



Western Outdoor Times

March 2017
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A Publication of Arizona Boating & Watersports

BOATING | CAMPING | FISHING | RVING | SHOOTING SPORTS | WATERSPORTS | WILDLIFE

IN THE SUNNY SOUTHWEST

It's Show Time!



Boating

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Land Cruising

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Western Wildlife

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MEDIA DIRECTION



Shows Highlight So Many Ways To Enjoy The Outdoors Get Ready For Arizona's Largest Hands-On Outdoor Expo

The Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo dates are set for Saturday, March 25 and Sunday, March 26, at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix.

Admission and parking are free!

Once again, there will be plenty of hands-on fun for all ages. Check out the huge family fishing tanks. See all sorts of live wildlife. Learn target archery and try other shooting sports in a safe, supervised, controlled environment on the range.

Get a feel for specialty shooting disciplines like clay target, cowboy action, practical pistol, black powder, and air gun. Check out the many firearms manufacturers.

Don't miss the always-popular cowboy



mounted shooting competition. See OHV, ATV, RV and boating exhibits. Give kayaking a try at the "Lake Paddlemore" kayaking pond.

Hike a field course and learn cool camp-

ing tips. Learn about boating and how to stay safe on the water. Talk to experts about Arizona's wildlife, fishing, hunting and more. Visit with more than 150 exhibitors, including outdoor recreation and conservation groups, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services.

The department will auction off its annual collection of wildlife assets at the Expo. Sets of antlers, hides, skulls and head mounts, as well as wildlife artwork and taxidermy — all seized during law enforcement investigations, obtained from animals killed in vehicle collisions, or acquired through donations — will be put on the auction block both days. Funds generated from

the auction are used to purchase equipment and technology used in the investigation of wildlife crimes and to protect the state's wildlife resources.

Concessionaires will have food and beverages available for purchase, and many accept only cash — ATMs will be on site. There is a nominal charge for ammunition at some of the target shooting venues.

Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Outdoor Expo is easy to find, located on Carefree Highway, about 1/2 mile west of I-17 in Phoenix. More specifically, it's at 4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd, Phoenix (exit I-17 at Carefree Highway).

International Sportsmen's Expo & Arizona Boat Show Expands Both Its Outdoor And Indoor Exhibits In 2017

Arizona's largest sportsmen, outdoor and boat show will again be at WestWorld of Scottsdale.

ISE's Arizona show had great success at WestWorld of Scottsdale in 2016. The venue provides easy freeway access to the more populous eastern corridor and surrounding cities. The show was able to expand its outdoor exhibits to include more recreational vehicles, a wakeboarding feature and more.

The inaugural year for ISE Scottsdale and Arizona Boat Show were a rousing success and we expect even more success in 2017.

Our second year at WestWorld of Scottsdale is our 17th in Arizona. If you came last year, you saw how the show had grown. Really, really grown! More fun features for the entire family. New hands-on activities. More boats and RVs of all sizes and styles.

And more exhibits, too — gear, guides, destinations and services for the hunter, angler, camper, boater, offroader, RVer — pretty much any outdoor enthusiast. For 2017, it's all back — join us for a great experience.

Date: March 23-26, 2017

Location: WestWorld of Scottsdale

1660 N Pima Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85260



GOT RVs? — Yes! And, more than ever at the 2017 International Sportsmen's Expo and Arizona Boat Show. Represented are seven dealers, 150 units, and a variety of kinds of RVs: travel trailers, fifth wheels, van campers, toy haulers, and Class A,B, and C RVs.

Hours:

Thursday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tickets: Adult Admission - \$14.00, Youth under 16 - Free!

Parking: WestWorld parking: \$5 per car

Please: No Pets, No Weapons, Firearms or Ammunition



MEDIA DIRECTION

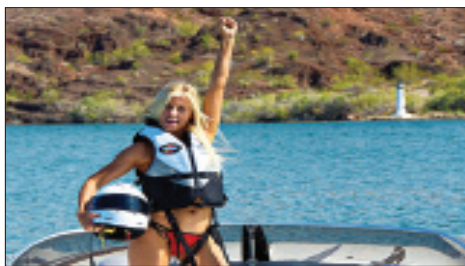
ON THE COVER

AZ Shows Its Stuff!

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

March and April are two months that really showcase the outdoors in Arizona. The International Sportsmen's Expo and Arizona Boat Show, the Arizona Game & Fish Expo, and the Lake Havasu Boat Show all feature craft, vehicles, products, services, activities, education, and more — all three shows are geared to making your outdoors more fun, safer, and full of opportunities you may not have even imagined.

Note: A special thank-you goes to Bob Brown of Media Direction for sharing this exciting cover photo.



'QUEEN OF THE DESERT' — For ultra-high performance boating fans, Summer Richardson, crowned "Queen of the Desert" at the 2016 Desert Storm Shoot-Out event after driving her 38-foot Skater catamaran to a speed record of 176 miles an hour, will be making a personal appearance at the boat show with her well-known 911 race boat; she will be available for autographs and photos.

Lake Havasu Boat Show Adds Second Venue To Accommodate Expanding Exhibitor Demand

If the 26th Annual Lake Havasu Boat Show coming April 7-9 to Lake Havasu State Park is any indicator, the recreational boating industry is on the brink of its best year in a decade.

"[Even when we were still] two months out from our opening day at the Lake Havasu Boat Show and we've already exceeded the amount of sold display space from a year ago by nearly 50 percent," commented boat show producer, Bob Brown.

"It's a combination of new companies and products wanting to target the Lake Havasu market as well as local dealerships and businesses requesting larger spaces. It has created a situation where we have no choice but to expand into the new Windsor 3 lot at the State Park rather than turn exhibitors away."

Challenge To See It All In One Day

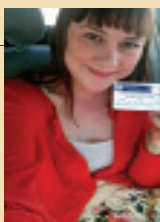
The Lake Havasu Boat Show, co-sponsored by JetRenu and Mohave State Bank, and presented by the Lake Havasu Marine Association, is already the largest outdoor boat show in Arizona, Nevada and California. "The 2017 Lake Havasu Boat Show will be a challenge for guests to see it all in just one-day," said Brown.

"We're talking about a boat show that will encompass more than eight football fields of boats, marine engines, trailers and a myriad of boating accessories and services. Virtually every type of boat from 12' to over 40' will be on display, some valued as much as one million dollars. Probably

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Tackle & Target

There Is Insurance For Self Defense

When you are deciding which self-defense insurance to buy — and it is an excellent idea to do so — there are a couple of things to remember/Page 9



Land Cruising

There's Lots To See Near Tucson, Ariz.

One amazing place near Tucson — of four featured — is the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum/Page 11



We are grateful for all the events this spring (e.g., The International Sportsmen's Expo, the Arizona Game & Fish Expo, the Lake Havasu Boat Show, etc.) that remind us of the wonders of the outdoors and educate us about enjoying them safely and responsibly.

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DOWNSTREAM March 2017 Events Calendar

BOATING

18 CAMP VERDE: 5th Annual Verde River Runoff – White Bridge and ends at Beasley Flat. A 5 & 10 mile race down the Verde River, kayak or canoe, prizes in several categories, part of “Spring Heritage Festival”, proceeds benefit the conservation and outdoor recreation in and on the Verde River Valley. <http://vrvtvo.org/events/verde-river-runoff/>

25-26 PARKER: SCSC Spring Power Boat Classic – Blue Water Resort & Casino. GN boats, tunnel boats, mini boats compete for points & cash prizes. 7 am - 7 pm. <http://www.scsccracing.com/>

25-26 TEMPE: 14th Annual Arizona Dragon Boat Festival – Tempe Town Lake Marina. 50 dragon boat racing teams from all over the world are expected to participate, 40-foot-long rowing canoes, 20 paddlers, one steersperson & a drummer in a 500-meter race, features competitive and recreational dragon boat races, vendors, and Asian and Pacific inspired talented entertainment. Free. 9 am – 4 pm. <http://www.azdba.com>

2/29/2018 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.us-sailing.org/training and clicking on the Red Cross Online Training button (towards the bottom of the page).

CAMPING/RVING/AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Through the 31 STATEWIDE: 34th Annual Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month - Special events in towns across Arizona focusing on current efforts to preserve our past by protecting our fragile and non-renewable cultural resources, hikes, site tours, lectures, demos, 602-542-4174 or <http://www.azstateparks.com>

PROTECT-A-PARK: Ongoing — Boaters, anglers, divers need 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 CLASSES: Ongoing (See page 3 of this issue.)

COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

Note: There are many events scheduled to celebrate St. Patrick's Day; see <http://www.visitarizona.com/events>.

