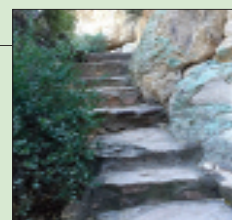
Today, personal security is on many minds. Don McDowell of *Shake, Rattle & Troll Radio* endorses some relevant products/Page 8



Land Cruising

Explore Over Two Miles Of Trails

Step into something beautiful on the High Trail at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park/Page 12





We are thankful for this New Year and for the upcoming 100th anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson's creating the National Park Service on Aug. 25, 1916. What wonderful gifts we have been receiving ever since from our National Parks!

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DOWNSTREAM February 2016 Events Calendar

BOATING

4/ 8-10: LAKE HAVASU BOAT SHOW — See story on page 1.

tba PARKER: 5th Annual ADBA Southwest Showdown — Drag Boat Races — Blue Water Resort & Casino, high-octane race on the Colorado River, free, 8 am — 3 pm, 602-614-0560 or <http://adbaracing.com>

2/27 LAKE HAVASU CITY: 13th Annual Hot Products IJSBA Mark Hahn Memorial Havasu 300 — Crazy Horse Campgrounds, world's longest PWC endurance race, top PWC racers from around the globe race in memory of Mark Hahn, the race is designed to allow first-time racers, as well as veterans, compete at their own level, 300 miles on Lake Havasu, free to spectators, 7 am, 714-241-9600 or <http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/67/>



Valentines Day Feb. 14

2/29/2017 GOAT CRUISE: Sign up now for this family fun goat cruise. Kids are welcome and nannies will be provided. Call Billy for reservations: (619) 523-3091.

LEARN TO SAIL: Current — If you know someone who would like to learn to sail, turn them on to the Arizona Sailing Foundation's Adult Beginning Sailing class.

AZ YACHT CLUB MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of every month 7 p.m. — in the Caddy Shack at Rolling Hills Golf Course, 1415 N. Mill Ave., Tempe; www.arizonayachtclub.org

US SAILING/ RED CROSS ONLINE TRAINING: Ongoing — To make it easier for prospective US SAILING-certified instructors to fulfill course requirements for CPR and First Aid certification, US SAILING teams up with the American Red Cross to provide an online training program. Participants can sign up by visiting www.ussailing.org/training and clicking on the Red Cross Online



Training button (towards the bottom of the page).

CAMPING/RVING/ AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

8/25: 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

tba GILBERT: Gilbert Outdoors Expo — Riparian Preserve, a chance to brush up on various outdoor activities or learn new skills, including fishing, camping, hunting, hiking and much more, exhibitors and attendees statewide, <http://www.gilbertaz.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/special-events/gilbert-outdoors-expo>

CALENDAR OF OUTDOOR EVENTS: Ongoing — www.azgfd.gov/OutdoorSkills Google calendar.

PROTECT-A-PARK: Ongoing — Boaters, anglers, divers needed to adopt Lake Pleasant's shoreline areas and coves for regular litter removal in 2009; (602) 372-7460, ext. 200

CLASSES/SEMINARS

AZGFD, CG AUXILIARY, PHOENIX POWER SQUADRON BOATING CLASS: Ongoing (See page 3 of this issue.)

COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

tba SACATON: 71st Commemoration of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising — Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park, military parade and flyover to begin at 8:30 am, free, 520-562-8484 or <http://www.irahayespost84.org>

tba PHOENIX: 5th Annual Cops Walk Southwest — Sheraton Crescent Hotel, SRP Path (between Northern and Dunlap), 25 miles walk, for the families, friends and supporters of Arizona police officers killed in the line of duty, 8 am, 573-346-4911 or <https://copsarizona.org/>

1/29 FLAGSTAFF WINTER FESTIVAL

2/28 LAKE HAVASU CITY: 5th Annual Line Dance on the London Bridge — Havasu Community Health Foundation invites you to gather under the London Bridge to try to break

the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest number of line dancers on the London Bridge, Electric Slide & Cupid Shuffle, 10-20, 2-5 pm, 928-453-8190 or <http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/591>

2/25-28 SCOTTSDALE: 63rd Annual Parada Del Sol Rodeo — WestWorld, rodeos, major dances, concerts, live country western music, children's activities, S, Friday & Saturday 1 & 7 pm, Sunday 2 pm, 480-990-3179 or <http://www.paradadelosol.org>

6-3/27 GOLD CANYON: 28th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival — a medieval amusement park, a 13-stage theater, a 30-acre circus, an arts & crafts fair, a jousting tournament and a feast—all rolled into one non-stop, day-long family adventure, \$12-24, Sat-Sun & President's Day, 10 am - 6 pm rain or shine, 520-463-2600 or <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

6 PHOENIX: 64th Annual Great Canadian Picnic — South Mountain Park, celebrate all things Canadian, with live music, games, bring a picnic or purchase, bring a donation for the food bank, free, 10 am — 3 pm, 480-255-5865 or <http://www.canadianpicnic.com>

1-7 SCOTTSDALE: 80th Annual Waste Management Phoenix Open — Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale, one of the PGA Tour's top events, with the largest crowds on the tour, attracts the finest golfers in the world, \$20/day or ticket packages, 8 am - 6 pm, 602-870-0163 or <http://wmphoenixopen.com>



EXPOS/SHOWS

3/10-13: INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMEN EXPOSITION & ARIZONA BOAT SHOW — See story on page 1.

4/1-3: ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT EXPO

FISHING

3/18-20: BILL LUKE BASS DAYS — See story on page 7.

tba PARKER: 37th Annual Take a Kid Fishing — La Paz County Park, for beginning and experienced anglers, loaner rods are available, or free to bring your own, bait provided and you do not need to possess a fishing license to participate, free, bring the family and join the fun, organized by the Parker Bass Club and community, 10 am — 2 pm, 623-236-7219 or http://www.azgfd.gov/i_e/edits/aquatic_education.shtml

SRT BASS PHOENIX CHAPTER MEETINGS: Ongoing — Shake, Rattle & Troll Bass Club; volunteers needed; new members (boaters and non-boaters), families, children, friends are welcome; (623) 221-7655

3/17: DAY AT THE DOCKS — San Diego, Calif.

HUNTING/SHOOTING/ ARCHERY

9/22: NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY — See story on page 9.

2/22-28 PHOENIX: 24th Annual Winter Range — Ben Avery Shooting Range, more than 1,000 gather for the Single Action Shooting Society's National Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting, competitive events, displays of period militaria, exhibitions of western skills and crafts, 100 vendors from period clothing to antiques and reproductions, cowboy entertainment, singers, cowboy bands, trick roping, trick horses, food from chuck wagon cooking to hot dogs, <http://www.winterrange.com/>

BEN AVERY CLAY TARGET CENTER: Ongoing — Open seven days a week; (623) 434-8119

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; Saguaro can plan your diving vacation for small groups or just one person. How about Grand Cayman, Curacao, Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, Bonaire, Turks & Caicos Contact Saguaro Diving & Sports, 908 E. Impala Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480) 507-3988 or sales@saguarosports.com

Frozen tba SUNRISE: Night Skiing — Sunrise Park Resort, ski & ride Sunrise Mountain in tranquil moonlight under a blanket of stars you'll have to see to believe, Saturdays 4:30-9 pm, torch light parade and fireworks show at 7 pm, 928-735-7669 or <http://www.sunriseskipark.com>

Swimming: 2/6 MESA: 5th Annual TRI Catching Cupid Adult and Youth Splash and Dash — Skyline Aquatic Facility, 480-313-4350 or <http://www.getsetaz.com> or <http://www.tri-catchingcupid.com/>

WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

NO-KILL SHELTER NEEDS HELP: <http://animalsbenefitclub.com/index2.html>

RAISING MONEY FOR ANIMALS: Ongoing — Heather L. James-Davis: www.azanimalassistance.com

Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events — "Downstream" — to editor@azbw.com. To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the tenth (10th) 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.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Update your boating safety knowledge

Our waterways are ready, but are YOU? Brush up on your boating skills by taking one of the many Boating Safety Education classes or take one online at www.azgfd.gov/boating.

February 2016				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	February 13 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Arizona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	February 20 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	February 20 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility – Green Building 2176 McCulloch Blvd., Suite 8 Lake Haasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219

March 2016				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	March 19 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	March 19 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility – Green Building 2176 McCulloch Blvd., Suite 8 Lake Haasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	March 26 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Arizona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219

Preparing for Boating Emergencies

A safe boater knows how to prevent and respond to boating emergencies.

To prevent from falling overboard:

- Don't sit on the gunwale, bow, seatbacks, motor cover or any other area not designed for seating.
- Don't sit on pedestal seats when underway at greater than idle speed.
- Don't stand up in or lean out from a boat.
- Don't move about the boat when underway.

If someone on your boat falls

overboard:

- Reduce speed and toss the victim a throwable personal floatation device (PFD).
- Have other passengers watch the victim.
- Turn your boat around and slowly pull alongside the victim, approaching the victim from downwind or into the current, whichever is stronger.
- Turn off the engine. Pull the victim on board over the stern, keeping the weight in the boat balanced.



This information brought to you by: Arizona Game & Fish Department, 5000 W. Carefree Highway Phoenix, AZ 85086 623-236-7219 • www.azgfd.gov



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



Stop Aquatic Invasive Species.

Know the Rules: Learn to identify "Navi-Aids"

Arizona law enforcement agencies write many citations for "failure to obey navigation laws." You can help ensure the safety of all on the water by learning to identify these common navigational aids.



Information

Squares indicate where to find food, supplies, repairs, etc. and give directions and other information.



Controlled

Circles indicate a controlled area such as speed limit, no fishing or anchoring, ski only or no skiing, or "slow, no wake."



Exclusion

Crossed diamonds indicate areas off-limits to all vessels such as swimming areas, dams, and spillways.



Danger

Diamonds warn of dangers such as rocks, shoals, construction, dams, or stumps. Always proceed with caution.

Other Non-Lateral Markers

Safe Water Markers are white with red vertical stripes and mark mid-channels or fairways. They may be passed on either side.



Inland Water Obstruction Markers are white with black vertical stripes and indicate an obstruction to navigation. You should not pass between these buoys and nearest shore.

Mooring Buoy

Mooring Buoys are round and white with a blue horizontal band and are found in marinas and other areas where vessels are allowed to anchor.

Note, the following actions are illegal:

- ◆ Willfully damaging, removing, interfering with, or tying up to a navigation buoy not intended for mooring
- ◆ Mooring, anchoring, or fastening to shore for more than 14 consecutive days any vessel on public waters.

