



Western Outdoor Times TM

Arizona Boating & Watersports TM



May - June 2015

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

For Summer Travel Here's A Idea **Grand**

Boating

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Western Wildlife

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Land Cruising

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As Weather Warms, A Cool Canyon Welcomes Grand Canyon National Park Tourism Creates \$509 Million In Economic Benefits



Al Hikes/Arizona

A COOL IDEA — For the summer months, trails that lead to beauty such as the Grand Canyon’s Upper Beaver Falls offer respite from summer temperatures and are not far away from the Valley of the Sun.

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that over 4.7 million visitors to Grand Canyon National Park in 2014 spent \$509 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 7,846 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$711 million.

“Grand Canyon welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world,” said Superintendent Dave Ueberuaga. “We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. We also feature the park as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers.

National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.”

The peer-reviewed visitor-spending

See **TOURISM**, Page 19



Gonzo Jan 2007

ON THE COVER

Havasu Falls Fill A Colorful Pool

This is an incredibly beautiful and cool spot to visit in the summer.

Havasu Falls is located 1½ miles (2.4 km) from Supai. (Havasupai Trail is the main trail to Supai, Ariz. and to Havasu Falls.) It is the more famous and most visited of the various falls along Havasu Creek.

It consists of one main chute that drops over a 90-foot (27 m) to 100-foot (30 m) vertical cliff into a large pool. Due to the high mineral content of the water, the configuration of the falls is ever-changing and sometimes breaks into two separate chutes of water.

The falls are known for their natural pools, created by mineralization, although the configuration of the falls and the pools are damaged or destroyed repeatedly by large floods that wash through the area. A small man-made dam was once constructed to help restore the pools and to preserve what is left.

High calcium carbonate concentration in the water creates the vivid blue-green color and forms the natural travertine dams that occur in various places near the falls.

There are many picnic tables on the opposite side of the creek, and it is easy to cross over by following the edges of the pools. It is possible to swim behind the falls and enter a small rock shelter behind it.

Shuttle At GRCA Starts On May 23

The National Park Service sends this invitation: “Park and ride; we’ll be your guide.”

The National Park Service (NPS) will again offer shuttle bus service between Grand Canyon National Park and the neighboring town of



Public Domain-Flickr
NAMESAKE — Shown here is a Tusayan black-on-red bowl from Grand Canyon National Park.

Tusayan, Ariz. The Tusayan Route will be available from Saturday, May 23 through Friday, Sept. 25 and will run at 20-minute intervals between 8 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. daily.

During the busy summer season, lines are long at the entrance station and parking is difficult to find on the South Rim. Those taking advantage of the shuttle service will have expedited, hassle-free entry into the park and will be able to connect with the park’s free shuttle bus

See **SHUTTLE**, Page 19

Grand Canyon National Park’s North Rim Open For 2015 Season

The Arizona Department of Transportation opened Highway 67 to the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park on May 15, and Grand Canyon Lodge North Rim, a Forever Resorts property, and Grand Canyon Trail Rides commenced their 2015 seasonal operations.

All services provided by the National Park Service, including the visitor center, Backcountry Permits Office, and campground, as well as the Grand Canyon Association Bookstore, became available on May 15. Grand Canyon Lodge North Rim operations — including lodging, groceries, camper services, food services, and a gas station — are also now open.

Lunch will be served starting at 11:30 am, lodge check-in will begin at 4 pm, and seating for dinner will begin at 4:45 pm. At the North Rim Entrance Fee Station, visitors can use only debit or credit cards to pay park entrance fees. However, visitors can use cash at the Grand Canyon Association Bookstore in the visitor center.

Ranger Programs Begin

Rangers presented the first scheduled ranger program, “Grand Canyon Geology,” on the veranda of the Grand Canyon Lodge May 15 followed by a talk about California condors. The first evening program was also held May 15 in the lodge



RANGER RESIDENCE — The Grand Canyon North Rim Headquarters is a historic district on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon in Grand Canyon National Park. Established from 1926 through the 1930s, the district includes examples of National Park Service rustic architecture as applied to employee residences (such as this Ranger Residence), administrative facilities and service structures.

auditorium.

All ranger programs are listed in “The Guide” (North Rim: 2015 Season), a free publication distributed at the North Rim Entrance Fee Station, the North Rim Visitor Center, other contact stations in the park and online at www.nps.gov/grca once it is available.

See **NORTH RIM**, Page 19

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Tackle & Target

Aim Is For Retention!

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is now accepting applications for \$75,000 available in grant funding for local sportsmen’s organizations/**Page 7**



Good Company

Can You Help?

Lost Our Home, a no-kill animal shelter, is partnering with Sojourner Center and opening a shelter at their location/**Page 10**



Western Outdoor Times

Arizona Boating & Watersports



THE CREW

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Thank you to all the organizations that promote boating safety: Arizona Game & Fish Department, the Coast Guard (and Auxiliary), Power Squadrons, Boat U.S., the Arizona Yacht Club, the Lake Pleasant Sailing Club, firefighters, and all others who care about enjoying water sports safely. Your work is vital!

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DOWNSTREAM Events Calendar Beginning Mid May

BEYOND ARIZONA

YELLOWTAIL DERBY: through June 7 — San Diego; see story on page 9.

BOATING

PARKER: 38th Annual Great Western Tube Float: June 6 — La Paz County Park, theme is Float-aritaville float 5 miles down the Parker Strip as singles, groups, or teams, an award for the best themed float with a prize of \$500, registration at 7 am, float at 9 am, 928-669-6511 or <http://parkertourism.com> or <http://parker-fun.com>

CAMPING/RVING/AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PINETOP/LAKESIDE: June 6 — 23rd Annual National Trails Day Celebration - Woodland Lake Park, come join our local hiking and trail development organization TRACKS for a day of hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and interpretive activities in the White Mountain Trailsystem, free, 8 am, 928-368-6700 or <http://www.pinetoplakesideaz.gov/>

PINETOP-LAKESIDE: June 6 — Walk for the Woods on National Trails Day — White Mountain Wildlife & Nature Center, fun hikes to support area land acquisition, food, live wildlife and raffles, free, 8 am, 928-358-3069 or <http://www.wmnature.org>



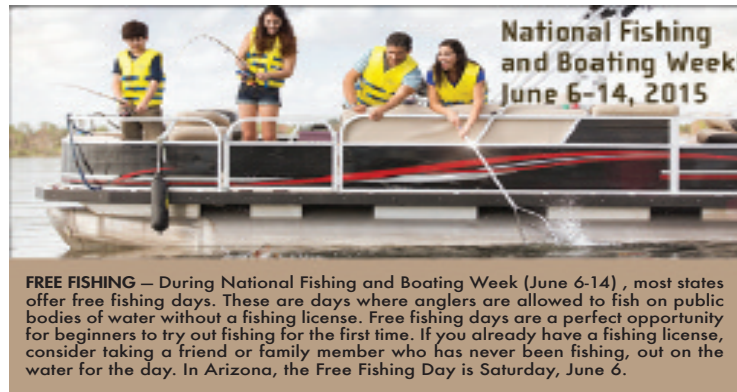
CLASSES/SEMINARS

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

COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

ANTHEM: May 25 — 2015 Anthem Memorial Day ceremony — Anthem Community Park, includes a keynote address, P.O.W and M.I.A ceremony, tribute to the 26 veterans commemorated at the memorial, musical performance by ProMusica Arizona, taps, seating is limited, lawn chairs are welcome, 10 am, <http://www.onlineatantem.com/anthem-veterans-memorial>

CONCHO VALLEY: May 25 — 10th Annual Concho Memorial Day Parade and Picnic — Highway 61, (85924), parade at 10 am, official flag raising ceremony at the park followed by a town picnic with food



FREE FISHING — During National Fishing and Boating Week (June 6-14), most states offer free fishing days. These are days where anglers are allowed to fish on public bodies of water without a fishing license. Free fishing days are a perfect opportunity for beginners to try out fishing for the first time. If you already have a fishing license, consider taking a friend or family member who has never been fishing, out on the water for the day. In Arizona, the Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 6.

and music, free, 10 am — 2 pm, 575-495-0809 or 928-587-2901 or <http://www.conchocan.org>

KINGMAN: May 25 — Memorial Day Program — Kingman Veterans Memorial, 9:30 am, <http://kvmf.org/>

FISHING

NATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING WEEK: June 6-14; **Arizona Free Fishing Day, Saturday, June 6**

FREE KAYAK-FISHING CLINIC: **May 23** — Fool Hollow Lake; see story on page 8.

HUNTING/ SHOOTING/ARCHERY

KINGMAN: June 6-7 — High Desert Events - Gun, Knife, Coin & Collectibles Show - Mohave County Fairgrounds, Kingman's largest gun and collectibles show, firearms, ammunition, knives, military items, jewelry, art, post cards, old west memorabilia and much, much more, \$7 or \$10 for a 2-day pass, Sat 9 am — 5 pm, Sun 9 am — 3:30 pm, 928-279-5406 or <http://www.HighDesertEvents.net>

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY: Sept. 26.