11 PHOENIX: 34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & Irish Family Faire - 3rd Street Virginia to Margaret T. Hance Park. parade at 10 am with pipe bands, marching bands, floats, Irish step dancers, Faire follows parade until 6 pm. \$10, 3 stages of Irish music and dancers, crafts, genealogy, Irish clubs, kids area, 602-280-9221 or <http://stpatricksdayphoenix.org/>

25 TEMPE, KIWANIS PARK: 6:30-9:30 a.m., 5500 S. Mill Avenue, third annual 5K walk/run to alleviate homelessness, benefits I-Help and Tempe Community Action Agency

22-26 CASA GRANDE: 61st Annual Pinal County Fair – A family tradition enjoyed by people of all ages. Experience the magic of the fair. Feel the excitement of contestants as winners are posted for traditional fair-time contests. View prized livestock and see who grows the biggest and the best vegetables in the county. Enjoy rides, take a walk through the crafts, or just eat some really good food! 520-723-7881 or www.pinalfairgrounds.com

EXPOS/SHOWS

3-5 SEDONA: Sedona Mountain Bike Festival - 3-day mountain bike celebration that will include a Main Expo/Festival area at the beautiful Tlaquepaque Village, bike demos, shuttled rides, a Beer Garden, great bands for two nights and a whole lotta sweet red singletrack, a great time for festival-goers to shake off their winter rust and Shred the Red! <http://sedonambtfestival.com/>

23-26 SCOTTSDALE: International Sportsmen's Exp & Arizona Boat Show (see story on page 1)

25-26 PHOENIX: Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo (see story on page 1)

April 7-9 LAKE HAVASU: Boat Show (see story on page 1)

FISHING

11 PARKER: 38th Annual Take a Kid Fishing - La Paz County Park. For beginning w
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

SHOOTING SPORTS/ARCHERY

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

Through 3/6 PHOENIX: Western National Shoot – Ben Avery Shooting Facility. Including: off-hand, bench-rest rifle, black powder cartridge, trap and skeet, primitive archery, and primitive trail-walk, there will be a Trader's Row where clothing, shooting supplies, and various other merchandise is available for sale, free, 8 am – 5 pm, <http://www.nmlra.org>

15 YUMA: Behind the Big Guns Tour – A rare chance for a “behind-the-scenes” look at the U. S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, one of the largest military facilities (by land area) in the world. A deluxe motorcoach trip with a special briefing en route and a stop at the Heritage Center museum, plus a look at other areas and activities most civilians don't get to see! Lunch at the Cactus Cafe, YPG's on-post restaurant, and a souvenir of your day. \$55 reservations required, <http://www.visityumacom/>

WATERSPORTS

Diving Ongoing - SAGUARO DIVING & SPORTS: Ongoing — Learn to Scuba Dive, Open Water Certification Dives, Private Class & Pool, Private Lake: sales@saguaro-sports.com Frozen

Ongoing - LEARN TO CURL LESSONS: learntocurl@coyotescurling.com

4 SUNRISE: Night Skiing - Sunrise Ski Resort. Enjoy a unique opportunity to ski Sunrise Mountain in the moon light under a blanket of stars. Join in on the Torch Light Parade (a conga line down the Mountain with flares) beginning at 7 pm followed by a fireworks salute over the Sunrise Base Area. 928-735-7669 or <http://sunriseskiparkaz.com/>

Swimming 5 PEORIA: City of Peoria Water Slide Adult & Youth Reverse Sprint Triathlon & Duathlon – Sunrise Pool. MINI TRI: Adults: 225 yd. swim, 9.0 mi bike, 1.5 mi Run; MAXI TRI: 425 yd. swim, 12 mi bike, 3.1

mi run; Youth Reverse Tri: 1/2mi. run , 3 mi. bike, swim 100 yd; MAXI DU Adults: 1/2 mi. run, 12 mi. bike, 3.1 mi. run; Adult two or three person Tri-Relay: Same distances as Maxi Tri Individual. 6 am. <http://www.trifamilyracing.com/>

18 FLORENCE: Anthem Merrill Ranch Triathlon - Merrill Ranch Community Center. Whether you are a seasoned racer looking to dust off the holiday cobwebs or a first time triathlete wanting to take the plunge, this is the race for you, a 400yd heated pool swim, a fast 12 mile course and a run to the finish, 8 am. <http://www.getsetusa.com/arizona/calendar.php>

25 PEORIA: Sprint Triathlon at Vistancia - The Foothills Center. Swim in the Foothills Center pool, bike through the Blackstone Country Club and the Vistancia Discovery Trail on the run course, for the whole family with adult and youth distance triathlons. 8 am. <http://www.4peaksracing.com/>

26 GOODYEAR: 10th Annual Southwest Valley Regional YMCA Youth, Adult, & Relay Sprint Triathlon/Duathlon – Goodyear YMCA. Adult OLYMPIC Tri: 1500m swim, 24 mi bike, 6 mi run; Adult SPRINT Tri: 400m swim, 12 mi bike, 3 mi run; Adult Sprint DU: 1/2 mi run, 12 mi bike, 3 mi Run; Youth Tri: 100m swim, 4 mi B; 1/2 mi Run; adult 2 or 3 person Olympic distance relay teams. 6 am. <http://www.trifamilyracing.com>

Water Skiing

3-4 PARKER: 32nd Anniversary Parker International Marathon IWSRA Ski Races – Blue Water Casino, water ski racing, marathon events range between 35 to 65 miles in length with a Mini Marathon running approximately 25 miles. 928 669-6511 or <http://www.nwsra.net/>

WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

3-5 PHOENIX: Superstition Kennel Club Dog Show - State Fairgrounds. One of the largest AKC canine venues in Arizona representing 182 dog breeds. Westminster Kennel Club's "Best In Show", C.J. the German Shorthaired Pointer, will be showing along with over 2,000 Purpose Bred Dogs, additional attractions will include Junior Showmanship, health clinics, AKC educational information and vendor booths with dog related products for the community to enjoy, view a pet disaster relief vehicle. Free. <http://www.superstitionkc.com>

4-5 AVONDALE: Tres Rios Nature Festival – Meridian Wildlife Area. Celebrate the natural history and heritage of the valley, discover watchable wildlife opportunities, canoe trips looking for wildlife & birds, tours of historic areas, children's area with

See **DOWNSTREAM**, Page 18

For a complete list of Arizona events, visit www.visitarizona.com/events



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

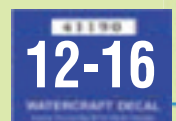
Update your boating safety knowledge

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.

March 2017				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	March 11 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	March 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	March 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility – Green Bldg. 2176 McCulloch Blvd. N, Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219

April 2017				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	April 8 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	April 15 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	April 15 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility – Green Bldg. 2176 McCulloch Blvd. N, Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219

Registration Decal



Spaces or hyphens should appear here.

Register your watercraft

Make sure the vessel's registration is current before heading out on the water. It's one of the most important boating requirements needed to operate a watercraft on Arizona waterways.

The registration fee is determined by watercraft length and ranges from \$20 to \$66 for Arizona residents and \$100 to \$495 for non-residents. Skip the line and renew your watercraft registration online at www.azgfd.gov/boating.

WWW.AZGFD.GOV 24/7 ONLINE SERVICE

- **Purchase a fishing license.** No need to stand in line.
- **Purchase a hunting license.** No need to drive anywhere.
- **Renew your boat's registration** without a hassle.
- **Apply for the draw.** Only the application fee and license fee, if applicable, is required.
- **Sign up for "I Support Wildlife"** and get instant access to membership perks.
- **Sign up for E-news.** Get the latest and the greatest wildlife news, helpful hints and announcements delivered electronically.
- **Take an online Boater Education Course** from the convenience of your home.
- **Create a FREE customer portal account for easy access to all your Arizona Game and Fish needs — 24/7.**

Go to www.AZGFD.gov to locate an office near you!



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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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

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.

Need to borrow a life jacket?

Visitors to lakes Pleasant, Havasu, Saguaro or Mohave needing a life jacket can borrow one at Life Jacket Loaner Stations near each lake's boat ramps.

Stations contain jackets for infants to adults. **Please return** the jackets so they can be used by others.



Boating

Wet Winter Brings Rising Lake Levels At Roosevelt Lake

Here's what you need to know to plan a great Spring Break!

The start of boating season is almost here and you can expect water levels at Roosevelt Lake to be higher than they have been in years!

The past few months of winter brought more than expected rain and snowfall to the area around Roosevelt Lake, as well as to the higher elevations in northern Arizona. Salt River Project reports from late February indicate that Roosevelt Lake is nearly 60 percent full.

As the weather warms heading into Spring Break and boating season, snowmelt is expected to increase runoff into the lake with preliminary reports indicating the lake could surpass levels of more than 80 percent, which has not been seen in years. You can track the lake's water levels daily at: www.srpnet.com/water/dams/.

Premier Marina And Village Amenities

With a great boating season on Roosevelt Lake ahead, and Spring Break right around the corner, it's time to start planning your boating season. Roosevelt Lake Marina is the premier destination on Roosevelt Lake, offering 260 covered and uncovered boat slips as well as secure



SPRING INTO SUMMER — Higher water levels at Roosevelt Lake mean a stellar boating season ahead, just in time for having great fun on the water during Spring Break – and continuing into the summer. If you have not explored it in a while, this is the year to get back out to Roosevelt Lake, and begin a new tradition with your family and friends.

lakeside enclosed or covered dry storage for boats and water toys as well as a convenient store with basic groceries and a bar where guests can purchase and grill their own hamburgers and hot dogs while enjoying a beverage.