Forget a life jacket or need to borrow one?

Boaters at Lake Pleasant, Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave that need a life jacket can borrow one from the stations placed near each lake's boat ramps.

The stations contain jackets for infants to adults. However, boaters are reminded to please return the life jackets to the station once they are done with them so they can be used by other boaters.

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>. You can also renew your registration by mail or in person at any Game and Fish office.



BoatUS Gives Three Safety Tips For Upgrading Boat Lighting

US Coast Guard cautions use of some new types of lights.

With the latest technical advances in recreational boat lights — both for navigation and aesthetic purposes — recreational boaters have more choices than ever when upgrading their boat's lighting.

However, the US Coast Guard wants boaters to know that some of the new lights aren't up to snuff and could increase the chances of a collision. It has found that some sold for navigation purposes don't meet regulations, and other aesthetic lighting products such as LED ropes and underwater lights may go against the light provisions of the nautical rules of the road.

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water shares these



NOT SAFE – Navigation lights like these don't pass muster and don't make for safe boating.

concerns and has the following three tips when shopping for or installing boat lights:

1) Navigation lights have to be "approved". Some manufacturers are selling

navigation lights that don't meet regulations. These lights are typically cheaper, but do not provide the proper color quality, brightness or cut-off angles that boaters rely on to avoid collision. So how do you know you are buying a good nav light? The US Coast Guard (USCG) says things to look for include 1.) USCG approval, 2.) The rated visibility of the light in nautical miles, 3.) Meets ABYC A-16, 4.) "Tested by: laboratory name," along with 5.) Manufacturer and model #.

2) Don't let your boat's lights confuse. The USCG reports that some boaters have hazardedly installed unapproved red and green LED strip lighting on the bow, which hampers other boaters efforts to avoid collision. Also avoid displaying any light that could be confused as another navigation light or another vessel. And do remember flashing blue lights are reserved for law enforcement — at a

distance, wave action combined with the steady rocking of below the waterline high-intensity blue lights can give the appearance of a police vessel.

3) Don't install lights that prevent the operator from maintaining a good lookout. When running between sunset and sunrise, it's critical that those behind the wheel maintain their night vision, so the #1 goal is to keep light out of the operator's eyes. Glare from existing nav lights may be a problem, or reflections from aesthetic lighting such as LED rope lights wrapped around a helm station hinder eyesight.

A helpful video by West Marine, "How to Choose the Right Navigation Lights for Your Boat," can be found at <http://goo.gl/o4YoC>.

To see lights tested at night by the BoatUS Foundation, visit BoatUS.org/findings/48.

Coast Guard Again (And Always!) Urges Boaters To Wear lifejackets

FROM U.S. COAST GUARD EIGHTH DISTRICT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Over the course of the past weeks, the Coast Guard has responded to multiple cases along the Gulf of Mexico where people in distress were not wearing lifejackets.

Life Jackets should be used with any activity on the water, whether it's done with a paddle, motor or a sail. Using a properly fitted life jacket increases sur-

vivability in an accident, which gives rescuers more time to locate a victim.

Accidents can result in a number of injuries that prevent a person in the water from swimming. Wearing a properly fitted life jacket will keep victims above water regardless if they are conscious or have suffered debilitating injuries.

The 8th Coast Guard District strongly encourages people to not only wear a life-jacket on the water, but also to have the following safety equipment onboard their

vessels: life jackets for everyone aboard, a noise making device such as a horn, visual distress signals such as flares or a signal mirror and a fire extinguisher.

The following are safety tips for boaters prior to leaving the dock:

- Never boat under the influence. Alcohol is the leading contributing factor of all fatal boating accidents. It is against the law for anyone to operate a vessel on the water under the influence of alcohol. Consumption of alcohol by anyone else aboard is strongly discouraged.

- Always wear a life jacket. A life jacket is required for each person aboard a vessel, sized accordingly and easily accessible. Children younger than 13 years old are required to wear a life jacket at all times.

- Carry a VHF-FM marine radio. Boaters should have an operational marine

VHF radio on their boat in order to contact the Coast Guard in the event of an emergency.

- In the event of an emergency the Coast Guard can be reached on VHF-FM 16.

- Have a Vessel Safety Check. The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers free vessel safety checks and can be reached at www.cgau.org. A vessel safety check is the best possible way to learn about potential violations of state and federal requirements. Most importantly, these quick exams can keep your boat and passengers out of harm's way.

- Boaters should be aware of, and obey, all federal and state regulations for recreational boating and navigation.

For more boating information, go to <http://www.uscgboating.org/> or call (618) 225-9008.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Lake Havasu Boat Show

LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK WINDSOR 4

APRIL 8-10

FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY

ARIZONA'S LARGEST BOAT SHOW

OVER 100 EXHIBITORS.....
MORE THAN 65 BOAT BRANDS

PONTOONS • FAMILY RUNABOUTS • HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORTBOATS
FISHING BOATS • WAKEBOARD/SKI BOATS • PERSONAL WATERCRAFT
CRUISERS • JET BOATS • DECKBOATS • KAYAKS & SUPs • MARINE ENGINES
TRAILERS • MARINE PARTS & ACCESSORIES • WATER TOYS • BOATING SERVICES

Plus FEATURED ATTRACTONS...

LIFE JACKET SWAP
OLD FOR NEW
Compliments AG&F

FRIDAY NIGHT
BEACH BASH
FOOD & LIVE MUSIC

BEER GARDENS
FOOD COURTS
LIVE MUSIC

2nd Annual
LAKE HAVASU
CORNHOLE
CHAMPIONSHIPS

USBA JETRIIBE
GARY HART
MEMORIAL
PWC WATERCROSS
RACING

55,000+ ICS
CHILI & SALSA
COOK-OFF

Show Hours: Fri. noon to 6pm; Sat. 9am to 6pm; Sun. 9am to 3pm
Admission: Adults \$5.00, Kids 6 & under free, Free Parking
For Exhibitor/Vendor Inquiries: call 951-501-0210 or info@lakehasubootshow.com

LAKEHAVASUBOATSHOW.COM

San Diego's Maritime Museum Plans Special Events In 2016

Visitors never tire of visiting the vintage ships at the Maritime Museum that are sailed and maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers. Among the Maritime treasures are ships from four different centuries, which include 19th-century *Californian*, a tops'1 schooner; the 18th-century *H.M.S. Surprise*, a full-rigged British Frigate; the 19th-century three-masted bark *Star of India*, the 16th-century Spanish Galleon *San Salvador*, and the



See **MARITIME**, Page 6

A NEW AND MAGNIFICENT CLIPPER FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

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Leading line but First-Class Tonnage and Regularly Dispatching the greatest number.
THE RELIABLE NEW DETACHED CLIPPER SHIP

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REVEREND BARBER, Commander, AT PIER 13 EAST WHARF.

This ship is the most rapid and comfortable for the trade to San Francisco, and is the only one that will give you the most rapid and comfortable passage to San Francisco.

RANDOLPH M. COSLEY, 86 Wall Street, Thomas Building.

Boating

US Sailing To Re-Launch International Women's Keelboat Championship

The International Women's Keelboat Championship (IWKC) returns! The revitalized US Sailing Championship, with a new and exciting approach, is aimed at maximizing opportunities for women sailors to participate in high-caliber regattas against top international sailors.



The American Yacht Club in Rye, N.Y., will host the new IWKC in J/70 class sailboats on Sunday, Aug. 14 through Saturday, Aug. 20. With the goal of attracting more international teams, the championship will rotate each year to venues within, and outside the United States.

Offers High Quality, International Stage

More than ever, this championship will offer women keelboat and offshore sailors high-quality racing on the international stage. Twenty-four teams will be selected through an application process. Half the teams selected will represent North American countries and half will represent countries from around the world.

To ensure a fast and competitive racing format, additional changes have been made to speed up the action. The format consists of fleet racing with a "team racing" twist, featuring two flights of six boats each with teams rotating after every two races. Each team will race an equal number of races against the others. Races will be approximately 15 minutes in duration. Host clubs will ensure quick rotations and on-the-water judging, in addition to an improved viewing experience for spectators.

Premier Women's Sailing Event

The International Women's Keelboat Championship was inaugurated in 1985 through the efforts of US Sailing's Women's Championship Committee. The event became one of the premier women's sailing events in the U.S. and worldwide. The Ida Lewis Yacht Club in Newport, R.I., became host for the event and hosted the championship until 2001, before it moved around the country to different venues.

Betsy Alison, First

The trophy is named for Bengt Julin, an international judge and strong supporter of women's sailing. Julin presented the very first trophy to Betsy Alison and retired the original to her after she had won it three times consecutively. Alison had an unbroken winning streak competing against teams from a dozen or more nations from 1991 through 1997.

Sally Barkow And Other Winners

In 2007, Sally Barkow matched Alison by winning the championship for the third time. An impressive list of former champions includes Cory Sertl, Anna Tunnicliffe, Jody Starck, and J.J. Fetter. Sertl won the most recent International Women's Keelboat Championship in 2011 at the Rochester Yacht Club (N.Y.).

Learn more about the International Women's Keelboat Championship. <http://www.ussailing.org/iwkc-2016/>

See **KEELBOAT**, Page 6

TowBoatUS Catalina Takes Tower Of The Year Honors

A local company that helps boaters get safely home was singled out for its professionalism at the BoatUS Towing Services Annual Conference recently held in Jupiter, Fla. "Tower of the Year" honors went to **TowBoatUS Catalina**, which is owned and operated by Captains Nathan Lins, Jordan Lake and Greg Dreischmeyer.

The company, a familiar site in Avalon Harbor and Catalina Island waters with three red response vessels, was recognized for its near perfect 24-hour towing dispatch operation, superior customer service and satisfaction, towing case management, and its work in the local boating community.

Much like an auto club for boaters, TowBoatUS gives recreational boaters and anglers a reliable way to summon routine assistance when their boats break down on the water, run out of gas, or run aground.

Formerly known as Vessel Assist Catalina, the red towboats in all of the former West Coast Vessel Assist locations in California, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, and British Columbia, Canada,



HONORED – BoatUS Vice President and Director of Towing Services Adam Wheeler (left) and Capt. Greg Dreischmeyer, TowBoatUS Catalina (right) share the awards moment at recently held BoatUS Towing Services Annual Conference. "Tower of the Year" honors went to TowBoatUS Catalina, which is owned and operated by Captains Nathan Lins, Jordan Lake and Greg Dreischmeyer.

were recently rebranded "TowBoatUS".