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

WATERSPORTS

Adapted: **BARROW'S DAY(S) ON THE LAKE:** June 11-12, Sept. 11-12 — At Bartlett Lake; see story on page 6.

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, Curarco, Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, Bonaire, Turks & Caicos Contact Saguaro Diving & Sports, 908 E. Impala Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480) 507-3988 or sales@saguaroports.com

Swimming:

TUCSON: June 5 — 20th Annual Hualoaloa Firecracker Triathlon — **750 meter pool swim**, 12 mile bike ride around the UA area, 3 mile run through UA campus, includes a Youth Triathlon with a **250 meter swim**, a 4 mile bike and a 1 mile run, 5:45 am, <http://www.tritucson.com>

SHOW LOW: May 30-31 — 12th Annual Deuces Wild Triathlon Festival - Fool Hollow Lake, includes Long Course, Olympic and XTERRA triathlon and Youth triathlon: **Olympic is swim 1500 meters**, bike 24.9 miles and run 6.2 miles; **Deuces Long Man is swim 1.2 miles**, bike 56 miles, run 13.1 miles; kids race is **swim 50 yds**, bike 1.2 mi, run .55 or **swim 200 yd**, bike 2.75 mi run 1 mi, proceeds go to charity, USAT sanctioned, <http://www.deuceswildtriathlon.com/> or <http://www.trisportsracing.com/>

WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

PRESCOTT: June 2 — Zoo by Moonlight — Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary, bring a flashlight and see the nocturnal residents, \$5, 8-9:30 pm, 928-778-4242 ext. 16 or <http://www.heritageparkzoo.org>

SIERRA VISTA: May 23, May 30 — Hummingbird Banding at San Pedro House — get a close-up look at these tiny travelers as staff and volunteers from the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory capture, band, measure, and release them as part of long-term studies of the bird life of this internationally important migration route, free, 4-6 pm, 520-417-6960 or 520-432-1388 or www.visitsierravista.com/ or www.sabo.org

PORTAL: May 21-27 — Late Migration and Breeding Birds Tour - Southwestern Research Station, Chiricahua Mountains, and Surrounding Areas, features late migrants—particularly flycatchers including Sulphur-bellied and Buff-breasted Flycatchers, May is also excellent for viewing our Sky Island specialties—Breeding Trogon, Montezuma Quail, Red-faced Warbler and others, 520-558-2396 or <http://research.amnh.org/swrs/visitor/package-tours>

BIGHORN SHEEP WORKSHOPS: June 17 deadline to apply — Workshops on July 31-Aug. 1 and Aug. 7-Aug. 8; see story on page 10.

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

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 eighth of the month prior to publication. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but we assume no responsibility for print errors or omissions. We also reserve the right to edit each item. Please include the name of the event, the date and time, the location, the organization, and contact information.





KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Update your boating safety knowledge

Who may Operate a Vessel

Arizona law states that it is illegal for a person under the age of 12 to operate a vessel with a motor greater than 8 horsepower (which includes personal watercraft) unless:

- ◆ An emergency exists or . . .
- ◆ Another person at least 18 years of age is on board

Arizona's Top 10 Boating Violations

1. Not enough life jackets (personal flotation devices) for everyone on board the vessel.
2. Fire Extinguisher – lack of, non-marine type, and/or out of service.
3. Riding on the bow, transom, or gunwales of a vessel operating above a wakeless speed.
4. Operating under the influence (OUI).
5. Excessive wake or speed.
6. No Type IV throwable PFD on board.
7. Child 12 years of age or younger not wearing a life jacket (PFD) while underway
8. Reckless operation of a personal watercraft (PWC).
9. Lights – specifically no or incorrect navigation lights.
10. Water-skiing without an observer.

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

| May 2015 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|------|----------------|
| Host | Date and Time | Location | Cost | Registration |
| U.S. Power Squadron | May 20, 27 and June 3, 10 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Arizona 333 E. Flower Street Phoenix | \$25 | (602) 525-6318 |
| U.S. Power Squadron | May 30 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Sportsman's Warehouse 19205 N. 27th Ave. Phoenix | \$25 | (623) 465-2647 |

| June 2015 | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------|----------------|
| Host | Date and Time | Location | Cost | Registration |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department | June 13 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department | June 20 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department | June 20 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd. Suite 8 Lake Havasu City | \$25 | (623) 236-7219 |
| U.S. Power Squadron | June 27 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Sportsman's Warehouse 19205 N. 27th Ave. Phoenix | \$25 | (623) 465-2647 |

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.

Non-Lateral Markers

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.

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



Renew Your Watercraft Registration Online!

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



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Boating

National Safe Boating Week Does Not End May 22 Accidents On Water Happen; Life Jackets Save Lives

Arizona's boating season is in full swing and the Arizona Game and Fish Department geared up for it with life-jacket exchange stations at four of the state's lakes on May 16.

Boaters with tattered and worn ski-vest type III life jackets exchanged them for new ones at Lake Pleasant, Saguaro Lake, and Lake Havasu.

Accidents Happen

"Accidents and incidents can happen to anyone at any time so it is absolutely critical everyone aboard a boat has a fully functional life jacket. It's also the law," said Josh Hoffman, Arizona Game and Fish Boating Safety Education Coordinator.



USCG Type I

The life jacket exchanges were done in coordination with National Safe Boating Week, which runs through May 22. This year-long campaign promotes the value of voluntary, consistent life jacket use by recreational boaters through the national theme, "Wear It!"

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in three-fourths of recreational boating fatalities in 2013 nationwide and that 84 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

"Our lakes and waterways offer some



USCG Type II

of the best scenery our state has to offer, but our boaters can only take it in if they're around to enjoy it," Hoffman said. "Simply wearing a life jacket can mean the difference between having a great time on the water with friends and family, and not going home at all."

Requirements

All vessels except sailboards and certain racing shells or rowing skulls must have at least one wearable Type I, II, III or V life jacket (PFD) that is U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved and of the proper size for each person on board. Life jackets must be readily accessi-



USCG Type IV

ble, in good and serviceable condition and sized for the intended wearer.

In addition to the above requirements, vessels 16 feet in length or longer, except a canoe or kayak, must have one Type IV USCG-approved throwable flotation device on board and readily accessible.

All children 12 years of age and younger must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III life jacket (PFD) anytime while underway on any vessel. The life jacket must be worn according to the design of the manufacturer's recommended use and must fit the child properly. All snaps must be snapped, zippers and fasteners closed.



USCG Type V

Each person on a personal watercraft such as a personal watercraft (PWC) commonly known as a Jet Ski or Wave Runner must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III PFD (life jacket) with all fasteners and closures secured according to the manufacturer's design and recommended use. Further, the life jacket must be adjusted for a snug fit.

Each person being towed behind a vessel on water skis or a similar device must wear a life jacket or buoyant belt. Note however, that buoyant belts are not approved by the USCG (USCG Approved Flotation Devices).

Comfortable PFDs

New life jackets are much more comfortable, lightweight and stylish than the bulky orange-style most boaters know. There are innovative options, such as inflatable life jackets, allowing mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing or paddling and are much cooler in the warmer weather.

For more information on boating in Arizona or to sign up for a safety course, visit www.azgfd.gov/boating. Those seeking more information on National Safe Boating Week should visit www.safeboatingcampaign.com.

Boating Education

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Boating Safety Education courses include instruction on the basic skills required to safely operate a boat or PWC, trailering your vessel, navigational rules, buoys, anchoring, legal requirements, boating emergencies, watersports and paddling.

Take a boating education course now! Most insurance companies offer a discount on your boat or PWC insurance rate for completing one of our courses.

Courses are offered in three formats, classroom courses, home study courses and online courses. Becoming a safe and knowledgeable boater is just a click away.

Home-Study Course

Free home study packet. Call the Education Branch at (623) 236-7219 or (623) 236-7258.

Boating Safety Information
Boat safe, Boat smart, Boat sober
Life Jackets - Personal Flotation Devices

Did You Know?

Arizona hunting and fishing licenses are a great value. You can get combination hunting and fishing licenses for a family of four for less than the price of one night in a motel. Great Outdoors, Great Value! www.azgfd.gov/eservices/licenses_newFees.shtml

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Boating

National Safe Boating Week Is Not Ever Over

Members of the USCG Auxiliary, Division 10, have been stressing safety, not just through May 22 but always.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 10 have been conducting a variety of events for National Safe Boating Week. This week prior to the Memorial Day weekend is to heighten awareness of safe recreational boating.



"AUX W" by Eric J. Hebert, USCGAUX10

The events began May 16 and continue through May 22, the official dates of the 2015 North American Safe Boating Campaign.

On May 16: Flotilla's of Division 10 provided — at no charge — Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at Saguro and Canyon Lakes, an informational booth with seminars about proper selection of personal flotation devices at Bass Pro Shops in Mesa, conducting safe boating classes, see www.cgaux.org for class schedule, and on water safety and education patrols at valley lakes.

The week of activities will conclude on Friday May 22 at Lake Pleasant with VSCs being conducted at both the 10-lane launch ramp and Pleasant Harbor Marina. Also, Auxiliary personnel will again be conducting safety and education patrols during the Memorial Day weekend at the various valley lakes.