Boaters always appreciate the marina's fuel and boat launch, which are both available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

Boaters who like to travel to lakes located throughout the Southwest, Roosevelt Lake Marina makes it easy to enjoy your time at Roosevelt Lake by offering guest slips that can be purchased for daily use. The marina also offers designated

first-come, first-served courtesy slips near the fuel dock and marina bar.

However, if these courtesy slips are full, you will need to wait to park your boat until a courtesy slip becomes available. Planning ahead by reserving a guest slip eliminates wait time, so you can make the most of your every minute on the lake. For guest slip reservations, call 602-977-7170 or email: info@rlmaz.com.

Floating Hotel And Campground Accommodations

Staying the night just got more fun! Roosevelt Lake Marina recently added a Floating Hotel with two bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen, living room and patio. The hotel accommodates up to 6 guests, making a family visit to Roosevelt Lake more fun than ever before. To book the floating hotel for Spring Break, or your summer vacation, call 602-977-7170.

For those who like to rough it, the



Public Invited To Comment On Proposed New Regulations & Fees

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is seeking public comments on multiple proposed boating and water sports rule changes.

In mid-January, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission approved a draft notice of proposed rulemaking, amending Article 5, which outlines boating and water sports regulations and fees. The deadline to submit comments on the proposed rule changes is Sunday, March 5.

The following are among the proposed changes:

- Requiring a signature be notarized/witnessed when the seller is not listed as the owner on the current registration or the signature of the buyer or seller is in question.
- Allowing owners to obtain a duplicate watercraft registration/decals at www.azgfd.gov/boating.
- Increasing the valid timeframe for a temporary certificate from 30 to 45 days and allowing a watercraft agent to issue a temporary certificate with the sale of a used watercraft.
- Requiring liveries to affix a placard on the watercraft indicating the business name and phone number, and requiring a person who rents, leases or offers a watercraft for hire to register as a livery.

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VFW Post 3513

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As a college English teacher, editor, and writer of both fiction and non-fiction for many years, I am available online (or by U.S. mail) for tutoring, editing, proofreading, copyediting, and writing. I have skills in academic research at both high school and college levels and can also assist those working toward their GEDs, those who need help with resumes, and with both advertising and proposals.

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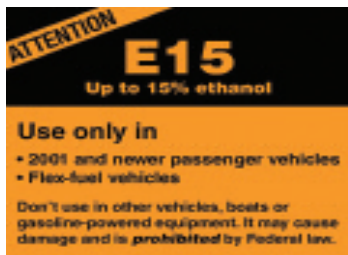
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BEWARE! — This little label on a gas pump could be all that separates boaters from dangerously misfueling their boats.

BoatUS Members Are Asked To Petition Re: Ethanol Policy

Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) is asking its more than half-million members — and any recreational boat owner concerned with having a safe fuel supply — to petition the Trump administration and Congress to reform the ethanol mandate, also known as the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

In a communication to members, BoatUS urged boaters to go to Fix the Ethanol Mandate to easily send a communication to their legislator in Congress and President Trump.

“Boaters must act now to get a fix to ethanol policy rolling in the new year,” said Government Affairs Manager David Kennedy. “Our members have an important role in this process and we’re counting on them to make their voices heard.”

In its communication to members, BoatUS notes:

Gasoline with more than 10 percent ethanol has been shown to damage boat engines. A study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory conclusively demonstrated that E15 (15 percent ethanol) damages boat engines.

You could put the wrong fuel in your boat. While gas blends greater than 10 percent ethanol are prohibited for use in recreational boats under federal law, a 2016 Harris Poll found that 64 percent of consumers were not sure or did not pay attention to the type of gas they used. As the RFS forces E15 and higher blends into the market, the chance of misfueling will increase. Pumps dispensing blends greater than 10 percent ethanol are only required to display a small orange warning sticker.

Higher ethanol blends are becoming more common. E15 and higher ethanol blends can now be found in at least 23 states, often at the very same roadside gas station pumps dispensing E10 fuel. Boaters have to be extra vigilant to prevent misfueling.

You could face big repair bills: 87 percent of readers of a prominent boating industry publication reported engine damage caused by ethanol when E10 was used. Higher ethanol blends such as 15, 20 and even up to 85 percent ethanol, will cause even more damage to boat engines.

Can you count on your engine when you need it? Boat engines that are unreliable due to ethanol fuel issues are a safety concern for every boater.

Gas without any ethanol (E0) is becoming harder to find. The RFS artificially limits its supply of ethanol-free (E0), a fuel that many boat owners prefer to protect their engine and ensure trouble-free operation.

Passed in 2005, the Renewable Fuel Standard requires the blending of biofuels such as corn-ethanol into the nation’s

See **PETITION**, Page 15

US Sailing Offering New Safety-At-Sea Online Education

US Sailing, the national governing body for the sport, has launched the new Safety at Sea Online course, featuring eight-modules of online Safety at Sea curriculum designed for sailors of all types and levels — cruisers and racers, novices and experts.

“US Sailing is excited to introduce its first online course for offshore sailors,” said Chuck Hawley, chairman of the US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee. “The Safety at Sea Online course is a companion to the popular hands-on sessions offered by clubs and academies around the country.”

“Sailors have asked for a way to take the course at their own pace, from the convenience of their homes, and less time in the classroom. This is the result. After completing the Safety at Sea Online course, and an approved one-day hands-on course, students will receive a US Sailing/World Sailing Personal Survival Course certification, allowing them to compete in sailboat races around the world.”

Over 100 Videos

Developed in partnership with Fresh Air Educators, a leading online education provider, the Safety at Sea Online course consists of over 100 videos and associated assessment questions designed to engage the learner. The eight modules of the course include Giving Assistance to Others, Personal Safety Gear, Crew Overboard Prevention & Recovery, Hypothermia and Drowning, Crew Health (head injuries, dehydration), Marine Weather, Search and Rescue Organization and Emergency Communications.

The Safety at Sea Online course can only be used as a replacement for attending the Offshore Safety at Sea Course

See **ONLINE EDUCATION**, Page 15



BONAVENTURA PETERS THE ELDER
SEA STORM
— Although this visual of sailing ships caught in a sea storm is ancient (circa 1640), marine weather can still present major challenges. Dealing with those is the focus of just one of eight modules included in the new US Sailing Safety-At-Sea online education course.



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Boating

Boaters, Watercraft Users Urged To 'Spring Aboard' With Safety Course

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), in partnership with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), is encouraging the state's boating and watercraft users to Spring Aboard and prepare for the boating season by enrolling in a safety education course.

Spring Aboard is a national campaign that runs from March 19 to 25 and encourages boaters to protect themselves and their passengers by taking a safety course before stepping onto a boat or watercraft. This year, those who complete one of AZGFD's free boating safety courses will be eligible to receive a free watercraft rental.

Courses Free Of Charge

"Boating is a great family friendly activity, but only if it's done safely and responsibly," said Josh Hoffman, AZGFD Boating Safety Education coordinator. "The best way to ensure everyone on the water is having a great time is by taking a boating safety course. And because the Arizona Game and Fish Department offers them free of charge, there's really no rea-

son not to sign up for one today."

Additionally, those who successfully complete a course are better informed on how to avoid an accident or tragedy on the water.

In 2015 nationwide, 71 percent of the 626 watercraft-related deaths involved a vessel where the operator had never taken a safety course, according to U.S. Coast Guard statistics. It's with that statistic in mind that NASBLA developed and produced Spring Aboard, utilizing a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Education Matters

"We know that an educated boater is safer on the water," NASBLA President Stephanie Weatherington said. "If a boater has taken a boating safety education course, the likelihood of their time spent on the water being a safe and enjoyable experience is much greater."

Most states require proof of completion of a boating education course for operators of some powered vessels. During the Spring Aboard campaign, many course providers, including AZGFD, will offer incentives or course discounts for students



who enroll in or complete a course.

There's A Course For Everyone

"With today's wide variety of courses available, there's a course for everyone's schedule," Weatherington said. "Boaters have many ways to get educated, from classroom courses offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons to online offerings available anytime day or night. There's no reason to head out on the water without knowing what you're doing."

AZGFD offers free courses in Phoenix and Lake Havasu City monthly to provide water users the information and tips needed to stay safe while on the water. Each year many deaths and injuries

on Arizona's waterways are the result of people who don't know how to operate a watercraft properly or how to act to avoid placing themselves in danger.

For more information on boating safety or to register for a hands-on or online safety course, visit www.azgfd.gov/boating and click "Boating Safety Education."