The move recognizes TowBoatUS' standing as North America's largest provider of on-water assistance with over 300

locations and 600 towing response vessels. Other than the name change, boaters can

See **HONORS**, Page 6

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Boating

NMMA, ICOMIA, ASONÁUTICA Launch Colombia International Nautical Congress

Save the date! Register now to get involved in the growing Colombian recreational boating market.

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) and Asociación Náutica de Colombia (ANC) announced today they will produce the International Nautical Congress of Colombia, April 27-29, in Cartagena de Indias, to promote the country's growing recreational boating industry.

Attendees of the Congress will participate in two days of networking and education to learn about opportunities in Colombia. The Congress will also feature keynote speakers and breakout sessions as well as a marina tour to give attendees a glimpse of some of the existing boating infrastructure and facilities.

Topics to be covered throughout the Congress include "Why Colombia? Why Now?", "A Drone's View of Marina De-

velopment in Colombia", and "Understanding the Needs of the Colombian Marine Market."

Tremendous Growth Potential

"Colombia's recreational boating industry has tremendous growth potential and is an emerging boating market for the global marine industry," said Thom Dammrich, ICOMIA and NMMA president. "By attending the Congress, participating marine businesses can learn more about opportunities for recreational boating and the necessary steps to take to get involved."

ANC joined ICOMIA as its 35th full member in May 2015. The aim of the organization is to enable growth and competitiveness in the Colombian marine industry — as well as to create and develop business opportunities and con-

recreational boaters. We provide our over half-million members with a wide array of helpful services, including 24-hour on water towing that gets you safely home when your boat won't, will bring you fuel if you run out, jumpstart your dead battery, or provide a gentle pull after you've run aground.

The TowBoatUS towing fleet is the North America's largest network of towing ports with over 300 locations and over 600 towing assistance vessels, responding to over 70,000 requests for assistance each year.

For more information, go to BoatUS.com/towing.

HONORS

Continued from page 5

still see the same familiar BoatUS buoy logo on the hull and professional captains at the helm.

TowBoatUS Catalina can be hailed on VHF channel 16 or reached by calling the BoatUS toll-free 24/7 Dispatch Center at (800) 391-4869. More information can be found at BoatUS.com/towing or call (800) 888-4869.

About TowBoatUS

Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) is the nation's leading advocate, services and safety group for



Marina Santa Marta, Colombia's Caribbean

tribute to the strengthening of the nautical culture within the country, boosting activities such as marinas, yacht clubs, marinas, shipyards, distributors and dealers of boats, nautical tourism service providers, water sports, sailors, among others.

"For the national government of Colombia, growing recreational boating industry is a priority," stated Antonella Farah, executive director of ANC. "The Vice President of the Republic of Colombia (German Vargas Lleras) has placed a high sense of commitment to recreational boating by, for the first time in 17 years, reducing bureaucratic hurdles for marina development and evaluating marine regulations."



MARITIME

Continued from page 4

20th-century steam yacht *Medea*.

In addition to the meaningful visits to view these treasures, the Museum has several special events scheduled in the spring.

Sweetheart Sail

The best place to celebrate Valentine's Day with your loved ones is on beautiful San Diego Bay, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13 and 14. Bring your mom, grandpa, kids, etc., and share this day of love with those you care about. Guests will board the tall ship, *Californian*, for a three-hour scenic tour of the bay, marine wildlife and local attractions. Ticket prices include keepsake photos, champagne, chocolate-covered strawberries and other delicacies.

'Music At The Maritime'

Join us for the Hausmann Quartet's inaugural concert at the Maritime Museum on Sunday, Feb. 21 on Berkeley's McKinney Deck. For tickets and more information, please visit this Web site: <http://hausmannquartet.com/event/haydn-voyages/>

California Gold

Join us for our California Gold event this coming Sunday, March 13. Kids get to make their very own miners hat, experience the trolley on *Star of India* (height, weight and age restrictions apply) and pan for gold in this new interactive experience.

For more information, visit www.sd-maritime.org/ or call (619) 234-9153.

Our mailing address is:
Maritime Museum of San Diego
1492 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA
619-234-9153
San Diego, CA 92101

KEELBOAT

Continued from page 5

Contact: Jake Fish, US Sailing Communications Manager, jakefish@ussailing.org

About US Sailing

The United States Sailing Association (US Sailing), the national governing body for sailing, provides leadership, integrity, and growth for the sport in the United States. Founded in 1897 and headquartered in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, US Sailing is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

US Sailing offers training and education programs for instructors and race officials, supports a wide range of sailing organizations and communities, issues offshore rating certificates, and provides administration and oversight of competitive sailing across the country, including National Championships and the US Sailing Team Sperry. For more information, please visit www.ussailing.org.

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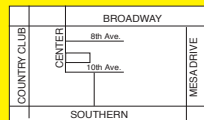


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Tackle & Target



HERE'S THE BIG ONE!

Bill Luke Bass Days Set For March 18-20

Bill Luke Bass Days is the Southwest's largest family fishing tournament and festival — to be held March 18, 19, 20 at Lake Pleasant. This year's version is sure to be one of our biggest events!

For the fishermen, we are featuring over \$50,000 in cash prizes. For everyone, we will have a day and night time festival featuring a Cornhole Tournament, a classic-car show, carnival rides, vendors, food, wildlife exhibits and live music.

Also featured will be a Coast Guard water-rescue demonstration.

The Venue

Pleasant Harbor Marina and RV Resort is located on the eastern shore of Lake Pleasant. This beautiful location is at the heart of the Bill Luke Bass Days Event.

AZGFD Offers Fish Tips, 'New News'

'Catch a tiger by the tail' takes on new meaning for Arizona anglers.

Tip

Alamo Lake can be a crappie hot spot this time of the year. Heavy rains might delay the great winter crappie bite, but it bodes well for the lake's productivity.

Catfishing can still be excellent. These voracious channel catfish at Alamo routinely feed on shad. Try live minnows on the bottom or drop-shot style just off the bottom.



Check Weather Reports

The Reel Deal

Water temperatures across the state have dropped to their winter standards, and rain and snow has slowed or stalled driving in the high country. Be sure to check the Arizona Department of Transportation Web site for the latest road conditions.

Also, boaters must use caution when fishing some of our high-inflow lakes such as Roosevelt Lake, where some boating hazards, including some full-size trees, had been knocked into the lake.

Okay, ready for some winter fishing? First, anglers can pick a species to target, then figure out where you'll go and how



Roosevelt Lake

Here you will be surrounded by all sorts of vendors and activities including car shows, drink vendors, food vendors, and kids' games.

Cornhole Tournament

The fourth Annual Bill Luke Bass Days Corn Hole Tournament will be held on Saturday March 19 at 10 a.m. Open to the public, the cost is 60\$ per team, with payouts for the top four teams: \$1,500, \$750, \$500, and \$250. Come out and enjoy the weather and enjoy a cool beverage while tossing some bags in our huge grass area lakeside.

In addition to participation in the event, each teammate will receive a Bass Days Cornhole T-shirt. Sign up for the tournament before the tournament starts.

Cornhole, also known as bean-bag

toss, corn toss, baggo or bags, is a game in which players take turns throwing bags of corn at a raised platform with a hole in the far end. A bag in the hole scores three points, while one on the platform scores one point. Play continues until a team or player reaches the score of 21.

The Schedule Of Events

For a full schedule of events, from Friday, March 18 through Sunday, March 20, please visit <http://www.billlukebassdays.com/>

Prize Information

- Top Overall Big Bass this year will win \$10,000!
- The Biggest Bass of The Day, each day, will win \$2,000.
- There are six weigh-ins daily with the

first weigh-in ending at 9 a.m. (The top 10 places pay out each hour!)

• *Bill Luke* will pay a \$1,000 cash award to the lucky contestant each day who has the seventh biggest bass during the 11 a.m.-12 p.m. weigh-in. (All you have to do is buy the tee shirt!)

• Sign-in at Bill Luke CJDR and catch the second largest bass on Friday or Sunday and win a \$1,000. You may enter online or in-store. To be eligible for this prize, you must sign our *Cash Bonus* book located in the Service Department.

• Sign-in at Sportman's Warehouse and catch the second largest bass on Saturday and win a \$1,000. You may enter online or in-store. To be eligible for this prize you must sign our *Cash Bonus* book located in the store.

'New News'



Bass

lands. And fish slowly. For example, creep a dropshot-rigged Roboworm (bass may be eating a lot of orange and red colors, such as Salt River craw) along the bottom. Wait for a possible, subtle bite as the bait is falling.

This is where bite-feeling techniques such as holding or thumbing your line as the bait is falling can be critical to catching a bass. Also, this is when having better gear such as fluorocarbon line and sensitive rod tips can make a big difference. Check online about the advantages of having tungsten weights.



Crappie

Recent storms haven't helped crappie fishing. Crappie prefer stable weather and clear water. Expect crappie fishing to pick back up at crappie hot spots



Alamo Lake

Roosevelt Lake and Alamo Lake in the next weeks. (Apache Lake was a crappie hot spot this time last year.)

Your Fishing License

Although this is the time many anglers renew their licenses, our licenses are valid for 365 years from the date of purchase. Buy your license online and fish our great state for a year (and help conserve all species of wildlife while doing so).

Latest From The Fish AZ Blog

"Rebounding fishery at Roosevelt: October survey shows spikes in juvenile bass" is good, no great news.

Early indications give a shred of hope for a robust population of catchable (8-10-inch bass) by next fall, and, in four to five years, the hope that trophy bass will be available at this rejuvenating fishery. These Florida-strain stockings, coupled with increased rainfall and an upcoming habitat-improvement project, has the lake on its way back as a premier bass fishing lake in Arizona.

Tiger Trout Are Coming To Town (from Nick Walter)

Wondering where to catch some unique trout species? Try Arizona. Tiger trout are being raised at the Tonto Creek Hatchery near Payson, Ariz., and are scheduled to

See **FISHING TIPS**, Page 9



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NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

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Honorary Chair: Johnny Morris
National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHF Day) has named leading national conservationist and Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris to serve as the honorary chair for NHF Day 2016: Saturday, Sept. 24.

A lifelong sportsman with a passion for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, Morris is one of the country's foremost leaders working to ensure natural habitats, wildlife and the outdoors remain healthy for future generations to protect and enjoy.