Vessel Safety Checks are a free inspection of the federally required and recommended elements of a boat. The VSC inspects life jackets, registration and numbering, navigation lights, ventilation, fire extinguishers and much more. This service is to provide the boat owner information to

correct deficiencies not an enforcement activity. No citations are issued, and by completing a VSC the boat owner may be eligible for an insurance discount. Check with each individual insurance company.

The United States Coast Guard encourages everyone to wear life jackets at all times while boating. In 2013, 84 percent of boating-related drowning victims were not wearing life jackets. Children under the age of 13 are required to wear life jackets while underway.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers the following boating safety tips to help stay safe on the water:

- Stay informed – Be aware of weather conditions. Check the current and future weather forecasts before heading to the lakes, and be aware that conditions can quickly change.

- Take a boating safety class. Auxiliary class list is available at www.cgaux.org.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs and on page 3 of this issue.

- Do not boat under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

- Stay hydrated. Dehydration affects judgment, vision, and coordination similar to alcohol. Heat, sun, vibration, engine noise along with dehydration all contribute to fatigue while boating.

- File a float plan with friends, or family members before heading to the lakes. The plan should include the number of passengers aboard the vessel, destination, expected return time and description of the boat.

See **SAFE BOATING**, Page 6



Maddy Roberts

SAFETY THIS SUMMER — National Safe Boating Week (aka National Safe Boating Always) helps boaters look ahead to help plan for a safe summer on the water.

Take K.I.S.S. Principle Home For Safe Boating

Now through May 22 is National Safe Boating week, reminding anyone who spends his or her time on the water to think about ways to have a great summer and avoid any chance of becoming US Coast Guard statistic. The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water has four tips that follow the familiar K.I.S.S. principle — but with a bent for boating safety — that are nearly universal:

Keep your life jackets handy: This means readily accessible within arms reach, not still in it's plastic bag or behind compartment doors buried under junk. Better yet, wear it. You'd be surprised at how comfortable and slim today's newest inflatable life jackets are.

Instruct your passengers on where to sit and how to move about the boat safely. This applies to all boats, but the smallest ones can have biggest problems: swamping, large wakes and overloading can turn

your day into one you'd rather forget.

See that all passengers are briefed on where emergency equipment is kept and how to use it: don't forget to show how to use the VHF radio, and what everyone needs to do in case someone falls overboard (designate a spotter).

Share your float plan with someone ashore to let them know where you're headed and expected to return. The simple act of telling someone has been demonstrated to greatly reduce a rescuer's response time.

For more information on boating safety or to take a no-cost online boating-safety course, go to BoatUS.org. Also, see page 3 each issue of this publication.

About The BoatUS Foundation For Boating Safety And Clean Water

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating

See **K.I.S.S.**, Page 6



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Boating

Barrow's Day On The Lake Offers Adapted Water Sports



Photo Courtesy Of Dignity Health

BARROW'S AND BARTLETT — These partners make it possible for those who have physical challenges to safely enjoy some water sports at Bartlett Lake Marina several times each year.

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM RAISING ARIZONA KIDS MAGAZINE WWW.RAISINGARIZONAKIDS.COM

Children and adults with physical or neurological disabilities can enjoy water sports in a safe environment during Barrow's Day on the Lake at Bartlett Lake Marina in the Tonto Forest.

It's actually days on the lake. For the 19th year, Barrow Neurological Institute at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center will host a series of unique events that offer families from around the country a chance to ride the waves with adapted water skiing, jet skiing, kayaking, tubing and fishing.

To participate in the waterskiing and jet

skiing activities, individuals must be at least 8 years old and at least one year post injury. Ages 3 and up can participate in kayaking, fishing and boating. Volunteers are also welcome.

Registration is \$45 per person or \$18 for a T-shirt only. Partial scholarships are available upon request.

What You Need To Know

Times and Dates: Thur.-Fri., June 11-12; Fri.-Sat., Sept 11-12

Location: Bartlett Lake Marina at Tonto National Forest, 20808 E Bartlett Dam Rd, Rio Verde

Contact: 877-602-4111 or thebarrow.org for registration and volunteer from.



30/30 — Nathaniel Morrison has big plans. At the beginning of the year he completed the construction of an 18-foot wooden sailboat with a small electric motor. The question he was asked most frequently was where he was going to take it. Thus, the idea of taking it to 30 Arizona lakes in 30 weeks was born as was a plan to document this all in a book. Morrison says, "I'm one-third completed with both the lakes and the book. [However,] my question is, do you know if anyone has ever tried to visit 30 Arizona lakes in 30 weeks?" Stay tuned for the answer and Morrison's completed plans.

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SAFE BOATING

Continued from page 5

• Always have a working VHF-FM marine radio onboard. Cell phones may not be reliable at the lakes.

• People who participate in sporting activities that require some type of a boat such as fishing, hunting, paddle-boarding, kayaking, water-skiing, and tubing are boaters.

Due to the efforts of the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, public safety organizations and law enforcement agencies, compared to 2012, the number of recreational boating accidents decreased 10 percent, the number of deaths decreased 14 percent, and the number of injuries decreased 12.7 percent, as reported in 2013 Recreational Boating Statistics, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety published in June 2014.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by congress in 1939. For more information please visit www.cgaux.org and/or James Hoyt, public affairs officer, Flotilla 10-08, Eleventh Coast Guard Auxiliary District South: jshoyt-cga@cox.net

K.I.S.S.

Continued from page 5

Safety and Clean Water is a national leader promoting safe, clean and responsible boating. Funded primarily by donations from the over half-million members of Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), the non-profit provides innovative educational outreach directly to boaters and anglers with the aim of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of America's waterways and keeping boating safe for all.

A range of boating-safety courses — including 34 free state courses — can be found at BoatUS.org/courses.

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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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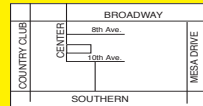


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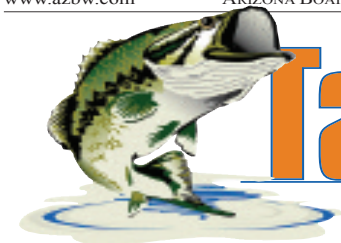
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LAKE POWELL FISH REPORT

Reports Confirm Best Fishing In A Long Time

BY WAYNE GUSTAVESON

HTTP://WWW.WAYNESWORDS.COM

Fish reports from the first part of May are rolling in and all agree that we have seen the best fishing of the year and perhaps the best seen in a very long time. All species of fish were caught along the length and breadth of the lake. Smallmouth bass were the leader by a country mile followed about equally by largemouth bass, crappie, and walleye. Strippers came in last but there were a few clues to help find them in the coming days.

Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass were actively spawning in the mid to northern lake. They are very aggressive when the first eggs are laid but then become more docile with each passing day. Weather has been blustery with scattered showers and cooler weather.

But, water temperature remains above 62 degrees so bass will continue to guard nests and be easily caught. Smallmouth techniques were evenly divided between square bill crankbaits cranked near shore and plastics fished along the bottom from shore to 25 feet deep. It seems crankbaits and spinner baits were best early and late while plastics were better mid day.

TROPHY STRIPER

Iowa Visitor Lands Big Bass

BY WAYNE GUSTAVESON

Steve Roberts from Clear Lake, Iowa, had a great first trip to Lake Powell. He did his homework by reading all the fish reports on Wayneswords.com two weeks before his arrival. When he finally arrived, he couldn't wait to get out on the lake. He launched at Wahweap and headed through the Castle Rock Cut to Warm Creek and started fishing for bass. There were a few bass that cooperated but it was challenging fishing due to the cold front that had just passed by.

Roberts then headed to the back of the Warm Creek with his fishing buddy, Dan Zanfes, from Show Low, Ariz. Near the end of the bay on the east side, the anglers cast plastic jigs to rocky rubble in 8 feet of water. Roberts chose a shad-colored Zoom Fluke on a 3/8th ounce head.

The first fish he caught was a healthy smallmouth bass that weighed about 2 pounds. That got the adrenaline flowing so he cast out to the same shallow spot again and got another bite.

Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass are randomly caught while pounding the shoreline looking for smallmouth. It seems largemouth are done spawning but they are actively chasing sunfish and crayfish in submerged tumbleweed shelters in the backs of coves. Largemouth are caught frequently but compared to smallmouth they are outnumbered 10 to 1.

Crappie

Crappie are actively spawning and have been found on nests in open water far from brush. The falling lake level with clear water makes them easy to see, but they look back and see the boat so they are not always easy to catch. Small fish imitating lures are best. Try 1/16th ounce weights on 4-6 pound test when specifically targeting crappie.

Walleye

Walleye are showing up more often now. The magic depth is 15-20 feet. The best lures are plastic tubes and grubs that move slowly along the bottom. A piece of live worm is a good enticement and draws response from crappie, bass and bluegill as well. Bluegill occupy tumbleweed piles in 10 feet of water and less. Walleye hang at the 15-foot area and move in shallow oc-

asionally to invite a bluegill to lunch.

Stripers

Stripers are still difficult to find. The problem is romance related. They are up all night and tend to go to sleep first thing in the morning. I went out early today and found stripers much easier to catch at first light than at mid day.