Next Arizona Boater Education Courses

10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. March 11, Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. March 18, Apex Arms Facility, Green Building in Lake Havasu City

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. March, 18, Arizona Game and Fish Headquarters in Phoenix Arizona Paddlesports Education Course

The department's courses include instruction on the basic skills needed to safely operate a boat or personal watercraft, trailering your vessel, navigational rules, buoys, anchoring, legal requirements, boating emergencies, watersports and paddling. In addition, most insurance companies offer a discount on boat or watercraft insurance rates for completing a course.

The department also reminds watercraft users that all boats, including paddleboards, must have a wearable life jacket for every passenger onboard and those 12 years old and younger must wear a life jacket at all times, under state law. Users should also check to make sure a life jacket fits properly by ensuring there is no excess room above the openings of the jacket and that it does not ride up over the chin or face.

For More Information

For more information on boating in Arizona or to sign up for a safety course, visit www.azgfd.gov/boating. To learn more about Spring Aboard, visit www.nasbla.org/spring.

New Products



COMFORT AND PROTECTION — Adding a bimini top brings more than simple comfort to a boat — it provides critical protection from the sun's UV rays. To simplify installation, Accon Marine offers an array of Quick Release Bimini Hinges to suit virtually any mounting location.



ILLUMINATING — From attracting fish to creating the perfect dockside mood, TecNiq's new M50 and M51 Water Dragon Underwater Lighting illuminates the world aquatic. They're the brightest surface-mounted LED underwater lights available, yet are competitively priced. And, with a lifetime warranty, a long and reliable service life is guaranteed.

It is our pleasure from time to time to present to our readers information about new products; however, the articles published in Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times are for reader interest only and do not constitute endorsement. Further, we suggest that you check first with local marine, fishing, hunting, and RV dealers/suppliers to see if they have the products mentioned in our articles. Also, please remember that the prices given are those that were in effect at press time and may have changed.

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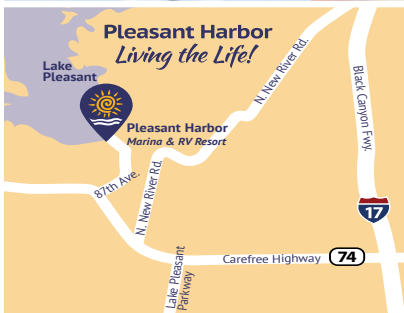
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Tackle & Target



SELF-DEFENSE INSURANCE

Gun Owners Should Definitely Consider This Protection

BY JOHN ANDERSON

I'm assuming that if you have a Concealed Carry Permit it's because you actually carry a weapon and would be willing to use it to defend yourself or your loved ones if your lives were being threatened. You may think that self-defense is cut and dried, but even here in Arizona, there are cases where, even though it seems to be a clear case of self defense, the shooter goes to jail, gets charged with a criminal offense, and could ultimately lose, even though he wholeheartedly believes that his shooting was completely justified.

There Are Many Reasons

There are a lot of reasons why this happens. Prosecutors often want to make a name for themselves, or they feel pressured by rioters or threats from groups of voters. Sometimes — often, actually — the person who was defending himself hangs himself by his words.

Consider the case of the hockey dad, who was convicted of killing a hockey coach, whom he only punched, but the guy had an aneurism or something and died. Odds are, he would have been fine except for what he said to the policeman. He said, "He (hockey coach) wasn't afraid of me, and I wasn't afraid of him". Bingo.

If you aren't afraid, then it's not self-defense. Lesson number one in using any weapon for self-defense: When the police come, cooperate and do what they tell you to do. But say *nothing* except "I was afraid for my life". Then tell them you will cooperate fully, *after* your attorney shows up. Then shut up, even if the police bait you.

What If?

What if you don't have an attorney? It's not like we all keep a criminal defense attorney's name and number handy. Plus, do you know how much they cost? Lots. Be prepared to be cuffed, thrown in the back of the police car, and booked into jail. Now

you're facing bail.

All of this adds up quickly, and the nightmare has just started. What if you *are* criminally charged? How will you pay for an attorney? Do you really want to take your chances with a public defender? Your insurance, even if you have an umbrella policy, will not pay for something you did deliberately. But there is insurance for self-defense. Actually, many companies offer this kind of insurance.

Things To Remember

When you are deciding which self-defense insurance to buy, there are a couple of things to remember. Most of them reimburse you for attorney fees and such *after* you are acquitted. They pay a retainer up front, but that's it until it's all over. Most of them will also pay for civil suit costs, but that is also after it's all over. You simply get reimbursed.

The Armed Citizens Defense Network has a panel of experts who will look at the circumstances and cut you a check for lawyers and expert witnesses *before* the trial if they determine that your use of force was justified. They'll also pay for self-defense other than guns, which not all companies do. Most of them also have quite a bit of education available. Some will send you CDs, others have monthly magazines, some have online videos and/or educational content.

Only You Can Answer

Some of the self-defense insurance companies also pay for things like psychological support after the fact, interrogation and grand jury protection, aftermath cleanup, and compensation for loss of income while you're in court. Costs vary widely, and some offer three or even four levels of coverage, with discounts to add your spouse. What level of protection do you need? Only you can answer that.

For a truly justified shooting, a retainer of a few grand for a really good lawyer will probably have you back home in a couple



of days. That is, unless the prosecutor decides to use your case to get himself some exposure. As I said before, what you consider to be absolutely justified can be viewed (or twisted) by others. Even if your attackers were drunk and stoned and chasing (unimpaired) you, your act of self defense could end up putting you in jail for a long time and costing you a ton of money, even if you ultimately get set free.

I did some research and made a chart of four different self-defense insurance companies. I listed what their Web sites say about their coverage, but let me make it clear that my chart is not necessarily 100 percent complete. To know exactly what insurance covers, you need to read the policy. Carefully.

NRA Endorsed Self-defense Insur-

ance: mynrainsurance.com

Second Call Defense: secondcalldefense.org

Armed Citizens Defense Network: armedcitizensnetwork.org

United States Concealed Carry Association: usconcealedcarry.com

Be Prepared

If you have decided to carry a weapon of any kind, either be prepared to use it or leave it at home. If you do carry a weapon, part of being prepared is being prepared to pay the price if you have to use it. Even if you are in your home in a state with a castle law, you could face legal problems after using your weapon. In today's litigious society, you should definitely consider self-defense insurance.

ARIZONA: MARCH 15TH DEADLINE

Public Comments Regarding Target Shooting Needed Now

It is imperative that sportsmen and women speak now about the Draft Target Shooting Plan for Sonoran Desert National Monument.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released for public comment a plan that will determine what lands within the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM) will be closed to target shooting.

It was BLM's intent through an earlier management plan to close the SDNM to target shooting. If it had not been for the intervention of the National Rifle Association (NRA), the SDNM would already be closed to shooters. The BLM was encouraged to revise the management plan and in an about-face, it proposed that the entire SDNM be open to shooting. But, the proposal lacked the required documentation to support that recommendation and the BLM was promptly sued.

This is the third and likely final round over the future of target shooting in the SDNM. *It is imperative that all sportsmen and women who find it important to keep our Federal lands open to hunting*



and shooting take this draft plan seriously by reading it and submitting individual comments.

The plan with its five alternatives can be found at <http://l.usa.gov/1ZPyFSA>. The public has until March 15th to submit comments, which may be emailed to blm_az_sdnmtargetshooting@blm.gov or faxed to 623-580-5580.

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Fishing At Lake Powell Is Incredible

'Quality of life is measured by the amount of time spent fishing.'

BY WAYNE GUSTAVESON

HTTP://WWW.WAYNESWORDS.COM

February was an excellent month for great fishing results in the southern lake. We found great spooning results in early February with a fish count of 75 strippers. Then, later in the month, we caught 38 strippers while trolling and casting.

Spoons did not work on that trip. When we headed uplake to see how conditions had changed, we were prepared to give the strippers any presentation they wanted. The fish did not disappoint us; in fact, we were amazed at what happened.

Following reports from the previous day, we went to the back of the canyon and started spooning when a few shad or stripper traces were seen on the graph. Our spoon were ignored by the strippers seen on the graph. We went looking for cooperative fish by trolling while watching the graph.

In Short Order

In short order, 12-14 inch (plankton-eating) strippers were caught randomly on Lucky Craft XD78 pointers in ghost and chartreuse shad colors. There was no real pattern or many fish seen on the bottom but the small (best eating size) fish were caught regularly. After 1.5 hours, we had 10 fish in the cooler and we moved on.

EXCERPTS FROM AZGFD FISH REPORT

Heavy Run-Off Fills Many Of Arizona Lakes

Tip Of The Week

Three years ago, the world record redear sunfish was taken out of Lake Havasu. Hector Brito caught a 5.80-pound redear sunfish on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014.

Redear sunfish have grown to trophy size in Lake Havasu. Many are in the 2-pound range and larger are regularly caught at this 19,300-acre impoundment on the Colorado River, formed by Parker Dam.

Bluegill and redear can be caught around structure such as docks, vegetation, or artificial structure using mealworms, nightcrawlers, or small crappie jigs.