"America's sportsmen and women are among our nation's most active conservationists and it's important we recognize and celebrate everything they do to protect outdoor habitat and ensure thriving populations of wildlife," said Morris. "I'm proud to lend my support and raise awareness for hunters and anglers, America's conservation heroes through National Hunting and Fishing Day."

New National Museum

The event is just one of the ways Morris is honoring the unsung heroes of conservation. Later this year, Morris will unveil the new Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, Mo., a 315,000-square foot conservation destination envisioned as a tribute to America's hunters and anglers.

Through immersive habitats and in-

teractive displays, the experience will inspire future generations to enjoy, love and conserve the great outdoors. "NHF Day is continually looking for folks that have a true passion for the outdoors and is very involved with conservation," said Misty Mitchell, national coordinator, National Hunting and Fishing Day.

"Johnny Morris is leading the charge in all facets of conservation. We couldn't be happier to have him serve as our National Chair."

NHF Day Recognizes Their Leadership

Congress established National Hunting and Fishing Day to recognize hunters and anglers for their leadership in fish and wildlife conservation. This annual event features activities taking place across the country.

Morris joins a distinguished group that has included Jim Shockey, Eva Shockey, Craig Morgan, Bill Dance, T. Boone Pickens, Louise Mandrell, Hank Williams Jr., Jeff Foxworthy, Wade Boggs, Arnold Palmer, the USA Olympic Shooting Team, Tony Stewart and others.

For more information, visit <http://www.nhfd.org>.

Fishing Facts (from nhfd.org)

- More than 44 million Americans six years of age and older enjoy fishing every year.



- An average angler spends \$1,046 every year on the sport.
- Americans fish 557 million days per year.
- More than 38 million Americans hunt and fish.
- Over one quarter of all anglers are female.
- Hunters and anglers support more jobs nationwide than the number of people employed by Wal-Mart.
- Through license sales and excise taxes on equipment, hunters and anglers pay for most fish and wildlife conservation programs.
- Anglers and boaters have paid \$3.6 billion in excise taxes since 1952.
- Recreational anglers spend a staggering \$41.5 billion a year to fish. This has tremendous economic impacts.
- Anglers spend almost \$300 million a year just on ice.
- Anglers spend more than \$1 billion a year on bait alone.

Hunting Facts (from nhfd.org)

The contributions, in the form excise taxes paid on sporting firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, benefit every state and have generated approximately \$5.6 billion for wildlife conservation since 1939. The contribution for 2009 is

WIN A KODIAK 700EPS – As a sponsor of National Hunting and Fishing Day, Yamaha offers sportsmen a chance to WIN a Kodiak 700 EPS. The sweepstake closes Oct. 31, 2016. Visit this site to enter: <https://www.yamahamotorsports.com/outdoor/campaign/nhfd>

a record — nearly \$336 million, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which recently announced the Wildlife Restoration apportionment.

- An average hunter spends \$1,638 every year on the sport.
- Teenage girls are the fastest growing market in sport shooting.
- According to research, 72 percent more women are hunting with firearms today than just five years ago. And 50 percent more women are now target shooting.
- Americans hunt 228 million days per year.
- More than 38 million Americans hunt and fish.
- Hunters and anglers support more jobs nationwide than the number of people employed by Wal-Mart.
- Through license sales and excise taxes on equipment, hunters and anglers pay for most fish and wildlife conservation programs.
- Hunters and shooters have paid more than \$5 billion in excise taxes since 1939.
- More Americans hunt and shoot than play golf.
- Firearms are involved in less than 1 percent of all accidental fatalities. More

See **CELEBRATION**, Page 9

FROM THE DECK

Of Lites & Lasers: I'm Impressed

BY DON MCDOWELL
SHAKE RATTLE & TROLL RADIO

I review hundreds of products over the course of the year and few have the "WOW" factor this one does.

In today's society, personal security is on everyone's mind. Choosing a handgun for personal protection certainly is a matter of individual choice, and I personally choose the Colt Combat Elite Series 80, 1911 .45ACP. One problem, though, with the Colt 1911 and other quality hand guns is they don't have a factor rail system for the addition of lights and lasers.

Being a regular customer at Lookout

Mountain Outdoors, 17232 N. Cave Creek Road for my gun and shooting needs, in Phoenix, owner Joe Notcha turned me on to this high-tech, custom-made, rail-laser-flash assembly for my 1911.

Amazing Accuracy

The RAMLITE for my Colt 1911 was made specifically for my hand gun in two days! It has a high capacity magnet in the housing and has a precision fit on the bottom of my stainless frame. No assembly required. The unit comes with a red laser and a three-position flashlight up to 500 lumens.

My next stop was Ben Avery Shooting Range to dial it in and get zeroed. The la-



LASER-LITE Combo

ser I found was easily zeroed to my irons sights, three shots. So then I'm thinking, when I take the unit off and put back on, I would have to zero it again. Nope. I was amazed the laser remained zeroed after

multiple removals and installs. The accuracy is amazing.

Confidence Is Paramount

With the addition of the RAMLITE on my personal weapon of choice, I have the



RAMLITE 1911

confidence to use it in tight quarters on security details or home and for personal protection situations. I know precisely what and where my bullet is going hit, no question. Shooting with confidence is paramount.

Another key feature is that the three-position flashlight remains on the level you have chosen is an intricate part of the assembly. When you hear a noise in the middle of the night, it alleviates the question, "Damn, where's my flashlight?" It seems like my handgun and flashlight are never in the same place at the same time.

Founded By Freimark

RAMLITE (formerly Ariete) was founded by Ron Freimark, a retired engineer and physicist. Freimark is an avid collector of firearms and realized there had been no improvements to the Colt 1911 since the year it was made (you guessed it, 1911). He wanted to invent a way to attach lasers and lights to his pistol without going through the hassle and investment of visiting a gunsmith.

Also, he didn't want to permanently alter his firearm. Through lots of trial and error he came up with the first improvement to the Colt 1911 in over 100 years! Freimark is owner of the company and he continues to create innovative designs.

He lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., with his wife, two collie dogs and his 1911. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Hotchin: 'Hands-On Guy'

In 2011, Freimark approached his friend, Dan Hotchin, about joining the company to expand the product range and assist with marketing. Hotchin quickly became the "hands-on" guy needed to create prototypes and test new designs. He does all the powder coating, folding and



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Find Your Park In Arizona

The 'great outdoors' is right in the Phoenix area.

Winter in Phoenix is a beautiful thing! There is so much going on: great events every weekend, the sun shines (almost) every day, and the temperature is just right. It is an ideal time to get out in the parks to explore the Sonoran Desert.

Phoenix has some of the most parkland per person within city limits in the United States, and mountain preserves and public land surround the metro area. Here are three great options for getting outdoors in the Phoenix area.

- **Phoenix Mountain Parks and Preserves** — Within Phoenix, mountain oases rise above the surrounding city and provide ample opportunities for hiking and wildlife viewing. North Mountain Visitor Center is a great place to learn about the surrounding Sonoran Desert and to plan a hike. Info at <https://phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/north-mountain/visitor-center>

- **Maricopa County Regional Parks** — Bordering the metro area in every direction are mountain regional parks offering

challenging trails and spectacular views. There are four nature centers that provide an introduction to the plants, animals, and ecology of the parks. Info at

<http://maricopa.gov/parks/naturecenters.aspx>

- **Arizona State Parks** — Just outside of the metro area is a land of parks, forests and wilderness. Lost Dutchman State Park sits on the foothill of the Superstition Mountains, providing a basecamp to explore the surrounding mountains. Info at <http://azstateparks.com/Parks/LODU>

- **The National Park Service (NPS)** is celebrating 100 years. In collaboration, Arizona State Parks is encouraging you to "Find Your Park" in Arizona.

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs and State Historic Preservation Office call (602) 542-4174 or (877) MY-PARKS. 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 AZ-StateParks on *Twitter* and *Facebook*.

CELEBRATION

Continued from page 8

Americans are killed in accidents involving vending machines than guns.

- Hunting gear sales are growing faster than all other sporting goods categories.
- Americans annually buy 1.1 billion

shotshells.

• Non-resident hunting license, tag, stamp and permit sales have risen 41.2 percent since 1993.

- Top-selling sporting goods: 1.) exercise equipment, 2.) golf gear, 3.) hunting gear.

LITES & LASERS

Continued from page 8

quality control inspections. Seriously, he inspects every product before it gets shipped to you!

Hotchkin was born in South Africa and raised in London. He currently lives with his American wife in Phoenix, Ariz.

Holmes: Newest Team Member

Jeremy Holmes is the newest member of the team. He has been given the title of "Top Laser Sight Technician". He is the assembly guy. Holmes isn't afraid to get his hands dirty; he often steps in to smooth out rough edges on metal, prepare parts for powder coating or any other job put before him. He specializes in the VZ58 products.

Holmes lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., and received his Machinist Certification from

Maricopa Skill Center.

Ensure Quality, Fair Price

Every product RAMLITE sells is produced in Phoenix, Ariz., and made with their own hands. They are a small company with few people doing lots of work. They work 12-14 hour days (including weekends) to ensure you get a quality product at a fair price. While others in the industry have doubled or even tripled their prices over the last few years, they have kept costs down and have not artificially raised their prices.

The RAMLITE is available for your personal hand gun at Lookout Mountain Outdoors. Talk to Joe Notcha and he'll get you fitted with a custom RAMLITE unit, if not in stock, in less than three days.

Know where your bullet goes; I'm Don McDowell and I use and endorse the RAMLITE.



Tiger Trout

FISHING TIPS

Continued from page 7

be stocked into select Arizona high country waters this spring.

Soon, rising to the surface at the end of some Arizona anglers' lines, will be trout with wild and wavy patterns — almost like a tiger. For the first time in Arizona, the Arizona Game and Fish Department will be stocking tiger trout, adding an additional opportunity to your Arizona trout fishing menu.

Scheduled to be stocked in late April or early May, the tiger trout is a brown-brook trout hybrid, and as a result of this forced hybrid cross, will be unable to reproduce. Typically as tiger trout grow — by spring these stockers will average about 10 inches in total length — their wormy patterns become more pronounced.

But don't wait until then — this is still an ideal time of the year to trout fish in Arizona, especially at our Community Fishing Program waters. So, grab a fishing license online if you need one and entice some trout to bite.