The vulnerable stripers are in open water where bottom depth is near 25 feet. These one- and two-year-old fish are eating plankton and can be caught with small trolled lures. Our best lure today was a ghost colored Lucky Craft Bevy Shad 75. It runs about 8 feet deep and is small enough to excite the plankton-eating fish.

The larger mature males and females are separated from the small fish. They hold in larger schools in deeper water. Big schools were found at the mouth of 50-mile Canyon in the Escalante arm and in Bullfrog Bay near Buoy 94. The 50-mile fish got away because they could be seen but not caught.

The Bullfrog fish were harvested in abundance with anchovy bait after extensive chumming and precise positioning over the stationary school.

If big striper schools are seen in deeper water, mark the spot and chum to wake them up. Once caught on bait they can be



GOOD CATCH — Shane Spravzoff, Flagstaff Ariz., caught all different kinds and sizes of fish in Lake Powell during the early part of May.

kept active with small spoons and jigs.

I caught schooled stripers today on Kastmasters and shad-shaped worms. Once active, they just need something to eat. Feed them as quickly as possible before the boat drifts away from the school.

After the blustery weeks are over, expect fishing to improve again as water warms. Fishing does not have to be as good as it was in the first part of May to be incredibly exciting.

At press time, lake elevation was 3,589.8 and water temperature was 62-70F.



TROPHY TIME — Steve Roberts from Clear Lake, Iowa, had a great first trip to Lake Powell. His trophy striper weighed in at 30.9 pounds with a girth of 24 inches.

If you catch a big fish, it can be weighed on certified scales at Wahweap of

Bullfrog. Call Wayne Gustaveson at (928) 645-2392 to start the weigh-in process.

Apply For Grants

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is now accepting applications for \$75,000 available in grant funding for local sportsmen's organizations to provide public, hands-on, mentored projects focused on the retention of new hunters or anglers.

The priority funding focus of this year's grant program is on moving beginners from the recruitment stage to the retention stage of the Adoption Sequence. Projects and events that involve the pursuit or harvest of wildlife or fish with a license are being requested. Grants will be awarded through a competitive application process and must be open to the public.

To apply, download an application packet from www.azgfd.gov/LSG or call (623) 236-7487. Completed applications can be submitted by e-mail to dburt@azgfd.gov, or mailed to Arizona Game and Fish Department, IEWR, Attn.: Local Sportsmen's Grant Administrator, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. (MST) June 22, 2015 (postmarks do not count).

ONLY FIVE — There are only five naturally occurring populations of spikedeace remaining in the world (and possibly just three). So the Arizona Game and Fish Department on Monday, May 11, helped stock native spikedeace into Spring Creek near Sedona. This was a project involving the AZGFD, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service, not to mention local landowners, who lent their support. In the Verde drainage, AZGFD has established a spikedeace population in Fossil Creek. If successful, Spring Creek would be the second. Establishing new populations to expand the range of such species will lead to recovery and Endangered Species Act's delisting of species.



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EXCERPTS FROM AZGFD FISHING REPORT

It's A Good Time Of Year For 'Flat Cats'

Tip Of The Week

Trout stocking in our mountain streams has begun and will continue every week until September. In the White Mountains region, big holdover trout have been caught at Big Lake, Luna Lake, Carnero Lake, and Becker Lake (there are special regulations at Carnero and Becker.)

The Reel Deal

The recent full moon helped trigger a heavy wave of spawn activity in the Phoenix/Tucson-area desert lakes. Although largemouth bass spawn through June, this will likely be the final such apex of spawn activity for some time. Please release bedding bass (especially those

younger, 4-5 pounders) to help keep future bass populations robust.

In many desert lakes such as Lake Pleasant, shad are spawning. Anglers can grab a four-foot throw net and snatch shad that tend to race along the shoreline. One accurate netting can scoop up enough bait for the day.

Remember The Record Bartlett Flat?

This is also one of the best times of the year to fish for flathead catfish (they tend not to move as much at night during the full moon, however.) About this time two years ago, "Flathead" Ed Wilcoxson caught a state-record flathead at Bartlett

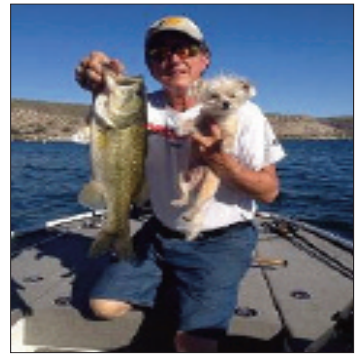
Lake. In doing so, he allowed AZGFD to get on his boat and grab video of some of his secrets. Have fun!

If you plan on fishing the lower Colorado River or the East Fork of the Black River, you just might catch a tagged trout. If you choose to keep a trout, please return the tags to AZGFD.

Thank You, Anglers!

Arizona fishing opportunities wouldn't be possible without the Sport Fish Restoration Program. It was created through the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 (Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act) and the Wallop-Breaux amendments of 1984.

Through a federal excise tax paid by



manufacturers on fishing gear and motorboat fuels, it provides grant funds for fishery conservation, boating access, and aquatic education.



Free Kayak-Fishing Clinic To Be Held At Fool Hollow Lake

Learn how to paddle and cast May 23 at Fool Hollow Lake in Show Low with a 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. kayak fishing clinic. The clinic is free. Reserve a spot with a refundable registration deposit of \$20.

Class size is limited, so register by calling the AZGFD Pinetop office at (928) 532-3680.

Why learn to kayak fish? Kayak anglers are a growing community of outdoors enthusiasts who enjoy the exercise, quiet, and ability to stealthily paddle into fishing areas that boats cannot reach. Catch fish, stay in shape and enjoy nature in its purest form.

The clinic will consist of kayak instruction so anglers can learn what to bring and how to pack. It's a hands-on clinic, so participants will spend time on the lake with experienced instructors.

At the end of the clinic, it will be time to go catch fish. Kayaks, life jackets and fishing equipment will be provided (although registrants can bring their own.)

Participants must be at least 10 years of age.

Expansion Waters Stocked With Catfish

You can create family memories in your own community, close to home.

Eleven waters that are part of the Department's program expansion, as well as Tempe Town Lake, have recently received catfish. Those waters included Pacana Pond (Maricopa), Discovery, and McQueen Ponds (Gilbert), Roadrunner Pond (Phoenix), Eldorado Pond (Scottsdale), Bonsall Pond (Glendale), Friendship Park Pond (Avondale); Fortuna, Yuma West Wetlands, Redondo (Yuma), Council Ave



Pond (Somerton), and Tempe Town Lake.

Did You Know?

The Department purchases almost all the fish for the Community Fishing Program. A portion of our winter trout stockings are provided from the Department's state fish hatcheries to stock Yuma-area waters and Tempe Town Lake. We conduct about 550 individual stockings per year, and current per-year purchases include approximately —

- 60,000 pounds of trout
- 195,000 pounds of catfish

See **CATFISH**, Page 18

Hatcheries Make Memories, Conserve, Boost Economy



Fish Hatchery Near Page Springs, Ariz.

BY CHRIS CANTRELL
AZGFD CHIEF OF FISHERIES

Fish hatchery workers across the nation are preparing for their busiest time of the year. During the next two months, Arizona Game and Fish Department employees and volunteers will stock more than 500,000 catchable "farm fresh" trout, providing the public an opportunity to engage in conservation — some for the very first time.

State-run aquaculture not only enables families to etch lifelong fishing memories, but also it is a leading driver for conservation of America's ecosystems.

The Goal

Unfortunately, misconceptions run rampant regarding hatcheries and hatchery-stocked fish, including high pollution levels and a devastating loss of marine species used in pellet feed to feed stocked fish. (Fact: Species used in trout pellets are herring, anchovies and menhaden. Of the

See **HATCHERIE**, Page 14



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John Greenwell Coaches John Anderson: Sporting Clays

AT THE BEN AVERY RANGE

Shoot For Mastery, Safety, Fun, Fellowship

BY JOHN ANDERSON

Maybe you're not old enough to remember Ben Avery. I grew up reading his outdoor stories in the *Arizona Republic*.

Ben loved the outdoors and was a heck of a writer. He started writing in 1928 and continued for over 60 years. He received the highest honor that the Department of the Interior ever gives to a non-employee: The Conservation Service Award was bestowed on him in 1968 by then Interior Secretary Stewart Udall. Ben Avery was the epitome of an outdoor writer, and the Game and Fish Department chose well when they named the popular shooting range after him.

At the Ben Avery Range you can shoot sporting clays, skeet, trap, archery, small bore rifles, pistols, long range — pretty much anything you can think of. You can also learn to shoot at Ben Avery — there are rentals as well as classes.

For beginners, they offer Annie Oakley and Ben Avery Sure Shots programs. The classes are totally free and open to anyone 16 years old and older. You don't even have to bring your own gun or ammo for these classes. Register online because class sizes are limited. Classes are held evenings on the first and third Thursdays of each month. You can email Jennifer Tipton at jtpton@azgfd.gov to register.