The Reel Deal

The big news recently has been heavy run-off and high water levels that have resulted in refilled lakes such as Kaibab Lake near Williams, which has filled for the first time in two years. Ashurst Lake, pictured, is full.



Ashurst Lake

Another boat was found in the distance so we pulled up close to get a fish report. They were hovering over a stripper school trying to spoon them up so we joined in. In short order, the school responded and we hooked 2-3 pound strippers regularly. Action was quick and intense while the school was active.

Occasionally we saw a single threadfin shad come to the surface and swim quickly away to avoid predation. The stripper school was actively attacking a shad ball and we were lucky enough to be there for the action. After 15 minutes, the deep schools moved on and catching on spoons quit but not before we placed another 15 large strippers in the cooler.

Awesome To See The Attack

The other boat left to search for the stripper school, but those shad swimming along the surface made me pick up the spinning rod and toss Pointers to shallow chasing strippers. There were a few strippers near the surface and an occasional catch was made with a long cast and a stop-and-go retrieve. We even did the "figure 8 musky retrieve" with the lure near the boat and caught a few trailing strippers within 5 feet of the boat. That was awesome to see them attack the lure within plain sight.

While all this was going on, I heard



Kaibab Lake

Fishing likely will be unpredictable with changing conditions. Fish react to conditions and anglers must react to the fish. Anchor up to this rule: Find the bait, find the fish.

Water has been being let out of Horseshoe Lake, and Bartlett Lake is now full (or more).

With some stable weather, the time could be prime for great stripper fishing at lakes such as Pleasant, Mead and Mohave. Finally, at Pena Blanca Lake, the lake is full and water quality problems have improved — trout stockings have finally been underway. It was scheduled to be stocked the week of Feb. 27.

Stocking Report

In early February, these lakes were stocked: Saguaro Lake, Canyon Lake, Fortuna Pond, La Paz County Park Lagoon, and Pond, Cluff Res. #3, Roper Lake, Dankworth Ponds, — Goldwater



THEIR SHARE OF FRESH FARE — Strippers were chasing threadfin shad around on the surface and must have been eating their share. At the fish-cleaning station there were many fresh shad in stripper stomachs. The picture shows what it must have looked under our boat as the strippers chased the shad around.

random splashes in the distance and thought gizzard shad must be jumping in the water that had warmed to 56 degrees in the back of the canyon. Another big splash sounded behind me and my focus switched from strippers swimming under the boat to the shoreline.

I looked up in time to see a pod of shad jump out of the water followed by a 3-pound stripper within two feet of the shoreline. I could not believe my eyes. I had just witnessed a stripper 'boil' in February. Unbelievable!

In The Perfect Spot

Later, I added up the events and realized that the school of shad the strippers were chasing below the boat went shallow with the stripper school close behind. We moved 20 yards closer to shore and cast the same lures to the bank. Strippers hit the lures on every cast and hooked up half the time. We were in the perfect spot with the right lures and caught lots of fish.

I could not stand it any longer and put

on a top water lure. I really wanted to catch a topwater fish in February. After 20 casts, I knew it was not going to happen so I changed back and caught more stragglers on shallow-running crankbaits. The action slowed and we were "reely" tired from reeling in so many fish in a short time.

Watch The Weather

The weather forecast was for wind to blow in the afternoon and we were completely satisfied with an amazing fishing day, so we headed in. We filleted 55 strippers at the cleaning station.

Data for this report was collected on the last sunny, warm day before a cold winter storm arrived. It was the lull before the storm. Wait for the wind to stop blowing and temperature to rise again before trying to duplicate the events reported here.

Fishing at Lake Powell is incredible.

At press time, lake elevation was 3,594, and water temperature was 40-54F.

WAKE ZONE

Op/Ed



Sportfishing Industry Angered

New U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service policy blindsides fishing community.

On the day before President Obama left office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an edict to phase out the use of traditional fishing tackle on the hundreds of thousands of square miles of public lands under its management.

Director's Order No. 219 will, "require the use of nontoxic ammunition and fishing tackle to the fullest extent practicable for all activities on Service lands, waters and facilities by January 2022, except as needed for law enforcement or health and safety uses, as provided for in policy."

Anglers Disregarded

Scott Gudes, vice president of Government Affairs for the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), the trade association that represents the recreational fishing industry, issued a statement of behalf of the industry.

"The sportfishing industry views this unilateral policy to ban lead fishing tackle, which was developed without any input from the industry, other angling organizations and state fish and wildlife agencies, as a complete disregard for the economic and social impact it will have on anglers and the recreational fishing

(upper), Dead Horse Lake, and Verde River (middle).

More recently, the stocking schedule included the Dead Horse lakes, Goldwater Lake, Saguaro Lake, Red Mountain Lake, Cluff Pond, Dankworth Pond, Parker Canyon Lake, and Roper Lake.

Filling And Spilling: Flagstaff Area Lakes Highest In Years

A recent influx of snow and subsequent run-off is giving many Flagstaff area lakes a refill. During the past two years, water levels at Kaibab Lake near Williams had been far too low to stock fish. Thanks to recent heavy rains, the lake (pictured) is full and spilling.

All lakes in the Flagstaff region are ice free. The Arizona Game and Fish Department will not be stocking all lakes, and the ones that will be stocked will not get fish until after March 1.

Other Updates From The Region

Dogtown Lake, near Kaibab on the south side of I-40, should be full. Anglers who can get into Dogtown might catch some of the holdover rainbows and browns since spring fishing can be pretty good. The lake has probably picked up 10 to 11 feet of depth since December and so the fishing might be a little slow, but the trout should be feeding.

Ashurst Lake is full. The road to Ashurst Lake remains closed and is very muddy and there are some heavy snow drifts.

Upper Lake Mary is about 1 foot from spilling (up 6 inches since Tuesday) and Lower Lake Mary is about 1/3 to 1/2 full.

RV Land Cruising



FOUR GREAT OUTDOOR PLACES NEAR TUCSON

This Is The Perfect Time Of Year To Visit

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

This is the perfect time of year for an outdoor adventure in Tucson. The weather is great and the wildflowers should be amazing this year after all the rains we've had all winter. All four of these places offer nice hikes (or at least walks), and all four of them let you see different aspects of the glory of the outdoors around Tucson.

Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is actually two districts — one to the east of Tucson called the Rincon Mountain District, and one to the west called the Tucson Mountain District. The eastern district encompasses elevations up to 8000 feet and has over 128 miles of trails. It's gorgeous, and even if you just take a scenic drive through it, make sure you stop at the visitor center and at least go to the little nature trail called the Desert Ecology Trail. This trail is handicapped and stroller accessible and it's very pretty and easy.



Saguaro National Park (West Side)



Saguaro National Park: Rincon (East)

Thicker Saguars, Great Views

The western Tucson Mountain District is lower in elevation and this beautiful desert has thicker saguaros and great views. If you are going to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and you are coming from the north, it's easy to take exit 246 or 248 and head east to the park, and you can drive through it on the way to the desert museum. That's what we did, and the visitor center was a lot of fun with a nice gift shop and a display inside. The



A Beautiful View From Near Javelina Enclosure



View From Saguaro National Park Rincon (East)

Arizona Sonora Desert Museum is actually directly south of the National Park, and the road through the park goes right to the museum.

Visitor Centers

The visitor centers at both districts are open every day except Christmas from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no fee to enter the park. To see a map and directions to the two parts of the park, go to www.saguaronationalpark.com.



Mountains Around Sabino Canyon

Sabino Canyon

Sabino Canyon is a beautiful little area that is practically in town. It's just inside the boundary of the Coronado National Forest east of Tucson. There are tram rides that will take you up the canyon and there are nine stops along the way. We got off at the farthest point, opting to walk back down and enjoy the scenery.

Trams And Tours

Trams come along every half hour or so and you can just hop on if you get tired. There are lots of gorgeous trails, and Sabino Creek is beautiful. We saw all kinds of birds and lizards on our little walk and



Madera Canyon

strenuous hikes as well as the stroll downhill along the road. They also have nighttime tram rides three times a month from April through November. For more information about the night rides, call them at (520)749-2327. Sabino Canyon has a visitors' center with a gift shop, open 8 am to 4:30 pm every day except Christmas and Thanksgiving. They have restrooms and picnic grounds as well.

Madera Canyon

Madera Canyon is a must-see if you love birds. It's actually a world-class birding destination. It's just off I-19 east of Green Valley, which is south of Tucson. We stayed in Green Valley then went east at Exit 53 to White House Canyon Road, turning on Madera Canyon Road. The canyon is gorgeous — beautiful forests, a trickling creek, and lots of peace and quiet because it's inside the Coronado National Forest in the Santa Rita Mountains. A day pass is \$5, and there are lots of great trails — some strenuous — plus amazing bird watching. There are picnic tables and restrooms.