Where Trout Anglers Can Tame The Tigers

The Department acquired around 18,000 tiger trout fingerlings at no cost (besides gas costs used to pick them up) from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources this past July. The trout are being reared at the Tonto Creek Hatchery. The Department plans on stocking the trout into the following Mogollon Rim/White Mountains lakes: Becker, Camero, Willow Springs and Woods Canyon.

Woods Canyon Lake near Payson, Ariz., will be one lake to receive tiger trout beginning in late spring or early May. Special regulations apply at Becker and Camero: artificial lure and fly (single barbless hooks) only and, at Camero, a two-trout daily bag limit. It is catch-and-release only at Becker.

At Woods and Willow Springs, where higher numbers of tiger trout are expected to be stocked, the standard six-trout



Woods Canyon Lake

aggregate bag limit applies. (Bait is allowed.)

How To Catch Tiger Trout

Eye of the tiger — "From what I've read, people typically fly fish for tiger trout and they're pretty aggressive," said Mike Lopez, the Department's Pinetop region Fish Program manager. "They're probably more like a brown, so lures and flies should work well — something imitating a small fish."

In other words, when it comes to angling action, "They're grrrrreat." (Just had to do that.)

Public fishing events are a great way to learn how to fish with your family and friends, or compete in a local tournament and show off your skills.

Often during Arizona Game and Fish Department free fishing clinics, loaner rods are provided, bait is free, and no license is required to those who register. Unplug kids and get them hooked on fishing!

For more information on the following events, please contact the Sport Fishing Education Program at (623) 236-7240.

What: "Just for Kids" Fishing Festival
When: Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016, 8 AM to noon

Where: Kiwanis Lake, 5500 S. Mill Ave., Tempe, 85283

Comments: This family event is co-sponsored by Arizona Game and Fish and Anglers United. Instructors will be on hand to provide loaner rods, as well as bait and fishing information. Come on out and bring the whole family. Fishing licenses are not required for those who register with AZGFD staff during the planned event. See you there!

What: Melrose on 7th Ave. Street Fair
When: Saturday, March 5, 2016, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Phoenix — Melrose District on 7th Avenue at Indian School north to Campbell

Comments: Join us in the Melrose District at the 7th Avenue Street Fair! The Arizona Game and Fish Department will

have our kids fishing tank out for a day of fun! Game and Fish volunteers, as well as Phoenix Sportsman's Warehouse staff, will be on hand to assist anglers. Equipment and bait will be provided for this "catch-and-release only" activity. The entire event is free of charge!

Contact: For more information please contact the Sport Fishing Education Program at (623) 236-7240 or visit <http://m7streetfair.com/>

SOUTHWEST REGION (Yuma, Somerton)

What: Take-A-Kid Fishing Day

When: Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016, 10 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Where: La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Dr., Parker, 85344

Comments: Please join the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the annual Take a Kid Fishing Day at La Paz County Park. Arizona Game and Fish Department will have loaner rods and reels available for use, and bait will be provided. During the clinic hours, individuals may fish without a license once they register with AZGFD. Volunteers will be available to provide assistance to novice anglers.

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Opinion

What Price Is Enough?

BY JOHN ("JK") KOLESZAR
ELKHABITAT@GMAIL.COM

Before anyone sets out the lynch mobs, let me be perfectly clear — I really like horses. I rode them for years, found them to be beautiful and, in many cases, like family members. I also love elk, deer, javelina, antelope, desert bighorn sheep and a host of other creatures.

The problem that I have is in the prevailing attitude of those who proclaim the absolute love of *only* horses. I did a little digging, courtesy of the BLM Web site and looked at the financial spending that we the taxpayers of the United States have kicked in to support this program called the "Wild Horse and Burro Act".

The Costs, In The Millions

Since 2011, we, the citizens of the United States, have contributed over \$426 million dollars to house, maintain and care for the wild horses and burros in the western states as well as the holding facilities in the states that have them. Roughly \$75 million dollars per year is spent to house horses that have populated beyond control in the western states and are in holding pens where the hope is that someone will either buy or adopt them.

WILDLIFE NEWS FROM AZGFD

New Live Wildlife Rules In Place; Endangered Fish Rediscovered

Updated Wildlife Rules Now In Effect

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, as part of its regular five-year review rulemaking process, has updated its Article 4 (Live Wildlife) rules. The new provisions became effective in December 2015 and were approved by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council.

The new provisions include some notable changes including the following:

- Removal of hedgehogs from the restricted live wildlife list to allow them as pets.
- Prohibitions on possession of



Domesticated Hedgehog



Chimpanzee

health and safety.

- Prohibiting a person from allowing native desert tortoises to reproduce in captivity in an effort to reduce the number of unwanted captive desert tortoises.
- Improved consistency between federal and state rules, for example listing all



With over 40,000 animals in holding pens and adoptions and sales of less than 7,000, it is readily apparent that those horses are not going to be adopted any time soon.

While I have my own personal feelings of how to address the situation, I would like to see the "Horse Lovers Of America" — whoever you are — come forward with a plan.

They Have No Solution

I donate many hours each year to programs for wildlife and habitat conservation. The groups I belong to contribute over \$2,000,000 each year to the Arizona Game & Fish Department to address habitat issues, place water-storage tanks and improve habitat conditions for all species. The problem that I have with all the social media mavens who write furious e-mails to the Arizona legislators when talks of a roundup are mentioned is that they have no solution — only the romanticized versions of peace and wild loving animals that they love to see.

Time To Get Serious

It is time to get serious and real. Since the Wild Horse and Burro Act came into being, we have spent over a billion dollars to keep these animals protected. Housing

a wild animal in any of these facilities is certainly not the wild, free range that the advocates want. There is no habitat to keep feeding them — unless you want to rid the planet of any other animals.

Horses and burros are protective of water sources. For those novices who do not understand, food and water are necessary for wildlife to thrive. Each year as the populations grow, they eat more food and drink more water. Horses are really large animals. They consume vast amounts of food and water and drive smaller animals away from their water holes. The end result is that all other species suffer from the growth of the horse and burro populations.

Convenient Scapegoats

The convenient scapegoat of the "Horse Lovers" is the cattlemen of the West. Their claim is that we need to remove ranchers from the lands so that horses and burros can thrive. *Really?!*

The ranchers have been the one source to step forward and be stewards of the land. They have placed water catchments in place that serve not only their cattle but other species as well. They monitor their rangeland each season; they rotate their animals in and out of fenced pastures so overgrazing does not occur. They monitor all phases of their *paid-for* allotments.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HARWOOD

For the school kids, here is a little tidbit. Those quarter pounders from Micky D are from cattle! The horses do what they have done for eons: they eat and breed. The numbers don't lie and the costs are staggering. Blaming cattlemen is so socially acceptable now.

Here Is The Challenge

The truth is that we need to address the issues that horses and burros have created. The sight of starving and dying horses is not pretty. Arizona is one long drought year away from having burros from Lake Pleasant to Kingman dying off from the brutal over population that has happened under the inept and underfunded BLM staff.

Here is the challenge to the Horse Lovers! Come up with a solution — one that is sound biologically, provides for *all* wildlife and does not cost another billion dollars of our tax monies so that you can have a romanticized vision of the wild and free horses and burros.

Other conservation groups have plans and succeeded in balancing habitat with numbers of animals. It's your turn now.

John Koleszar is president of both the Arizona Deer Association (501c3) and the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle (501c3).



TIGERHAWKVOR

Desert Tortoise

birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as restricted live wildlife.

- Inclusion of red shiner, certain species of tilapia, paddlefish, sturgeon, Chinese mystery snail, and false dark mussel as restricted live wildlife as all are non-native to Arizona and pose significant



FUNGUS GUY

Sturgeon

threat to native species.

- Clarification of definitions and language, consolidation of some rules, and updating of references.

For more detailed information on the Article 4 changes, visit <https://azgfdportal.az.gov/Agency/Rulemaking>.

[tal.az.gov/Agency/Rulemaking](https://azgfdportal.az.gov/Agency/Rulemaking).

Gila Topminnow Found

Return demonstrates role of recycled wastewater in ecosystem recovery.

After a ten-year absence, an endangered fish species has once again been found in the Santa Cruz River in southern Arizona. Recently, the Gila topminnow, a native Arizona species listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1967, was found in the Santa Cruz River near the U.S.-Mexico border during the annual fish survey conducted by the Sonoran Institute, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Friends of the Santa Cruz River, National Park Service and other partners.

Cleaner Water Believed The Cue

Scientists and local residents have eagerly awaited the fish's return since they were last seen in 2005. Surface flows along most of the Santa Cruz River originate from effluent (cleaned wastewater), and have historically been so polluted that no fish of any kind were found for several years and odor alone was a deterrent to recreation. Scientists believe that cleaner water is what led to the fish's return.

"We have seen such an improvement in water quality from a 2009 upgrade to the international wastewater treatment plant that we knew Gila topminnow would come back to the river. The endangered topminnow has been living in Sonoita Creek, upstream of the Santa Cruz River, and the Santa Cruz River in Mexico, so most likely floods washed

them down. Now we need to ensure they survive and thrive long term," says Doug Duncan, fish biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"It's rare to have a native fish species re-appear and occupy its former habitat, so this rediscovery is significant for our efforts to recover imperiled fish species throughout Arizona," says Ross Timmons, topminnow recovery coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "Without the ongoing monitoring of this partnership, it may have been some time before we realized they were back in the Santa Cruz River."

Implications Widespread

The implications of the endangered topminnow discovery extend far beyond Santa Cruz County, and even beyond Arizona. Many southwestern rivers and streams depend on effluent for continued flows. As water becomes ever scarcer in the Desert Southwest, the value of wastewater inputs will only increase.

"Historically, communities have discharged effluent into river channels out of sheer convenience," says Claire Zugmeyer, ecologist at the Tucson nonprofit Sonoran Institute, and long-time coordinator of the annual fish survey.

"Upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities pay substantial community dividends. As rivers bounce back to health, they provide rich oases for both people and wildlife. We are demonstrating that effluent is a key solution for keeping desert rivers alive."



Tonto National Forest Announces 2016 Fee-Free Days

Tonto National Forest joins other federal agencies in offering fee-free days on public lands in 2016, beginning January 18 in honor of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The remaining 2016 fee-free days honored by national forests are —

- Feb. 15 President's Day
- June 11 National Get Outdoors Day
- Sept. 24 National Public Lands Day
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day

Traditionally, fees are not charged on 98 percent of national forests and grasslands, and approximately two-thirds of developed recreation sites in national forests and grasslands can be used for free. This includes opportunities such as dispersed camping and picnicking.