What To Expect At The Range

When we visit the range, most often it's for sporting clays or to target shoot with rifles or pistols. On the rifle/pistol range there are volunteer Safety Officers who make sure everyone stays safe.

Here's what to expect: First, make sure your guns are cased so that the trigger can't be manipulated. No gun socks. Eye and hearing protection is required. You pay for a lane inside the building and if you don't have cases, you can get some pretty inexpensively there. They are only around \$20.

You can also buy targets and rent a vise if you need to sight in. Once you've paid, head over to the booth in the center of the line. After you show the Range Master your receipt, you'll be assigned a table.

The shooting tables are concrete, with two wooden stools at each table. There are nets stretched on frames between the tables so your hot brass doesn't fly over and smack the guy/gal next to you. Always keep your muzzles pointed down range, even when uncasing your guns.

Pay Attention

The Safety Officers will let you know when you can go downrange to set up targets, when you can be at the table handling the guns, etc. Just pay attention to everything they say. If it's your first time, let them know. They'll give you special attention and explain how things work so you'll feel at ease.

The range supplies wooden frames with cardboard on them that you can tape your targets to. They are clearly marked so you don't tape your targets to the wrong side. They want the frame showing on the front

so you don't accidentally shoot it. The target frames are inside a low, walled area behind the tables. When you first get there, grab one and tape your targets on. Masking tape is provided on rolls like you use for tape on your desk.

Inspection Time

Once the shooting period is over and the line is clear, the Range Master will announce that you can go down range to inspect, remove, or replace your targets. Head straight out from your table. You'll find concrete sockets in the ground at clearly marked intervals. Between the sockets on the concrete they have painted the table number so you're sure you're putting your targets in the right place.

The target frames fit into the sockets. You can place them at wide variety of yardages from 5 -200. If you want the 200, make sure you tell them at the booth. Not all the tables are on 200-yard lines.

Once you shoot a bit and need to replace the targets, I find it easiest to pull off a couple feet of tape and stick it to my shirt before going downrange. Then I just pull small pieces off once I'm out there at the target frame.

Know Before You Go

Make sure you know how to operate your weapon before going to the public range. The Range Safety Officers will walk up and down the line checking to see that everything is safe. When cease fire is called, your guns must be open and empty, with magazines removed and muzzles pointed downrange. If you're not sure how to make your gun stay open, ask the Safety Officer when you first get there.

The range tables are all shaded, and in June they are making improvements. The Range Safety Officer told us they were going to insulate the metal awning to make it cooler. Awesome!

As you walk toward your table under the awning, the range will be on one side and a long narrow wooden table will be on the other. You can set your range bag, water, etc., on that long table, but never uncasing or case a gun there. Guns are to be handled only on the shooting table, and only when the Range Master gives the okay to be at the tables. During cease fire, you are not allowed to be at the table except to pass by it on your way to or from the targets.

Volunteer Safety Officers

I have met a lot of really nice people at the range. A couple of months ago a guy from Izor Arms (www.izorarmory.com) was at the table next to us, and he let me shoot his fully automatic AR. What a treat that was! He was so cool and knowledgeable that I got his card and took my Ruger to him to have a new Timney Trigger dropped in. He had it back to me the same day!

The Volunteer Safety Officers are the key to what makes the range a great place.

See **BEN AVERY**, Page 18



THERE'S STILL TIME — Will you be fishing the San Diego waters before June 8? San Diego's International Yellowtail Derby is a World Class fishing tournament reminiscent of San Diego's famous Yellowtail Derby of the '50s and '60s. The Derby is for 35 days, but anglers can fish for only one day or all the remaining days through June 7. All participants have a chance to win the big prizes because the biggest fish wins! The Derby is open to both private boaters and individual anglers who will fish aboard the famous San Diego Open Party Fleet. Miss Yellowtail Derby and the chair John Campbell hope to see you there. For more information, <http://www.yellowtailderby.com/> or johncinsd@gmail.com.



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Western Wildlife



Bighorn Sheep Workshops Provide Unique Wildlife-Viewing Opportunity

June 17 is the deadline to apply for random draw.

**FROM ZEN MOCARSKI
INFORMATION & EDUCATION
PROGRAM MANAGER
AZGFD, KINGMAN REGIONAL OFFICE**

An unforgiving environment, the Black Mountains northwest of Kingman feature extreme summer temperatures, steep rock faces, and hold little forage.

While few may consider the setting an ideal destination, it's home to the majestic desert bighorn sheep and provides a unique wildlife viewing opportunity for the public, hosted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department's regional office in Kingman.

Two Days Scheduled

The department has scheduled a pair of two-day Desert Bighorn Sheep Natural History Workshops for July 31-Aug. 1 and Aug. 7-8.

The first day of each workshop is mandatory classroom education from 6 to 8 p.m. at the regional office in Kingman. On the second day, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., participants will be treated to a boat trip on the Colorado River from Willow Beach to Hoover Dam, where they can watch sheep come down to drink.

The deadline to apply for the workshops is noon June 17. The workshops are free and open to anyone 14 and older. Space is limited to 49 people per workshop, however, and preference will be given to those who have not attended in the past.

Participants are selected through a random draw process that will take place immediately after the draw deadline. All applicants are notified via mail or e-mail following the deadline. Those not drawn will have their names placed on a reserve list in the event of cancellations.

A Great Opportunity

"This is not a pleasure cruise, but it is a great opportunity for people to connect



Desert Big Horn Sheep

with nature," Mocarski said. "Education is critical in understanding wildlife and the actions taken by Game and Fish and other agencies to ensure they continue to thrive."

Mocarski said the workshops are made available through the Heritage Fund, a voter-passed initiative that provides funding to the department for wildlife conservation and education through Arizona Lottery dollars.

The workshop includes an optional 45-minute tour of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery prior to the boat trip. The tour begins at 9 a.m.

To Apply

An application can be downloaded at www.azgfd.gov/bighornworkshop. Print the form and follow the instructions. For those without Internet, or needing additional information, contact Mocarski at (928) 692-7700, ext. 2301, or e-mail zmocarski@azgfd.gov. Registration can be completed by mail, by e-mailing Mocarski, or by dropping off only at the Kingman regional office at 5325 N. Stockton Hill Road, Kingman, Ariz., 86409.

While the workshops are free, a refundable deposit of \$20 (per person) is due by July 3 to help minimize the number of no-shows. Checks should be made payable to "Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation" and will be returned once participants attend a workshop. Checks also will be returned for cancellations made at least 48 hours prior to the date of each workshop. Please do not send cash.



Viewing Opportunity

Donations, which are not mandatory to participate, will be accepted at the workshop to help offset increasing costs for boat rentals and fuel.

Participants are encouraged to bring a camera, water, snacks, a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. No tripods are allowed on the boats, but small coolers are OK.

The Best Time

"If you want to see bighorn sheep in the Black Mountains, the best time to do so is during the heat of summer," said Zen Mocarski, information and education program manager. "During the winter, sheep don't need to visit water often, but during the hot summer months, they visit water about every other day."

"It is going to be hot, but that's when bighorns come down for a drink," Mocarski said. "There is limited shade on the boats, but the temperatures will be in the triple digits."

Did You Know?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives NO Arizona general fund tax dollars? We hold the state's wildlife in trust for the public without a dime from Arizona taxpayers. www.azgfd.gov/inside_azgfd/funds.shtml



eral grooming duties.

As of now, we do not have a groomer's table, I am hoping that we can get one donated to us but in the meantime, feel free to bring your own to use while you are here.

Thank You!

Thank you for everything you do to help our homeless pets. LOH volunteers are the best! For more information, call (602) 445-7387 (PETS)

AZGFD Announces Launch Of Customer Portal And Web Site

"I Support Wildlife™" program gives public the opportunity to contribute to wildlife conservation.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has announced the official launch of its new Customer Portal and redesigned Web site. The portal allows customers to create a secure account where they can manage and view their contact information, as well as their license and draw results information and bonus points, in their personal "My AZ Outdoors" section.

Mobile Friendly

"Best of all, it's mobile friendly, which means you can view all of this on your smart phone," said Information Systems Chief Doug Cummings. "The portal also serves as a "one stop shop" to gain access to the online license purchase and draw application systems.

"It's easy to create an account," said Cummings. "Just click on the 'Sign in to Account' button in the upper right-hand corner of the www.azgfd.gov home page and then select the 'Create Account' option, filling in the requested information."

'I Support Wildlife'

One of the new features accompanying the portal is the 'I Support Wildlife™' program, which gives the public a chance to show their support for wildlife conservation.

The annual cost for membership in the program is only \$25 and includes the following:

- A one-year subscription to Arizona Wildlife Views, the agency's award-winning, bi-monthly magazine loaded with spectacular photos and compelling stories about wildlife and outdoor recreation;
- Mobile-friendly, customizable GIS maps of Arizona's wildlife management units, to help you explore wild Arizona;
- Up-to-date (real-time) fish stocking reports; and
- An "I Support Wildlife™" window decal, to show you care about conservation of our wildlife resources.

"We're really excited about the 'I Support Wildlife™' program," said Recreation Chief Scott Lavin. "It gives wildlife and outdoor recreation enthusiasts of all types the chance to pitch in and contribute to wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities."