A Lodge, Cabins, Casitas

The easy trails are in the lower canyon and some are handicapped accessible, while the tougher trails take you up the mountain. There is also a campground, an amphitheater, and the Santa Rita Lodge which offers cabins and casitas. The Lodge also has a gift shop, so even if you're just there to hike, make sure to stop in for souvenirs. The Coronado Pass (see under Sabino Canyon, above) is accepted here, or a day pass is \$5 per vehicle.



John At Sabino Creek



Sabino Creek

Arizona Sonora Desert Museum

This amazing place deserves at least half a day to get the full benefit of all it has to offer. It's open every day of the year: October through February, from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and March through September, from 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. From June through August, the hours are Sunday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. They suggest at least two hours to see the whole place, so they recommend you get there by 4:00. But, I'm sayin' be there in the morning! Most of the Desert Museum is outdoors and it gets pretty darn hot in summer.

It's Like A Zoo

There are lots and lots of desert animals at the museum, so many that it's a lot like a zoo in some respects. But animals are smarter than people sometimes — if it's hot, they're going to hide in the shade and sleep. So if you want to see plenty of animals, make sure you're there when they are out and about.

we thoroughly enjoyed it.

There is a \$5 per vehicle fee to enter the Canyon, and the tram ride (2 miles) is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 3-12. There is also a narrated 45-minute, 3.8-mile tour into the foothills. Coronado Recreation passes are valid here as well as at Mt. Lemmon and Madera Canyon. They are \$5 for a day pass or \$20 for an annual pass. For seniors (62+ and a U.S. citizen), the annual pass is just \$10.

Strenuous Or 'Strollable'

Sabino Canyon offers some steep and

See **OUTDOORS**, Page 12

Go Wild For Flowers!

Ahhh...spring is in the air and the wildflowers are blooming! Along with the warm temperatures comes the chance to view Mother Nature at her finest as she carpets the desert floor with an array of beautiful colors.

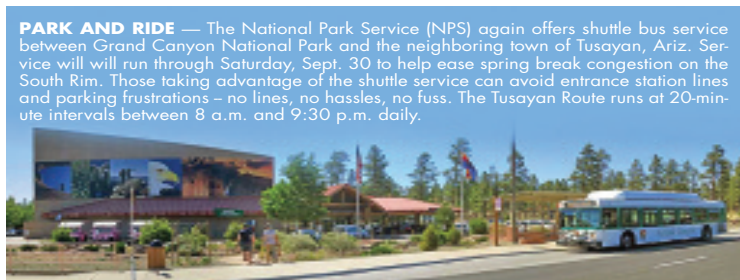
While some may curse the allergies the wildflowers bring, others are gleefully grabbing their cameras and rushing outside to capture photos before they disappear.

"We encourage everyone to visit our County parks during this spectacular wildflower season," said Maricopa County Su-



pervisor Chairman Denny Barney. "This winter, the valley received an abundance of rain, and the parks are poised for one of the best wildflower seasons in recent memory."

See **FLOWERS**, Page 18



PARK AND RIDE — The National Park Service (NPS) again offers shuttle bus service between Grand Canyon National Park and the neighboring town of Tusayan, Ariz. Service will run through Saturday, Sept. 30 to help ease spring break congestion on the South Rim. Those taking advantage of the shuttle service can avoid entrance station lines and parking frustrations — no lines, no hassles, no fuss. The Tusayan Route runs at 20-minute intervals between 8 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. daily.

Survey Looks To Measure OHV Financial Impact

Results help share future trail, safety and education efforts.

The popularity of off-highway vehicles (OHV) has exploded throughout the state and, Arizona State Parks and Trails and the Arizona Game and Fish Department are turning to OHV enthusiasts to help shape the future of the activity statewide.

With 365 riding days per year, scenic

trails and great weather, Arizona continues to draw OHV enthusiasts from across the country to access our motorized trails. To better plan for the future of the activity statewide, Arizona State Parks and Trails partnered with Arizona State University to produce an economic impact study to measure the broad effect the activity has in our state.

"Having a better understanding of



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Kids love the interactive games and people-powered rides; Da Vinci's Flying Machine, The Slider Joust, Piccolo Pony — a rocking horse bigger than an elephant! The wDragon Climbing Tower, Castle Siege, the Maze, Archery Range and much more!

There is something for *everyone* in our shire.



out the state. The questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete; however

See **SURVEY**, Page 15

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Bobcat



Mountain Lion

OUTDOORS

Continued from page 11

We took our granddaughters to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum in January. It was their first time there, and they loved it. There is an area with lots of but-

terfly-attracting plants and flowers, and we saw lots of beautiful butterflies there (not to mention the lovely flowers), and they had their smartphones out the whole time, snapping photos.

Butterflies, Birds, Desert Dwellers

After the butterfly garden we went into the hummingbird aviary and it was incredible — so many little hummingbirds, and all of them seemed eager to pose for photos. It was a blast. Another area we really enjoyed was the walk-in aviary with ducks, doves, tanagers, and other western birds.

There are over two miles of trails taking you to the various exhibits, and we walked through all of them. We saw tons of birds, as well as animals that the girls don't get to see in the wild that often — coatis, bighorn sheep, a mountain lion, a bobcat, owls, a bear, Coues deer, turkey, prairie dogs, a coyote, javelina, and even a lot of different fish in the Warden Aquarium.

Climb Into A Cave

One of our very favorite places was the cave that you get to climb around in. It was a lot of fun, even for Grandma, and the girls loved it even though they are



Trinity And Emily At Arizona Sonora Desert Museum Cave

practically grown women now. All in all, it was a wonderful day. There are restaurants and a coffee shop at the Museum, and the coffee is great. I recommend you bring a refillable water bottle — there are plenty of drinking fountains scattered around, and the map has them all marked. They don't sell water in disposable bottles here.

General admission (ages 13-64) is \$20.50, seniors are \$18.50, children 3-12 are \$8, and kids under three are free. There are discounts for military. They have wheelchairs and strollers first come, first served, and also some electric scooters. There are two gift shops and an ice cream shop to make a sweet end to your day.

Go While It's Cool

These are just four of the many wonderful things there are to do near Tucson. This is the perfect time of year to enjoy the beauty of the desert, so check these places out before it gets hot.

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Western Wildlife



Volunteers Can Help Spotlight Endangered Black-Footed Ferrets

Survey results shine light on recovery effort in Aubrey Valley, on Double O Ranch.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is seeking volunteers to assist with spotlighting efforts to help document the population of endangered black-footed ferrets in Aubrey Valley and on the Double O Ranch near Seligman.

As part of the recovery effort, the department has scheduled two spring spotlighting projects — **March 9-12 and April 6-9** (the department also conducts two spotlighting projects in the fall). The spotlighting method involves using

high-powered lights to locate and identify black-footed ferrets. Their eyeshine is reflected by the spotlight and helps surveyors with identifying and locating these elusive, nocturnal carnivores.

Volunteers must have the ability to stay attentive from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while spotlighting for black-footed ferrets and use, or learn how to use, a Global Positioning System (GPS). Volunteers can sign up by e-mailing azferret@azgfd.gov -- with "spring spotlighting" in the sub-



Black-Footed Ferret

ject line — by **March 3** for next month's project and by **March 30** for the later opportunity.

Volunteers are reminded to include their full name, a contact phone number, month(s) and night(s) available to spotlight, and full names of others who also will be attending (a parent or guardian must accompany any youth under 18). Volunteers also should note any equipment they can bring, such as GPS, clipboard, headlamp, pen, binoculars, walkie-talkies, compass, cordless rechargeable spotlight, backpack or 4X4 vehicle.

Visit www.azgfd.gov/wildlife and click on "Nongame Species" for more information about the black-footed ferret recovery effort.

Over 25,000 Sandhill Cranes Now In Sulphur Springs Valley

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is estimating there are more than 25,000 sandhill cranes in the Sulphur Springs Valley in southeastern Arizona, with the largest concentration of 15,343 at Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area in McNeal.

The Willcox Playa area has 8,291 cranes, the Safford Valley/Duncan area 846, Bonita 775, and there are less than 100 at Crane Lake and elsewhere in the area. Game and Fish conducted its annual crane count in the valley Jan. 6.

Whitewater Draw usually has the largest number of cranes, but a lack of runoff into the draw from the Mule Mountains as well as dense grass growth there resulted in the cranes seeking alternate



Sandhill Cranes

roosts elsewhere in 2016.

The bird-watching community and others recently contributed more than \$11,000 to helping maintain the draw, a natural drainage, as a wetland. To con-

tribute, go to <https://draw.azgfd.gov/WhitewaterDonation>

The cranes usually fly out as a group at dawn to feed, gleaning grain from farmers' fields. Most of the cranes follow this feeding pattern, but some linger in or near their roosts. They return from feeding between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The cranes typically begin to arrive in mid-September to early October. They begin to leave approximately mid-February, sometimes departing all at once, but others may stay until the middle of March.

View the sandhill cranes at Whitewater Draw via the Arizona Game and Fish Department's live Sandhill Crane Cam.