The fee-free program is in cooperation with other federal land management



agencies under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Day-use fees will be waived at all standard amenity fee sites operated by the forest for these listed dates. Camping and campground fees are not waived. During all other times, the Tonto Pass is required at more than 50

recreation sites including Salt and Verde river locations, boat launch ramps, swimming areas, day use areas, and campgrounds.

Tonto Pass vendor locations are available at the Tonto National Forest website, www.fs.usda.gov/tonto, or call the Tonto National Forest at 602-225-5200 during business hours.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.



IT'S A GO! – For mountain-bike enthusiasts, Sedona offers the Mountain Bike Festival, March 4-6. This is a three-day mountain-bike celebration that includes a main expo area, bike demonstrations, and a plethora of great single-track trails.

Arizona State Parks Offers Funding Opportunities

This includes both non-motorized and motorized (OHV) trail projects.

Arizona State Parks is offering funding from both the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and State Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund (OHV).

Eligible Projects

Funding can be used for projects such as trail development and trail maintenance for pedestrian uses (hiking, running, wheelchair use), bicycling, equestrian, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles.

See **FUNDING**, Page 14

Grand Canyon West Tops One Million Visitor Mark; Tourism Soared In 2015

Hualapai tribe's economic developments efforts continue to grow, bringing jobs, revenues to region.

A soaring number of visitors to the Grand Canyon Skywalk and other Grand Canyon West tourism attractions made 2015 a record year for the Grand Canyon Resort Corporation.

On Monday, Dec. 21, 2015, the Grand Canyon West venues recorded their record-breaking 1 millionth visitor for 2015. The milestone was celebrated by treating Jenny and Mike Kim, the record-breaking visitors, to the full range of experiences available to Grand Canyon West guests.

A Very Special Moment

"This is a very special moment for the Grand Canyon West, the Corporation and for all of our employees," said Hualapai Tribal Council Chairwoman Sherry Counts. "One million visitors represents an increase of more than 120,000 guests in the past year alone. That's huge — and these attractions will continue to get better in the year ahead. A new visitors' center, a new restaurant and other new attractions

The U.S. Department of the Interior has released a proposed framework for adaptively managing Glen Canyon Dam over the next 20 years with the goal of creating certainty and predictability for power and water users while protecting environmental and cultural resources in Grand Canyon National Park and the Colorado River ecosystem. The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is available to the public for review and comment for 90 days.



Brings Together Diverse Stakeholders

"This document is the result of incredible collaboration and cooperation; bringing together diverse stakeholders of the Colorado River to provide certainty, clarity and predictability around the management and operation of Glen Canyon Dam, so that we can better protect the

mean more reasons for people to visit in 2016. We want every day and every visit to be memorable for one and all."

Owned By Hualapai Tribe

Grand Canyon West, operated by the Grand Canyon Resort Corporation, is owned by the Hualapai Tribe. GCRC oversees operations of Grand Canyon West, Grand Canyon Skywalk, Hualapai River Runners, and the Hualapai Lodge. In 2013, the Grand Canyon West attractions combined to host about 827,000 visitors, with that number rising to 882,000 visitors in 2014. The jump to top one million visitors represents an increase of more than 13 percent in the past year.

"This has been a fantastic year in terms of business for Grand Canyon West, for the Hualapai Tribe, for tribe members and for the region," said Grand Canyon Resort Corporation CEO Mark Mortenson.

See **GRAND CANYON**, Page 14

Interior Department Proposes Adaptive Management Framework For Glen Canyon Dam

Proposed roadmap to provide certainty, predictability for water and power users, protects environmental and cultural resources

national treasure of Grand Canyon National Park while continuing to provide water and power to millions across the southwestern United States," said Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael L. Connor.

"Today's release of a draft proposal for the long-term experimental and management plan of Glen Canyon Dam is based

on the latest available science, but public participation is paramount to this process so we encourage all interested parties to join us in this effort to adaptively manage these resources over the next two decades."

See **FRAMEWORK**, Page 14

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BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM

Visiting Here *Never* Gets Old

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

One of our favorite places for a relaxing and beautiful hike is the Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park on Highway 60 just south of Superior, Ariz. This lovely place is open every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and has over two miles of trails to explore. It is \$10 per person to enter, and that includes guided nature walks if you want to go on one. They also have classes that you can sign up for, including photography and various craft classes. There are fees for the classes.

'Walk About' Australia

We love to visit the Arboretum because it is a dynamite place for a great hike. Occasional signs tell you the names of plants, and there are so many loops and meanderings that you can spend a whole day exploring. One of our favorite areas is the Australian Desert Exhibit. The Walk-about Trail and the Adelaide Trail let you investigate this part of the park and it's filled with Australian plants.

There's even an old cabin you can peer



ENJOY! There are plenty of places to rest and enjoy the scenery at Boyce Thompson.

into to see how the drovers lived. There's a windmill and bridge next to the cabin, and picnic tables scattered around so you can enjoy a break.



AFTER AUSTRALIA – Hikers can access the High Trail from the Australian area.

A High Hike

If you want to, you can access the High Trail from this area. The high trail starts by descending into the Queen Creek Wash, then steadily climbing to the side of a hill on the farther side. It isn't a difficult climb or a hard hike, but there are several very rocky parts and some areas where the loose rocks make for tricking footing.

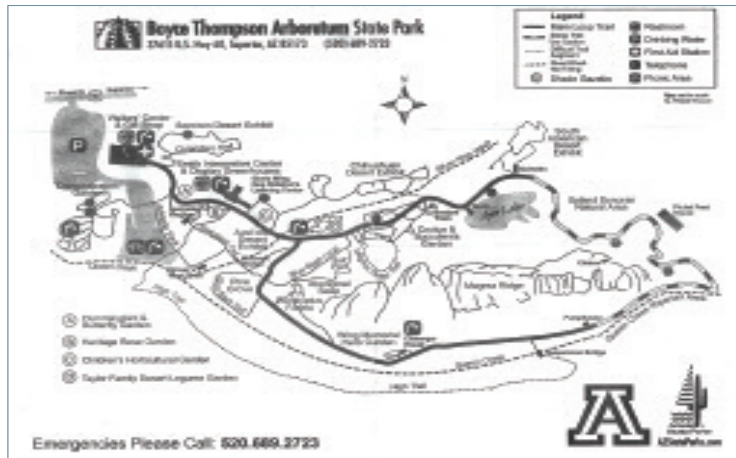


WHAT A VIEW! – The panoramic view from the High Trail is incredible.

The ranger also warned us about possible ice on the trail, since it is on the shady side of a mountain in the morning — so definitely not a wheelchair or stroller trail, but not too difficult for kids and reason-



STEPPING UP – Margie Anderson especially likes these stone steps carved into the High Trail.



MAP AVAILABLE – At the entrance, it's a good idea to pick up a map.

ably agile adults. Keep your eyes on the kids because it is entirely possible to take a long tumble downhill from parts of this trail. The High Trail gives you a gorgeous view of the park, the creek, and the surrounding mountains. There are places with stone stairs as well, and I always love those on a trail.



MAIN TRAIL – This part of the main trail used to be just posts and chains alongside.

Picket Post House, Ayer Lake

The High Trail cuts across the side of the mountain then crosses Queen Creek again, this time on a suspension bridge that lets you enjoy a nice view of the creek, which usually has water in it at this point. Once you cross the creek, you hit the main trail pretty quickly, and you can choose to go left and back toward the Australian area, or you can go right and follow the main trail toward Picket Post House and the Ayer Lake.



YES, A LAKE – There is even a little lake to visit at Boyce Thompson Arboretum; it's called Ayers Lake.

This part of the trail also has some uphill portions, but they are wide and have an easy slope. The only caveat here is that the loose decomposed granite can be a bit slippery at times. This main trail has a lot of great loops on both sides once you pass the lake, and you can miss a lot if you don't do the trails on both sides.

Be sure to grab a map as you enter the park so you can keep track of what you've seen. The Silver Creek Mine trail is not for wheelchairs or strollers unless



SUSPENDED – There is a suspension bridge from High Trail to the main trail.

they have off-road wheels — it takes you down a wash with deep, loose sand.

There are greenhouses with cacti and plants from all over the world to explore, and the Demonstration Garden is gorgeous. Walking through the various parts of the Arboretum lets you imagine that you are in a different country. This time of year is a great time to visit — summer might be a bit hot.



GORGEOUS GARDEN – There are greenhouses with cacti and plants from all over the world to explore, and the Demonstration Garden is gorgeous!

Lunch Time

We chose to drive into Superior for lunch after our visit, but you can eat in the park at one of many picnic tables. There's no restaurant, but you can buy sandwiches and snacks in the Gift Shop, and you can even bring lunch and cook on your own propane stove if you want to. Charcoal grills are also available, but you need to call ahead and see if charcoal is allowed when you visit.

We had lunch at De Marco's Italian Restaurant in Superior. It's a little place, and you have to keep a sharp eye out to find it. All four of us had a sub of some kind, and they are enormous! They were also extremely delicious and very reasonably priced.



HISTORY – Hikers can see how the drovers lived in this area around the shed.

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CONGRATULATIONS! – Margie Anderson has again been honored with the Arizona Game & Fish Commission's "Outdoor Writer of the Year" award. Anderson and her husband John are invaluable parts of our Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times team. Together, they contribute informative and meaningful articles on a plethora of outdoor topics: hiking, fishing, shooting, outdoors products and news, wildlife (including birding knowledge) and more. This couple knows and relishes the incredible wonders offered in Arizona's outdoors and have passed on their wisdom and enjoyment to our readers, to their granddaughters, and to their many family members and friends. We are proud to know them both and wish them many more happy hours of enjoying the outdoors and writing about their adventures.



SKI UP! – The 9th annual Kahtoola Uphill Race, presented by Kahtoola at the Arizona Snowbowl, is set for Saturday, Feb. 20, from 5:15-8:15 p.m. (approximately). Admission costs are \$75 for the Agassiz Climb, \$55 for the Midway Climb, and \$40 for the Fun Climb. More information is available at <http://kahtoolaagassizuphill.com/basic-information/> or by calling (928) 779-7249.



Eliminating Waterspots On RV Finishes Is Easy

Rain and rinse water often leave behind unsightly spots on glass and otherwise perfect RV finishes—even those that have been recently waxed or treated. Using Shurhold's innovative SHUR-Dry Flexible Water Blade, owners easily wipe liquids away before they become blemishes.