800 Wildlife Species

Lavin pointed out that Arizona is home to more than 800 wildlife species, and it is the Arizona Game and Fish Department's job to conserve and protect all those species. But while conservation challenges continue to increase, the department receives no Arizona tax dollars to support its mission.

"The sale of hunting and fishing licenses is a primary source of the department's funding, but these funds aren't keeping pace with the increasing costs of wildlife management," said Lavin. "The 'I Support Wildlife™' program gives everyone, from wildlife watchers to hunters and anglers, the chance to help ensure there will be wildlife for future generations to enjoy."

Web Site Revamped

As another aspect of the portal project, the Arizona Game and Fish Department

GOOD COMPANY

Lost Our Home Needs Volunteers

**FROM SUSAN EKBACK
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
LOST OUR HOME PET RESCUE**

Lost Our Home (LOH) is seeking volunteers to deliver pet food to home-bound families in need. If you are available to deliver to any of these, locations please let me know and I will give further details: 7th Ave and Indian School Rd., Higley/Broadway, Apache Blvd & S. Rivers (Rodeway Inn), and Cave Creek and Sweetwater.

Needed At Sojourner

There are lots of new things happening at Lost Our Home, and you are welcome to participate. We are partnering with Sojourner Center (one of the largest domestic-violence shelters in the United States) and opening a shelter at their location.

Most domestic violence shelters around the Valley do not allow residents to keep their pets onsite while they live there, but

the great folks at Sojourners want to keep families together by providing a shelter onsite for their furry loved ones.

We will start looking for volunteers to care for their pets just as we do here at LOH; details on volunteering at Sojourners are coming soon.

If you are silver trained (ask Ekback about this level) and want to try something a little different but a whole lot of fun, we are starting a new treadmill training for dogs. One of our gracious and generous volunteers-Gina Page-has donated a treadmill to use for walking our dogs during the summer time when the dirt and pavement are too hot for little doggie feet.

If you are interested in training on the treadmill, just let me know and I will be more than happy to sign you up.

Also Needed: Groomers

We are in need of groomers. If you have experience in grooming, we could use your skills in trimming nails, bathing, brushing (everyone is shedding), and gen-



RV Land Cruising



Arizona Trails 2015 Plan Finalized, Available for Download

Every five years, the staff at Arizona State Parks prepares an information-filled report concerning plans for Arizona's motorized and non-motorized trails and their users. "This plan includes recommendations and action strategies to protect and enhance trails throughout the state including those in local city, county and state parks, as well as those on National Forest, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management lands," said Sue Black, executive director.

According to the data, the most common non-motorized pursuits are trail hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and horseback riding. The most common motorized pursuits are quad or all-terrain ve-



hicle driving, four-wheel driving and motorized trail biking/dirt biking.

Some of the top trail issues identified for motorized and non-motorized users



were litter and trash dumping, closure of trails and keeping trails in good condition. The recommendations listed in the plan are being used to develop grant-rating cri-

teria and distribute monies from the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund and the Federal Recreational Trails Program through Arizona State Parks.

The plan was based on a year-long Arizona public involvement effort. Data was obtained from over 6,500 surveys. Responses to the surveys provided a variety of information, including which types of motorized or non-motorized trails are used, how often trails are used, important issues impacting use of motorized and non-motorized trails, user preferences and how land managers should improve trail experiences.

See **TRAILS**, Page 14



Summer In Sedona

Visitors And Residents Alike Can Enjoy Sedona

This destination offers water adventures, unique railroad experience, local town events and more.

Preparing a summer vacation should be as easy and relaxing as the heavenly skies and vast wilderness of Sedona, Ariz. The city, surrounded by 1.8 million acres of national forest land and buttressed by four wilderness areas and two state parks, is a landscape built for adventure and offers numerous options for summer explorations.

Angular formations, high mesas and rocky cliffs define the multi-terraced skyline. Forests are carved by a network of trails and surrounded by feisty streams, all beneath a clear azure sky. Sedona's mild climate makes the destination a perfect four-season playground. With temperatures that hit highs in the 90s and lows in the 50s during the summer, it's the ideal location to spend summer vacation.

There's No Limit

Exploring the outdoors doesn't have to be limited to the wondrous state parks or the jaw-dropping hiking trails, but rather, the city encourages guests to trek to parts unknown.

For those who prefer hideaway cliff jumping, Sedona is the perfect destination. Nestled in the base of Oak Creek Canyon is a large cliff-side swimming hole known as Grasshopper Point. This day-use site is popular with swimmers and picnickers alike. The swimming hole is shaded and cool, a good respite from the summer heat, with other activities such as hiking, fishing, wildlife watching and more.

For a summer vacation inspired by Sedona locals, the city suggests destinations

See **SEDONA**, Page 14

Slide Rock, Red Rock State Parks Provide Unforgettable Family Vacation Memories



Red Rock State Park



Slide Rock State Park

Travel to Slide Rock and Red Rock State Parks in Sedona to create unforgettable family vacation memories. Both parks were selected in a recent travel poll by FamilyFun magazine readers as Top 10 State Parks in the country and were featured in the magazine's April issue.

"The winners in each category represent places where families have formed lasting memories, and offer adventures for all types of interests, for animal lovers to history and science buffs," said Ann Hallock, editor-in-chief.

"We are elated these parks have been nationally recognized. If you haven't been there, you need to see it, and if you have come back! Remember these are your State Parks," said Sue Black, Arizona State Parks executive director.

Slide Rock State Park is named after the famous stretch of natural rock slides. Visitors plunge down into the creek and water chutes or wade and sun along the creek.

Red Rock State Park is a 286-acre nature preserve and environmental education center with stunning scenery. Throughout the park, there are trails that wind through the famous red rock formations, manzanita and juniper to reach the lush banks of Oak Creek.

For more information about Slide Rock State Park, call (928) 282-3034 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/SLRO. For more information about Red Rock State Park, call (928) 282-6907 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/RERO.



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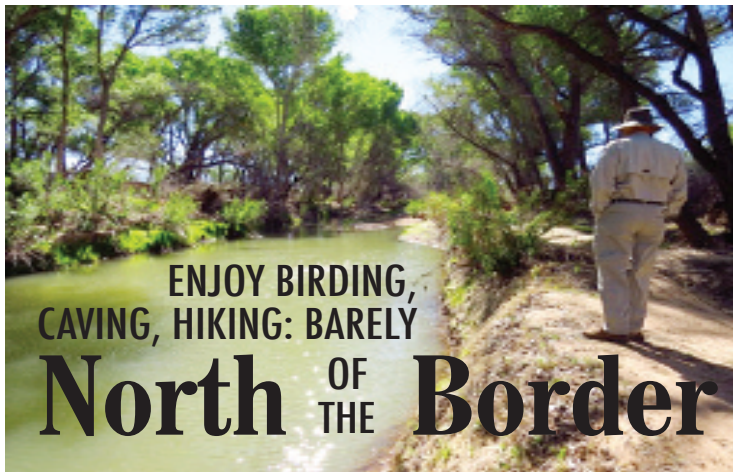
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Vermilion Fly Catcher At San Pedro River



San Pedro River



San Pedro River: Perhaps Says 'Phoebe'

STORY AND PHOTOS | BY MARGIE ANDERSON

The area around Sierra Vista Arizona is diverse: everything from pine forests to desert and riparian areas. It makes for a great little vacation, and there is plenty to do down there.

Last month I told you about a couple of things to do on the way down there from Phoenix or Tucson, plus Ramsey Canyon which is just south of Sierra Vista. After hiking Ramsey Canyon, you may be in the mood for a drive and perhaps another little uphill hike along the way.

Coronado National Memorial

The perfect place for that is the Coronado National Memorial. This is a National Park, but there are no entry fees or permits required. The southern end of the Arizona Trail starts in this park, and there is an information center that is open from 8-4 every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Across from the visitor center is a very nice picnic area that is open year round. There are 8 miles of trails in the park, and all but two are rated difficult because the terrain is mountainous. It is a very beautiful place and well worth a visit.



Try On Conquistador Armor At Visitor Center



Margie Anderson Under Huge Tree, San Pedro River Visitor Center

Montezuma Pass

We stopped at the visitor center and learned a bit about the area, then we decided to take the drive up to Montezuma Pass, which is three miles west of the visitor center. The road is mostly unpaved and it is full of twists and turns, so vehicles under 24 feet are recommended. The Pass is worth going to just for the view – you can see the San Raphael valley to the west, the San Pedro Valley to the East, and Mexico to the south, including the big fence. It's pretty cool.



Coronado Trail: All Uphill

Parker Canyon Lake

If you're up for an adventure, you can continue on the dirt road past Montezuma Pass and in fifteen miles you'll be at beautiful Parker Canyon Lake. It's a long fifteen miles, though – it's all dirt road. We

have a Rav4 but we saw regular passenger cars on the road. However, during monsoon season or the snowy part of winter I'd want a four-wheel drive on any Arizona

See SIERRA VISTA, Page 13



Coronado Cave

I forgot to mention that between the Memorial's Visitor Center and the Pass there is a trail to Coronado Cave, a natural limestone cave that is open to the public. We actually passed by it the first day and drove through to Parker Canyon, but we came back the next day just to go to the cave.