Wildlife Enthusiasts: Subscribe to Wild+Life

The Arizona Game and Fish Department invites you to subscribe to our newest e-News product, Wild+Life. The free monthly newsletter includes information on wildlife-watching activities, places to go, fun wildlife facts, citizen science opportunities/experiences, and links to great videos and photos. It's easy to subscribe - just visit our signup page and select Wild+Life or any of our other electronic newsletters.

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RUN-OFF

Continued from page 10

Lower Lake Mary is about 1/3 to 1/2 full. If more moisture comes this weekend, Upper Lake Mary will probably spill into

WAKE ZONE

Continued from page 10

industry," said Gudes.

Gudes further said, "In the limited instances where lead fishing tackle is demonstrated to harm local wildlife populations, the sportfishing industry supports actions to minimize or eliminate these impacts. However, unnecessary and sweeping bans such as this Director's Order will do nothing to benefit wildlife populations and instead will penalize the nation's 46 million anglers and hurt recreational fishing-dependent jobs."

Should Have Had Input

Gudes concluded, "A sound, science-driven and durable policy could've been crafted with input from industry and the

Lower Lake Mary — and so it might fill this year.

Frances Short Pond will be stocked with the normal weekly stockings starting in March. Anglers should be able to catch fish at Frances Short right now since they

broader recreational fishing community. We are hopeful that new leadership at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will repeat this Director's Order and develop public policy in a way that is open, inclusive and based on science."

For more information: www.asafishing.org or (703) 519-9691, x227

About ASA

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) is the sportfishing industry's trade association committed to representing the interests of the sportfishing and boating industries as well as the entire sportfishing community. We give the industry and anglers a unified voice when emerging laws and policies could significantly affect sportfishing business or

were catching them before it iced over (and since it was full at that time, the fish-to-water ratio is the same.)

For all of the other lakes, until we can stock, the fishing will probably be somewhat poor.

sportfishing itself. ASA invests in long-term ventures to ensure the industry will remain strong and prosperous, as well as safeguard and promote the enduring economic, conservation and social values of sportfishing in America.

ASA also gives America's 46 million anglers a voice in policy decisions that affect their ability to sustainably fish on our nation's waterways through Keep America Fishing®, our national angler advocacy campaign. America's anglers generate more than \$48 billion in retail sales with a \$115 billion impact on the nation's economy creating employment for more than 828,000 people.

LAKE LEVELS

Continued from page 4

campground at Roosevelt Lake Marina offers plenty of room to accommodate tents, campers and RVs on the water's edge. Keep in mind that accommodations on our campsite are handled on a first-come basis. Single car/truck camping is \$6 per day, and a car/truck with trailer is \$10 per day. Note: We do not accept Ton-to Camping Passes.

And, since the campground is located close to the boat launch ramp, guests should bring their boats or jet skis for a weekend or week packed with lake fun. Of course, the marina also rents boats for those who don't own their own. Rental

boat information is available at www.RLMAZ.com.

If you have not explored Roosevelt Lake in a while, this is the year to get back to Roosevelt Lake, and begin a new tradition with your family and friends!

About Roosevelt Lake

Theodore Roosevelt Dam forms Roosevelt Lake. Below are some lake statistics:

- Length:** 22.4 miles
- Shoreline:** 128 miles
- Capacity:** 1,653,043 acre-feet
- Surface acreage when full:** 21,493 acres
- Maximum depth:** 188 feet

PUBLIC

Continued from page 4

• Requiring a wake surfer to wear a personal flotation device and that an operator ensure an observer is watching if a person is being towed behind the watercraft and/or surfing a wake created by the watercraft.

• Prohibiting teak surfing, which is pulling a person from a vessel's swim platform. Requiring towing companies to notify the owner/lienholder that they have taken possession of a vessel within 15 days of obtaining the information from the department.

• Authorizing a third-party vendor to process new watercraft registrations, transfers, renewals and duplicate registrations.

The public can also provide comment on the following proposed fee increases:

- Watercraft transfer fee to \$13
- Duplicate decal and certificate number fee to \$8
- Dealer certificate of number fee to \$20
- Establish an abandoned/unreleased watercraft application fee of \$100
- Transfer of ownership of a towed watercraft application fee to \$100

The proposed changes were recommended as part of a legally required five-year review of the department's administrative rules. For more information or to view the complete list of proposed Article 5 changes, visit www.azgfd.com/agency and click on "Rulemaking."

Those with questions or wishing to submit a comment can mail them to 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086; e-mail rulemaking@azgfd.gov or call (623) 236-7390.



DOGS AND OSTRICHES — Lost Our Home will be at the 2017 Chandler Ostrich Festival! This is a huge three-day event with 80,000 people expected to attend. This will be a great event to show off Lost Our Home dogs and tell everyone how awesome Lost Our Home is. If you have any questions please reach out to Jarred@lostourhome.org



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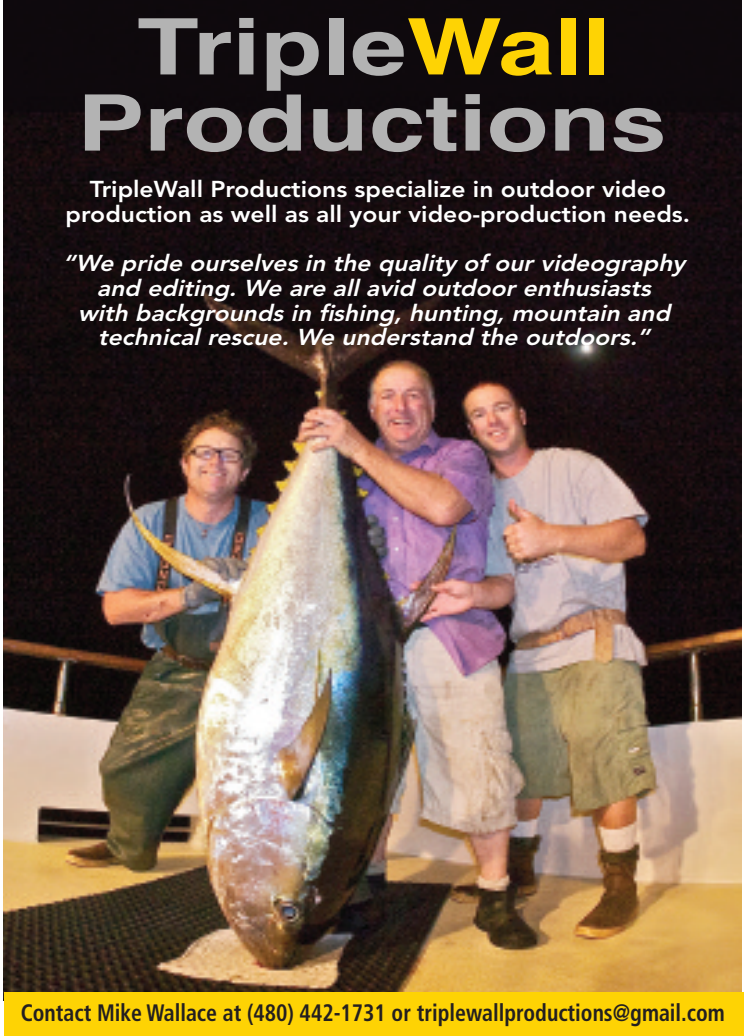
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PETITION

Continued from page 5

gasoline supply. To keep up with this mandate, in 2010 the EPA permitted E15 (fuel containing up to 15 percent ethanol) into the marketplace, but only for some automobile engines. Go to www.BoatUS.com/gov/rfs.asp for more information on the Renewable Fuel Standard.

BoatUS is a member of the Smarter Fuel Future coalition.

ONLINE EDUCATION

Continued from page 5

at select seminars and is not accepted at all International Safety at Sea Courses. Potential attendees should consult with course organizers before taking the online course.

This is the second project that US Sailing and Fresh Air have collaborated on, following the launch of Basic Keelboat Online in 2016.

In-Person Courses Too

"We were thrilled to be able to work with Fresh Air again," said Stu Gilfillen, US Sailing's director of education. "As an organization, we strive to deliver outstanding content in an easily consumable format and Fresh Air has a track record of doing just that. And when you're able to combine their technical expertise with the vast knowledge of subject matter experts like Chuck Hawley, Stan Honey, Dr. Michael Jacobs and Dr. Gordon Giesbrecht, you end up with a really special offering."

SURVEY

Continued from page 12

only completed surveys can be used in the reporting process.

"There are nearly limitless riding opportunities and Arizona offers some of the best views available," said Nathan Gonzalez, AZGFD public information officer. "In addition to guiding future trail development, the results of this survey are vital to helping AZGFD anticipate current and future safety and education program needs. Our goal is to ensure

In addition to offering this course, US Sailing will continue to sanction two-day "in-person" courses as well, organized by many of the best yacht clubs and yachting associations around the country, and those who complete the course will receive the same certification.

The development of Safety at Sea Online would not be possible without the support from countless volunteers, the US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee, Storm Trysail Foundation and the Cruising Club of America through the Bonnell Cove Foundation. US Sailing greatly appreciates all their efforts in making this education offering a reality.