The SHUR-Dry Flexible Water Blade

is made of soft, durable silicone that molds to an RV's shape. Its 12" T-bar edge covers large areas quickly. And because it's light and doesn't absorb water, it's less tiring than using a towel that

See **WATERSPOTS**, Page 14

BOYCE

Continued from page 12

Seeing Superior

After lunch we took a quick drive through the town of Superior, something we had never done before, even though we've driven up Highway 60 many times. We were pleasantly surprised to discover that the downtown area looks like a lot of fun, with little shops that reminded us of the places we saw in Jerome. We were on a deadline to get the kids home, but we all decided that we're going back soon to explore the downtown shops and any other trails we can find.

Thompson Loved The Area

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is named after Boyce Thompson, a millionaire with a fascinating life story that is too long to go into here. He is the one who built the Picket Post House, because he loved the area. He was the great-uncle of Bill "Wallace" Thompson, the Wallace of the Wallace and Ladmo Show, which had an amazing 35-1/2 year run on Channel 5. If you go to the Web site for the State Park or to the Boyce Thompson home page, you can find out a lot more about the history of the park.

A Fantastic Place

Well-behaved dogs on leashes are allowed in the park. You can buy all kinds of plants and cool stuff at the Gift Shop, and there is plenty of free parking. This is a fantastic place for birding, seeing butterflies, learning about plants, or just taking a relaxing walk in gorgeous surroundings. I highly recommend you visit Boyce Thompson Arboretum. We've been there many times and it never gets old.

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SeaWorld San Diego To Deliver Year-Round Fun In 2016

The SeaWorld Fun Card is the best way to see all the park's special events

SeaWorld® San Diego has a boatload of reasons to visit the marine park again and again in 2016, starting off by ringing in the Lunar New Year with a special celebration in February.

Next, animal lovers will delight in Wild Days in March; Magic Weekends will leave guests spellbound in April; foodie and craft beer aficionados will find tasty delights throughout the park during SeaWorld's Seven Seas Food Festival; Summer Vibes will reverberate in the park's Mission Bay Theater in July and August; and in the fall, SeaWorld will celebrate Mexican heritage and culture with its new *Fiestas Patrias*.

Plus SeaWorld's traditional seasonal favorites are back including Summer Nights, Halloween Spooktacular® and Christmas Celebration®. All in all, there's a whale-sized list of reasons to visit SeaWorld all year long. These seasonal special events are included with park admission; but the best way to enjoy all the fun is to purchase a Fun Card, which allows guests to return over and over for the price of a single-day admission!

A Boatload Of Events At SeaWorld In 2016

In keeping with the Chinese tradition of wishing good fortune and happiness to family and friends, SeaWorld will celebrate with *Lunar New Year at SeaWorld*, select dates through Feb. 21. This celebration will feature Asian-inspired culinary offerings, traditional community performing groups and dynamic performances by the Chinese Acrobats of Hebei in our Mission Bay Theater.

- Guests can celebrate the natural world we share during *SeaWorld Wild Days on weekends March 5 – 27*. Visitors get up-close with SeaWorld's zoological team and learn firsthand the ways they can make a difference with their own everyday actions.

- Internationally headlining magicians will be featured each weekend as they bring their mystical and astounding shows to the Mission Bay Theater during *Magic Weekends on weekends April 2 – May 1*. Strolling magicians will also roam pathways captivating guests and make cameo appearances at some of the park's shows.

- Foodies and craft beer aficionados are going to love *SeaWorld Seven Seas Food Festival on weekends May 7 – June 12*. SeaWorld will create gastronomic adventures for guests who want to travel around the world through amazing culinary offerings. Local craft beers, gourmet wines and special musical entertainment round out these delicious weekends at the park.

- Guests can enjoy Turtle Reef™, Manta® and all their favorite SeaWorld® attractions by day and then stay late to take in *Summer Nights (select dates May 28 – Sept. 5)*, featuring special shows under the stars like Shamu Celebration: Light up the Night and the hilarious Sea Lions Tonight, as well as the nighttime fireworks finale Celebrate the Wonder Fireworks Spectacular.

- SeaWorld® will reverberate with incredible performances during *SeaWorld's Summer Vibes on select dates July 16 – Aug. 30*. Three amazing international variety acts that have been featured on



U.S. and British television competition shows will bring their amazing talents to the park's Mission Bay Theater over the course of this nine-week event.

- Mexican culture and heritage is celebrated with traditional food, music and dance at the park during *Fiestas Patrias, an exciting three weekend festival Sept. 3 – 18*.

- During *SeaWorld's Halloween Spooktacular®*, kids can show up in costume and enjoy not-too-spooky entertainment such as a Halloween-themed sea lion and otter show, colorful costumed characters and trick-or-treating among a sea-inspired atmosphere. Halloween Spooktacular takes place *weekends Sept. 24 – Oct. 30*.

- *SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration®* returns even bigger and better *Nov. 18, 2016 – Jan. 1, 2017*. Guests can grab hot cocoa and experience shows including the inspiring Shamu Christmas Miracles featuring SeaWorld's family of killer whales; and the hilarious Clyde & Seamore's Christmas Special. Families can also enjoy the nightly lighting of the 40-foot animated tree and more.

Some Details For Visitors

SeaWorld® is open year-round including holidays. Parking is \$16; \$11 for motorcycles; \$21 for RVs and up-close. Admission is \$89 for ages 10 and older;

See **SEAWORLD**, Page 18

WATERSPOTS

Continued from page 13

needs continual wringing. In fact, it does the same job as cloth or paper in about 1/3 the time.

The comfortable, easy grip handle is ideal for all hand sizes. For those high, out-of-reach areas, Shurhold offers the optional Flexible Water Blade Adapter for use with any of its handles.

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Contact local dealers or Shurhold, 3119 SW 42nd Ave., Palm City, FL 34990. 800-962-6241; Fax: 772-286-9620. www.shurhold.com/rv.

GRAND CANYON

Continued from page 11

'Even Better In 2016'

"The Tribe and its members' commitment to economic development and to the attractions and experiences that comprise GCW remains strong," said Mortenson. "One million visitors to Grand Canyon West in the past year means more revenue for the region, more jobs and better quality of life for so many residents. We look forward to performing even better in 2016 and continuing to drive the tourism industry across the region."

For more information or to purchase tickets to Grand Canyon West attractions, please visit <http://www.grandcanyonwest.com/>.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Continued from page 14

Elimination Of Clogging Layer

Massive upgrades to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant have resulted in the elimination of odor, reduced levels of toxicity for fish, and a breakdown of the so-called "Schmutzdecke" (dirty blanket) — a clogging layer of algae and microorganisms that kept water from infiltrating into the groundwater table.

University of Arizona scientists found that this clogging layer was largely responsible for an eight-mile die-off of trees along the Santa Cruz River near Rio Rico in 2005.

'Friends' Are Ecstatic

"We are ecstatic to find Gila topminnow in the river again," says Sherry Sass of the Friends of the Santa Cruz River, an all-volunteer organization at the forefront of river health advocacy. "We have

been tracking river health since the early 1990s. The ability of the river to support such a sensitive species speaks volumes about the river's recovery and its promise for the future."

Additional community partners who helped in the discovery include the National Park Service Sonoran Desert Network, United States Geological Survey, and Global Community Communications Schools at Avalon Gardens.

Conditions Improved

"Tumacácori National Historical Park is thrilled to share in the announcement of the return of Gila topminnows to the Santa Cruz River. The detection of this native fish species shows that aquatic conditions have improved remarkably in recent years, transitioning back to a state more closely resembling that encountered during the establishment of the Tumacácori mission," says Bob Love, superintendent at Tumacácori National Historical Park.

mation Commissioner Estevan López. "Now is the time for the public to make their voices heard. Public participation is an integral part of this planning process and the successful management of the dam for the future."

The high-flow experimental releases of water from the dam considered in the draft EIS are designed to mimic the natural flooding of the Colorado River through the Glen and Grand canyons that occurred before the construction of Glen Canyon Dam. Sand stored in the river channel is picked up by high-volume water releases from the dam and re-deposited in downstream reaches as sandbars and beaches.

Key Fish, Wildlife Habitat

These sand features and associated backwater habitats can provide key fish

FUNDING

Continued from page 11

Available Funds

For FY 2016 there will be \$1.2 million available from the Recreational Trails Program for both motorized and non-motorized uses and a maximum of \$1.42 million from the OHV Recreation Fund.

March 1 Deadline

Project sponsors must complete an application packet and submit it to State Parks by the deadline on Tuesday, March 1st at 5 p.m. Applicants *must* contact the Grants Coordinator Mickey Rogers at (602) 542-6942 or by email mrogers@azstateparks.gov as soon as possible but no later than February 10 to discuss their proposed project and to receive a fill-able application packet.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include governmental entities (cities, towns, counties,

tribal governments, state and federal agencies). Organizations, clubs, businesses, and other groups may enter into a cooperative agreement with an eligible applicant, (e.g. forest land manager), and participate as a third party.

A grant manual is available to download from the State Parks Web site: <http://azstateparks.com/grants/index.html>.

More Information Regarding State Parks

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs and State Historic Preservation Office call (602) 542-4174 or (877) MY-PARKS or visit AZStateParks.com.

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](https://twitter.com/AZStateParks) on Twitter and Facebook.

FRAMEWORK

Continued from page 11

Possible Alternatives

The National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation led examination of seven possible alternatives in the draft EIS, including a preferred alternative that would provide assurances for water and power users while mitigating adverse impacts on Grand Canyon National Park. Research and proposed experimental actions under the plan will preserve and improve the resources in Glen Canyon and Grand Canyon while continuing to ensure that water and power needs are met.

A Major Step

"This is a major step toward enhancing our stewardship of the waters of the Colorado River," said Bureau of Recla-

tion Act," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The long-term planning process has given us and our stakeholders the opportunity to use the past 20 years of scientific information to guide decisions for the next 20 years."

and wildlife habitat, potentially reduce erosion of archaeological sites, restore and enhance riparian vegetation, increase beaches, and enhance wilderness values along the Colorado River in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park.

The preferred alternative identified in the draft EIS continues the high-flow experiments carried out in recent years to help restore the natural ecosystem, but enables continued adaptations and establishes criteria to trigger future releases, which will create certainty and predictability for water users and other stakeholders along the Colorado River.