The trailhead is clearly marked and you can't miss it. The trail itself is rated moderate – it's not long, but boy is it all uphill. The trailhead sign says it's a little over half a mile, but it feels much longer. It's a very well constructed trail with lots of stone steps and there are plenty of trees to stop under so you can catch your breath in the shade.

The cave entrance is uneven and you'll need to scramble down about 25 feet of fairly steep rocks before you reach the floor of the cave. It's about 600 feet long and 20 feet high, and of course, pitch black. Don't go unless you have two light sources per person, and bring plenty of water because that is one thirsty trail.

We saw lots of young people and kids, and one of the guys we met on the trail going back told us that he had heard there were a couple more caves past the Coronado Cave, one of them with a pool inside.

But, we were already on our way back and there was no way I was turning around for another uphill climb that warm day, so if you decide to check it out, be sure to let us know, okay?

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RV/Land Cruising

SIERRA VISTA

Continued from page 12

dirt road.

Parker Canyon Lake is really lovely and there is a store there as well as boat rentals. Bring your rod and reel and try for some bass or just do a bit of sight-seeing then head back to Sierra Vista via Sonoita.

Wine Country

This area is wine country and there are several great wineries. If wine is your thing, go to this Web site and you can print out a map of the Sonoita/Elgin Wine Trail: <https://www.arizonawine.org/sonoitaWineTrail.html>.

Las Cienegas

After we visited Parker Canyon Lake, we took highway 82 back toward Sierra Vista and made one more stop at the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. This is more than 45,000 acres of ranch land that was once in danger of being overtaken by housing and other construction, but is now set aside and protected.



Birds Enjoy Feeder At Visitor Center

Southern Arizona is full of world-class birding areas, including Ramsey Canyon, Madera Canyon, and the San Pedro Riparian Area. There are several places to access the San Pedro, and we went to every one of them. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area is another area set aside to be protected, and thank goodness for that! It is an amazing place, and the Conservation Area is nearly 40 miles long.

The river actually flows north, which is unusual. When we were there, it was divided into several shallow and slow-moving channels, but there is plenty of evidence that the sleepy little river we enjoyed that day can become a raging torrent that tears trees out and moves boulders.

A Great Birding Place

I recommend going to the San Pedro on highway 90, because that's where the visitor center is, and also where we saw the most birds. At the visitor center, which is an old house, you can get birding gear, books, lists, a map of the trails, etc.

They also have a variety of feeders and plenty of places to sit in the shade so you can photograph the birds that are drawn to the feeders. This is also home to an enormous tree – the Great Tree of Arizona, 2003, commemorated with a plaque. It's amazingly huge.



Trail On Outer Band Of San Pedro River

The river itself is just a short hike away from the visitor center. Be sure to get a map of the trails, because it can be quite a maze, and the little trail map is free. There are trails up on the outer bank of the river, and we saw a lot of the birds there. The scrub trees were mostly bare, and the birds were easy to find.

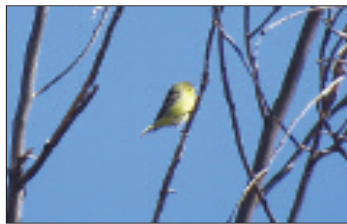
Down in the actual bed of the river the trees are huge, leafy, and green. It's much harder to see the birds down there, but you can hear them everywhere and it's so cool and beautiful you feel as if you'd just like to stay there forever. You can actually get

a pretty good hike without actually going very far from the center because the trails twist and double back all over the place.

It's really quite beautiful and there are several benches strategically placed for birders as well. We also saw a few fishermen on the banks. This is far and away the best birding spot we found on our little tour of the Sierra Vista area – even better than Ramsey Canyon.

Next Time

Next time I'll tell you about some of the other places you can access the river. Plus, of course, no trip down that way would be complete without seeing Tombstone and Bisbee — all that next time!



Another Bird At San Pedro River

It is gorgeous, and home to sky islands, riparian areas, and woodlands in addition to the rolling grasslands you see from the highway. We are definitely coming back to explore this area further.

San Pedro Conservation Area

I'm a bit of a birder, but nowhere near as good as most of the other people I see in the various birding areas we go to.

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RV/Land Cruising

Fees To Increase at Grand Canyon National Park

Effective June 1, Grand Canyon National Park will increase park entrance fees and the cost of overnight backcountry permits. The current park entrance fees have been in place since 2006. Grand Canyon began charging for overnight backcountry permits in 1997 and last modified backcountry fees in 2000.

Single Vehicle, Motorcycle, Annual Pass, Other

The single vehicle entrance fee will change from \$25 to \$30 for a seven day pass. The motorcycle entrance fee will increase to \$25 for a seven day pass. The current rate of \$12 per person entering the park via Grand Canyon Railway, the park shuttle bus, private rafting trip, by walking or riding a bicycle will increase to \$15. Grand Canyon National Park's annual pass will increase from \$50 to \$60. This increase does not affect commercial entrance fees.

Entrance Fees Waived, Not Affected

Entrance fees are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Annual, Senior,

Access, or Military Passes. These passes may be obtained at the park. The interagency passes, honored at all federally managed land units, are not affected by the entrance fee increase and will remain at \$80 for the Interagency Annual Pass, \$10 for the Senior Pass, and free for the Access or Military passes.

Overnight Backcountry Permits

The cost recovery charge for overnight backcountry permits will increase June 1, for permits issued starting on or after October 1, 2015. The new charge will be \$10 per backcountry permit (same as present), plus a nightly charge of \$8 per person or stock animal camping below the rim and each group camping above the rim in designated backcountry camping areas.

This increase does not affect camping fees at Mather, Desert View, or the North Rim campgrounds.

All backcountry permit revenue pays actual costs for running and staffing Grand Canyon's permit offices and Backcountry Information Centers. This adjustment and decisions to trim costs for the backcountry operation are designed to eliminate a fund-



Tuoyo/Wikimedia Commons

ing deficit and ensure the operation will recover the actual costs incurred.

Frequent Hiker Program Ends

Additionally, Grand Canyon National Park will end its Frequent Hiker Membership program effective June 1. As part of terminating this program, all existing members who have not already experienced \$25 in savings through their memberships will be provided with hiker credit for the difference (up to \$25). For questions about the backcountry fee increase and termination of the Frequent Hiker Membership, contact Steve Sullivan at (928) 638-7415.

Desert View Watchtower Hosts Second Annual Cultural Demonstration Series

Grand Canyon National Park has been hosting its second annual Desert View Cultural Demonstration Series since early April.

This series provides park visitors the opportunity to interact with members of Grand Canyon National Park's 11 traditionally associated tribes and for the artisans to share their history and traditional crafts. Demonstrations will occur regularly during the spring and summer at the Desert View Watchtower. Join jewelers, silversmiths, weavers, potters, and more as they share their culture, crafts, and stories.

The first demonstrators were Tony and Ola Eriacho. From the Pueblo of Zuni, the Eriachos are jewelers and strong advocates of Native-made art and "mostly use the



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Navajo Blossom Necklace With Naja Pendant

traditional materials the Zuni are known for — shell, turquoise, coral, and jet."

Next, Navajo silversmith Henry Nez demonstrated techniques and designs he uses to make wearable items like earrings and bracelets. Future demonstrations are scheduled for June 6-7, 13-14, 17-18; July 25-26; Aug. 1-2 and Sept. 5-6.

In its second year, the Cultural Demonstration Series is intended to help park vis-



www.nativeindianmade.com
Zuni Multi-Stone Bracelet

itors learn more about the history and diverse cultures of the region. For additional information about the Desert View Cultural Demonstration Series, please contact Maci MacPherson at (928) 638-7968.

Desert View is located on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park approximately 45 minutes east of Grand Canyon Village. For additional information about visiting Grand Canyon or for more information about the Desert View Cultural Demonstration Series visit www.nps.gov/grca.

PORTAL

Continued from page 10

Web site has been revamped with a new, attractive design with simpler navigation from the home page. "The portal and website will continue to evolve over time," said Cummings. "We are continuing to work on expanding features and increasing functionality to keep improving our customers' online experience."

To visit the new portal/website, visit www.azgfd.gov.

TRAILS

Continued from page 11

The plan offers a variety of information that trail users, land managers and trail-advocacy organizations can implement in order to protect and improve Arizona's thousands of miles of motorized and non-motorized trails.

The final Arizona State Parks Board approved trails plan is now available for download at AZStateParks.com/trails. For more information, call (602) 542-4174 or

visit AZStateParks.com/trails.

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, trails, the Off-Highway Vehicle Program, available grants, and the State Historic Preservation Office call (602) 542-4174 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.

HATCHERIES

Continued from page 8

total harvest of those species in 2013, a fraction-of-1 percent were used for trout pellets.)

True, stockings of nonnative fish throughout North America, for more than a century, have caused numerous declines in native aquatic species. These data have led to change, and Arizona's trout-stocking program has implemented a triploid trout program in which the trout stocked are non-reproductive. This reduces the risk of hybridization among native trout and eliminates the ability of nonnative trout stocked to reproduce.