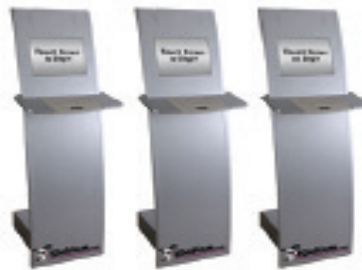
For More Information

For more information about Safety at Sea Online, visit the Web site at www.safetyatseacourse.com. For questions regarding Safety at Sea Online, please contact US Sailing at safetyatsea@ussailing.org. Another good source is <http://www.ussailing.org/sasonline/>

our education methods are adequate to meet the needs of our growing OHV community."

The economic impact study was last completed in 2002 and found that OHV recreation in Arizona had a \$4.25 billion impact. In addition, the activity supported nearly 37,000 jobs, contributed to \$1.1 billion in household incomes and added \$187 million to annual state tax revenues.

For more information on OHV riding in Arizona and to take an online safety course, visit www.azgfd.gov/OHV.



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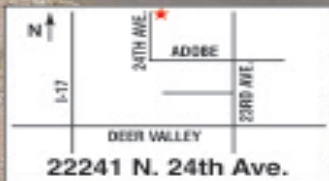
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VENUE

Continued from page 1

our largest category of boats will be the pontoons which have been a leading seller nationwide in recent years. Expect to see all major brands represented."

If you want to do more than just look at boats, you'll also have an opportunity to ride in them as well. The Lake Havasu Boat Show "Demo Dock" will be open on all days of the boat show, available to take serious potential buyers out for a test drive in a number of different types of boats.

FLOWERS

Continued from page 12

"The colorful Poppies, Lupine, Globe-mallow, and Brittlebush are beginning to bloom right now," said R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director.

"If you'd like to see what's blooming around the parks before you arrive, we encourage you to visit our "Go Wild for Flowers" Facebook page and Pinterest board, which feature numerous blooms. For those taking photos of the wildflowers while on the trails, we'd love to see what you've shot. Simply upload your photos onto the Facebook page, and we'll take it from there," added Cardin.

"We understand that wildflower season can overwhelm the senses, literally. To help with wildflower identification and locations, the parks have begun offering wildflower walks, hikes and searches," said Cardin.

Participants are encouraged to bring plant books and cameras on the hikes. Trails used vary from week to week depending upon the abundance and variety of wildflowers. Hurry before they are gone!

Summer Richardson: 'Queen Of The Desert'

For ultra-high performance boating fans, Summer Richardson, crowned "Queen of the Desert" at the 2016 Desert Storm Shoot-Out event after driving her 38-foot Skater catamaran to a speed record of 176 miles an hour, will be making a personal appearance at the boat show with her well-known 911 race boat, available for autographs and photos.

But, Lake Havasu Boat Show visitors will have more than just boats and marine accessories to occupy their attention. On Saturday and Sunday, the 3rd Annual Gary Hart Memorial Jet Ski WaterCross races

will start at 9 a.m. with more than 150 of the top racers and freestylers set to compete. There is ample room for spectators on the Windsor 4 white-sand beach with a twisting race course in full view of the on-lookers.

Don't Forget The Chili And Salsa

Saturday, April 8 is also a special day at the boat show because over 50 teams of the best chili chefs in the Southwest go head-to-head in the 5th Annual Lake Havasu Regional Chili and Salsa Championships sanctioned by the International Chili Society. The general public will be able to purchase chili-tasting kits for a nominal \$5.00 fee, which is donated to

the Lake Havasu High School Athletic Booster Club and then vote for their favorite chili maker. Everyone is encouraged to bring an appetite.

Boat Show hours (rain or shine) are Friday, noon to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, kids 6 and under are free and parking is also free. Dogs on leash are okay. The boat show also has several tasty food courts and multiple beer gardens.

If you need more detailed information, please visit <http://www.lakehavasu-boatshow.com> or info@lakehavasu-boatshow.com or call Bob Brown: (951) 501-0210.

DOWNSTREAM

Continued from page 2

hands-on crafts, live animals, storytelling. Free. 10 am - 4 pm. 623-333-2400 or <http://www.tresriosnaturefestival.com>

4-5/14 PHOENIX: Butterfly Pavilion - Desert Botanical Garden. Provides visitors an opportunity for up close interaction with butterflies while learning about their role as pollinators, characteristics of the butterfly in different lifecycles, and conservation efforts to protect them. 10 am - 5 pm. <http://dbg.org>

10-12 CHANDLER: 29th Annual Ostrich Festival - Tumbleweed Regional Park. Ostrich races, carnival rides, live headline entertainment each day and the Music Coop showcasing local community performing groups and bands, exotic petting zoo, camel and pony rides, Kid-zone, arts & crafts vendors. \$7-10. general admission Fri. 2 pm - midnight, Sat 10 am - midnight, Sun 10 am - 11 pm. 480-963-4571 or <http://www.ostrichfestival.com>

26 SCOTTSDALE: 2nd Annual Fearless Kitty Rescue 5K Run/Walk - Scottsdale Sports Complex. Be welcomed by cat lovers of all ages and cat-themed running costumes encouraged. Awards for best costume. An easy, flat course. All are welcome...from walkers who want to get out and help save cats, to serious runners who want to take home a first, second or third place medal. \$45. <http://active.com/scottsdale-az/running/>

31 PHOENIX: 2017 FORE! Paws Golf Tournament - Wildfire Golf Club. Shotgun start at 7:30 am, and foursomes will play best ball. Many four-legged guests on site to cheer on golfers, or cheer up those who don't play well. A raffle with high valued prizes, and on-course contests including a hole-in-one opportunity to win a Porsche provided by North Scottsdale Porsche. Continental breakfast and an awards luncheon are included for each golfer. <http://www.gabrielsangels.org>

EMPTY PET FOOD BANK IN TEMPE: Ongoing - A unique food bank which serves cats and dogs needs your help. Lost Our Home Pet Foundation has

been providing food and pet supplies to the pets of family in need since 2009, all through community donations. Donations can be made at the shelter location at 2323 S. Hardy Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282; Jodi Polanski, Jodi@lostourhome.org.

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

RAISING MONEY FOR ANIMALS: Ongoing - Heather L. Weaver: 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.



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The Last Stop

BARTLETT LAKE'S NEW RESTAURANT

APPETIZERS

Buffalo Wings
 Boneless Buffalo Wings
 Beer-Battered Onion Rings
 Mac 'N Cheese Bites
 Mozzarella Cheese Curds &
 Ancho Chili Ranch Dressing

BURGERS

Served with your choice of French Fries, Onion Rings, Cottage Cheese, Mac 'N Cheese Bites, or Sweet Potato Fries

Original Bartlett Burger

1/3 lb. fresh Gold Canyon ground Angus, choice of cheese, lettuce, tomato, on a brioche bun

The Whiskey Bourbon Burger (on the sweeter side)

1/3 lb. fresh Gold Canyon ground Angus, Bourbon glaze, pineapple ring, served on a Hawaiian sweet bun

Black and Blue Burger

1/3 lb. fresh Gold Canyon ground Angus, caramelized onions and blue cheese crumbles and bacon

Smoke House Melt

1/3 lb. fresh Gold Canyon ground Angus, cheddar cheese, pulled pork piled on top with a beer-battered onion ring

The Hangover Burger

1/3 lb. fresh Gold Canyon ground Angus, fried egg, jalapenos, cheddar cheese, served on a brioche bun

Chili Cheese Burger

1/3 lb. fresh Gold Canyon ground Angus, cheddar cheese, chili, served on a brioche bun

The Top Deck

(2) 1/3 lb. fresh Gold Canyon ground Angus patties, bacon, 3 kinds of cheese, lettuce, tomato, and onions, served on a brioche bun

The Vegan

Veggie patty grilled with sautéed peppers & diced onions with lettuce, on gourmet bun

CHICKEN

Buffalo Chicken Sandwich

Crispy chicken breast, with buffalo sauce, lettuce, tomato on a brioche bun

Crispy Chicken Sandwich

Crispy chicken breast, with lettuce, tomato, mayo on a brioche bun

Chicken Strip Basket

Crispy chicken strips served with fries

Black 'N Blue Chicken Sandwich

Crispy chicken breast, caramelized onions, blue cheese crumbles, bacon on a brioche bun

The Whiskey Bourbon Chicken Sandwich

Crispy chicken breast, bourbon glaze, pineapple ring, served on a Hawaiian sweet bun

OTHERS

Pulled Pork

Pulled pork served on a gourmet bun with your choice of sides

Grilled Cheese And Bacon

Cheddar cheese and bacon on wheat bread

The Bartlett Grilled Cheese

Cheddar cheese, turkey, bacon, lettuce, tomato, toasted, on wheat bread

Menu items are subject to change. Last Stop is open on weekends, but please call for hours and any additional days.

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