Public Participation Is Key

"Public participation is key to fulfilling our stewardship responsibilities as envisioned under the Grand Canyon Pro-

Comment Until April 7

Reclamation and the National Park Service began developing the draft EIS for this framework in 2011. The draft EIS and all its alternatives will be the subject of extensive public hearings and discussion before the comment period closes on April 7, 2016, laying the groundwork for preparation of a final EIS. To submit a comment, visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=39292>. For more information about the draft EIS, visit <http://Itempeis.anl.gov>.

BOAT SHOW

Continued from page 1

on Saturday open to all chefs.

The chili and salsa contest, with proceeds going to benefit the Lake Havasu High School Athletic Booster Club, has guaranteed over \$5,000 in cash prize money to the various winners in each category. More than 50 chili and salsa teams are expected to compete. Best of all, attendees have the opportunity to sample all the recipes by purchasing a \$5 tasting kit while at the boat show.

Sunday, Fun Day

Then on Sunday, get ready for "Family Fun Day" at the Boat Show. Grade-school-aged kids wearing their school spirit and/or team/sport shirt to the boat show will be admitted free. "Family Fun Day" will be highlighted by a People's Choice chili cook-off, a host of carnival games and activities for the entire family, plus tasty fair-food favorites like hot dogs, cotton candy, and kettle corn.

All proceeds from "Family Fun Day" go to benefit the Lake Havasu High School Athletic Booster Club.

WaterCross Races, Cornhole Competition

Also returning as a boat show favorite



will be the IJSBA Jettribe Gary Hart Memorial PWC WaterCross Races featuring over 150 of the fastest personal watercraft racers in the country hitting speeds up to 70 miles an hour around a challenging motocross style race course. Competition begins on Saturday and Sunday at 9am.

And, for those who fancy themselves expert "Cornhole" players, there will be the second annual Lake Havasu "Cornhole" Championships at the boat show

with classes for all ages, both singles and doubles/teams plus cash awards for the winners.

The B's Have It: Boats, 'Beach Bash', Beer, Bar, BBQ, Band

Brand new for 2016 will be the Friday, April 8 afternoon/evening "Boat Show Beach Bash" with beer garden, adult beverage bar, barbecue food favorites and a live band performing. Happy hour will

begin at 5:30 pm for food and drinks followed at 6:30pm by a classic rock concert.

The "Beach Bash" is free to everyone who purchases a boat-show admission ticket earlier on Friday. For those only wanting to attend the "Beach Bash", there is a nominal \$2.00 per person cover charge.

Details, Including Schedule

- Friday, April 8 from noon to 6 p.m. ("Beach Bash" starts at 5:30 p.m.)
 - Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Sunday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Admission is \$5.00 for adults and kids 6 and under are free.
 - Parking is also free.
 - Food courts and two beer gardens will also be open to serve visitors.
 - For those interested in buying a new boat, boat demos are available on a by-appointment basis immediately following the boat show on Sunday afternoon and all day on Monday, April 11.
- For additional boat show information, please visit <http://www.lakehavasu-boatshow.com>. Another contact is Bob Brown, 951-501-0210 info@lakehavasu-boatshow.com.

SAFETY

Continued from page 1

provide instructors capable of providing sound and prudent advice when it comes to boating safety.

Check Vessel Safety

Don't hesitate to check with your local department of natural resources, game and fish agency, sheriff's marine deputy or other officials about getting a free vessel safety check to assure yourself and your family that your boat is safe, sound and has the necessary safety equipment on board to keep a good day good.

Water Doesn't Know The Difference

You may not be planning an open ocean voyage or see little need for the rules of seamanship to guide your planning for a day on the lake, but the water doesn't know the difference and quite often the reason that an ocean voyage is (seemingly) safer is because sailors generally take the potential hazards seriously and prepare properly beforehand.

Lakes, rivers and streams, inland lakes and other waterways pose many of the same hazards and opportunities for problems that ocean-going boats and sailors experience and — in some situations — even more.

Four For Safety

There are many things to consider before getting out on the local lake or favorite body of water with your boat during the year, and the Coast Guard joins the National Safe Boating Council and others in offering four easy-to-follow basic principles for a safer year for you and your family on the water before you do. Simply stated, the four principles are —

1. Wearing life jackets saves lives: Most, if not all, boating-safety education professionals agree that the one single thing that would contribute the most to reducing deaths and saving lives would be wearing life jackets. Statistics show time and time again that many boating fatalities could have been avoided if the victim had only been wearing a life jacket.

Wearing a life jacket while boating is like wearing a seat belt when driving or riding in a car. Wear one anytime you are on a boat or even near the water or on a boat dock. And, with the new inflatable life jacket technology in the marketplace, a variety of life jackets are available for those over the age of 16 that are not bulky, hot or uncomfortable.

Don't forget that for those boaters who

are 12 years of age or younger, the law requires them to wear a life jacket (properly sized, fitted and worn to the manufacturer's specifications) any time they're on a boat that is underway (not at anchor, made fast to the shore or aground) — even when launching or retrieving your boat.

2. Boater safety education saves lives: Get, be and stay prepared: Take a boating-safety education course. Statistics show that more than 80 percent of those involved in boating fatalities have never taken a boating safety course or had any other type of formal boating education.

Your state's natural resources agency, the Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary have excellent volunteer instructors who offer numerous classes throughout the year. These classes offer introductory and basic information in such subject areas as different boat types, things you need to know before getting underway, how to tow and operate your boat correctly, legal requirements, basic weather, boating emergencies and what to do as well as other interesting subject areas about boats and boating.

The instructors are eager, able and ready to help you learn more about operating your boat safely and proficiently. And in most cases, these classes are offered free of charge. Once you complete the brief introductory eight hour course, check with your insurance agent as most companies offer a reduced insurance premium to educated boat owners and operators.

National Association of State Boating Law Administrator (NASBLA) certified courses are also offered by many groups such as the Red Cross and other boating related organizations.

3. Safe boats save lives: Get a free Vessel Safety Check: Boats that are properly equipped, in good operating condition and safe from hazards are less likely to be involved in accidents and fatalities. While the law doesn't require certain items or supplies such as an anchor, visual distress signals or other safety equipment on inland lakes, Federal requirements on many rivers and other waterways subject to Federal jurisdiction are more stringent and demanding.

Local law-enforcement officers would be happy to check your boat for you. Or, contact representatives of the Coast Guard Auxiliary or Power Squadron to request a free Vessel Safety Check by visiting www.safetyscan.net and clicking on "I WANT A VSC." Learn what you need to have to make sure your boat is always seaworthy and ready to go for a safe trip.

4. Sober boating saves lives: Avoid alcohol and other drugs while on or near the water. Approximately 40 percent of all boating fatalities involve the use of alcohol as a primary contributing factor. If you are drunk or under the influence of drugs and get into an accident on the water, but are fortunate enough to survive, you will likely suffer financial and personal consequences such as large fines and the possible loss of automobile driving privileges.

Drugs and alcohol don't just impact the boat operator, passengers who have been drinking alcohol, for example, are 10 times more likely to fall overboard. And, if they aren't wearing life jackets, possibly face drowning. You hear it all the time: Water and alcohol don't mix! Many states have a zero-tolerance and that means any boat operator impaired to the slightest degree could be arrested. Don't risk a great day on the water — keep a good day good and go home safe.

These are just the basics! But following these four basic boating tips will help keep you and those you care about safe.

Add These To The Four

Make sure your boat and trailer are ready to go, batteries are charged, fuel, oil and other maintenance issues checked. Double check the weather forecast for the location you'll be boating at before you go. Ensure you have plenty of water, sunscreen, a VHF marine band radio or other means of communication and other supplies you may need. These simple acts will help ensure a good day doesn't turn bad.

Filing a float plan is also a great idea; a form is available at <http://floatplancentral.cgaux.org/download/USCGFloatPlan.pdf>

The U.S. Coast Guard hopes that you and your loved ones enjoy boating during 2016 and in the years to come. Safe boating is no accident — keep a good day on the water good by following these four easy-to-follow basic principles.

For more information, be sure to check out <http://www.uscgboating.org> and don't forget to wear your life jacket!

EXPO

Continued from page 1

New are Action Water Sports giant Rail Jam pond with pro wakeboarders and SUP demos, Lowrance Electronics Learning Center, and Offroad Test Track, presented by Kawasaki and other major brands.

There's a fly-casting seminar area, too, hosted by Arizona Flycasters and Desert Fly Casters. And, there's the Bass Pro Shop Youth Fishing Pond and other youth activities, including the Grand Canyon Council Boy Scouts of America zipline and rock-climbing wall.

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- Favorite features return, too.
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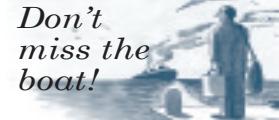
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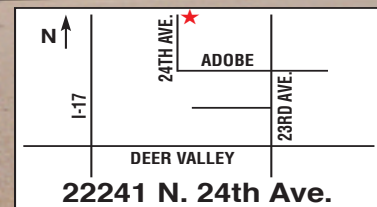
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SEAWORLD

Continued from page 14

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Historical Renaissance Characters	Order NOW & SAVE!	Historical Do Activities

Arizona Students Can Immerse Themselves In The 16th Century

The Arizona Renaissance Festival gives students a chance to do more than just read about history. *We let them experience it!*

The Renaissance ideas that laid foundation for later inventions are still evident and influential today. Today's *Thinkers, Dreamers, Inventors* are pushing the boundaries of what is known into the unknown; who knows what their discoveries will become?

Remember, Da Vinci knew flight was possible when no one else did...There are Da Vincis of today just about to emerge — with new ideas and dreams for the future. SciTech and the Arizona Renaissance Festival enable students to see the connection between past, present and *beyond!!*

2016 Student Day Dates

Tuesday, March 1 — Elementary Schools

Thursday, March 3 — Jr./Sr. High Schools

Hours: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The annual Arizona Renaissance Festival, with its 30-acre theatrical European market village offers a unique opportunity to bring an important era in history to life. Student Days were created to highlight the educational aspects of the Renaissance; language, science, exploration, mannerisms, customs, commedia theatre, jousting tournaments, artisan demonstrations and music are just some of the learning opportunities that await Arizona students.

CATS! DOGS!

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Fostering one of our shelter pets helps them experience a home environment until they are adopted. It also gives us valuable information about the behavior and personality of the pet that we may not be able to observe in our shelter environment.

We have adorable cats and dogs just waiting to share their lives with you and your family! If you would like to attend the next foster orientation, please contact Tona (tona@lostourhome.org) for more information and to schedule your training.

To View Adoptable Pets

Dogs —
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