Our goal is that 75-80 percent of the stocked trout are harvested by anglers within two weeks of a stocking event. This also reduces the competition among native species we are working to conserve and recover.

Conservation Purposes

Hatcheries across the 50 states have also evolved to produce native species for

conservation purposes. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, for example, propagates nine native fish species for conservation purposes. These stockings have led to multiple cases of reducing the need for further Endangered Species Act regulations and cases where hatcheries are the only reason some species are still found in the wild.

To date, more than one million razorback suckers (*xyrauchen texanus*) have been stocked in the lower Colorado River by state and federal hatcheries, ensuring the continued existence of these fish in their native waters.

Strict Standards

Hatchery workers take pride in their facilities and the product they produce. Since the mid-'70s, United States hatcheries have been regulated under strict discharge standards. Prior to discharge from the hatcheries, the water used for hatchery production is directed through settling basins to remove uneaten food and fish excrement.

These basins are periodically cleaned and accumulated material is responsibly removed. Dead fish are disposed of daily, preventing decay in raceways and settling basins.

After treatment, the Arizona hatcheries' amount of discharge of total nitrogen and phosphorus into the earth is the equivalent of four drops into a 55-gallon bucket of water. (Technically, hatcheries discharge a fraction of one-part-per-million of total nitrogen, and approximately one-tenth of one-part-per-million of total phosphorus.)

North American Model

In Arizona, more than 360,000 anglers fish for more than 6 million angler days. The contribution from angling in Arizona is worth more than 1.5 billion dollars to the nation's annual economy.

Arizona anglers are provided better fishing opportunities every year due to fish hatchery stocking programs, which are fundamentally linked to the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation.

The North American Model for Wildlife Conservation is a time-honored

SEDONA

Continued from page 11

that vary from kayak excursions to vineyard hopping and everything in between.

4th Of July Concert And Laser Show

On Saturday, July 4, residents and visitors can delight in Sedona's local 4th of July Celebration. Held at the Sedona Performing Arts Center and nearby baseball fields, the event offers an all-day experience for those looking for festivities during the day before they enjoy their favorite fireworks shows at night. A patriotic-themed laser light show will take place at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m., with delicious food, fun water games and toys meant to help beat the heat.

Verde Adventures

Contrary to popular belief, there is water in the desert. Verde Adventures hosts its unforgettable outdoor fun and family-friendly adventure in the breathtaking scenery of Sedona and the Verde River Valley. The organization offers a guided river trip that begins in Clarkdale, a city just outside Sedona, Ariz., and ends at the base of the Tuzigoot National Monument, the 1,000-year-old ancient pueblo site.

The trip will take you along the Verde River in a "Ducky Kayak," an inflatable kayak that is comfortable, stable and easy to paddle. Whether along the Verde River in a kayak or by tube, there's plenty of water fun in Sedona to explore this summer.

11th Annual National Day Of The Cowboy Celebration

Join the city's annual celebration on Saturday, July 25 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. This free event is an exciting celebration of local cultural heritage, presented by the Sedona Main Street Program and Red Rock Posse. Despite its modern offerings, the desert oasis has a very rich cowboy heritage. Cattle drives back and forth to Munds Mountain began in the 1890s as early cowboy legends such as Ira Smith and Earl Van Deren made their trek through Northern Arizona.

Verde Canyon Railroad

The Verde Canyon Railroad is a stress-free wilderness adventure featuring an abundance of native flora and fauna, rugged high-desert rock faces and remarkable views. The exclusive views of the canyon and Sedona's landscape are only accessible by rail, so it's no wonder residents and visitors alike flock its one-of-a-kind events and local journeys.

This summer, the railroad will host its annual Grape Train Escape, a rolling wine-tasting adventure where select wineries and wine regions are highlighted.

To learn about these summer adventures and more, go to visitsedona.com, view our Press Kit or call (800) 288-7336.

system that recognizes fish and wildlife as a natural resource held in a public trust by the state agencies that manage them. It is the most successful conservation program in the world.

The program is a user-pay, public-benefit model where hunters and anglers are paying for the preservation of the landscapes and the fish and wildlife we so dearly love.

For Future Generations

Instead of blaming environmental impacts on fish and wildlife conservation agencies, their hatcheries, and the hunters and anglers that enjoy the resource, we should all thank them for their conservation efforts.

If you enjoy the outdoors and the memories made with fish and wildlife, consider providing funding for the outdoor recreation and conservation. In most cases this is as simple as purchasing a fishing and/or hunting license.

It's the best way we can ensure future generations can enjoy fish, wildlife, and the outdoors.



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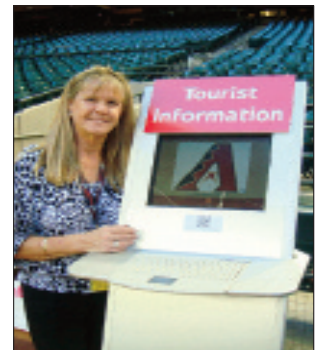
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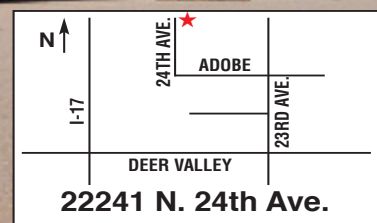
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CATFISH

Continued from page 8

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BEN AVERY

Continued from page 9

If you'd like to be a Range Safety Officer, they offer training. You get free range time when you're a volunteer! You can email Dale Sagebiel at wsagebiel@azgfd.gov to find out more. There are three more training sessions listed this year: Saturday, July 11, 1-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1-5 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 10, 1-5 p.m.

Other Classes And Clinics

They even offer Air Rifle clinics at Ben Avery. An air rifle is a great way to get your kids interested in shooting. Start them early and maybe someday they'll get an Olympic gold medal!

The air rifle clinics are held inside in the AC, so even in summer, you'll be comfortable. They are absolutely free and everything you need is provided. You need to

pre-register and ask for dates and times. You can do that by emailing kwatson@azgfd.gov, and let them know the full names, ages, emails, and phone numbers of everyone who wants to participate.

They have classes once a month at 8 a.m. and once again, they are free and everything you need is provided. It's a one-time class and to register, just email kwatson@azgfd.gov for a list of dates.

And, A Lot More

There is a lot more going on at the range, including 1000 yard shoots, competitions, Western shooting, special stuff for women, etc. I'll be letting you know about those things in later issues. Meanwhile, don't let fear or lack of equipment keep you from learning how to shoot. It is really fun, and you can learn absolutely free at Ben Avery. Give them a call or visit http://azgfdportal.az.gov/shooting/basf/ for more information.

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NORTH RIM

Continued from page 1

As Weather Cools Again

The last day for most concessioner services and regularly scheduled ranger-led programs will be Thursday, Oct. 15. The National Park Service will continue its operations including the visitor center, bookstore, and Backcountry Permits Office through Oct. 31. Nov. 1 through Dec. 1, the North Rim will be open for day use only (no overnight parking) unless snow closes Highway 67 prior to that date.

From Nov. 1 through Dec. 1, pay-at-the-pump gas and diesel will still be avail-

able and visitors will continue to have access to Point Imperial and Bright Angel viewpoints, as well as the North Kaibab Trailhead.

Camping will be available to those who walk or hike in (no car camping) at the North Rim Campground and yurt (available in December), provided a backcountry-use permit has been obtained. Backcountry-permit holders will be allowed to park overnight. Permits will continue to be available through the South Rim Backcountry Permits Office and at the visitor center at Pipe Spring National Monument located in Fredonia, Arizona.

Spectacular Views

The North Rim lies at the southern end of the Kaibab Plateau at approximately 8,500 feet in elevation, and offers spectacular canyon views. It is approximately a 215-mile drive from the South Rim. Points of interest include Point Imperial, Cape Royal, Point Sublime, North Kaibab Trail, and Bright Angel Point. Visitors traveling to the area should know US Route 89 between Page and Bitter Springs, Ariz., has re-opened for the first time in two years since a major landslide forced its closure.

More Information

Advance overnight lodging reserva-

tions for North Rim facilities may be made by contacting Forever Resorts at (877) 386-4383 or by visiting www.grandcanyonforever.com. For reservations from outside the United States, please call (480) 337-1320. Advance reservations for the North Rim Campground must be made by calling (877) 444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. For information on Grand Canyon Trail Rides, please call (435) 679-8665 or visit www.canyonrides.com.

For a copy of the park's Trip Planner or "The Guide" for the North Rim, please visit <http://go.nps.gov/hpeku7>.

TOURISM

Continued from page 1

analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and National Park Service economist Lynne Koontz. The report shows \$15.7 billion of direct spending by 292.8 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park.

This spending supported 277,000 jobs nationally; 235,600 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$29.7 billion.

According to the 2014 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (30.6 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.3 percent), gas and oil (11.9 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.9 percent).

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Arizona and how the National Park Service works with Arizona communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/Arizona.

SHUTTLE

Continued from page 1

system at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

Daily Schedule

Each day, the first bus leaves Tusayan at 8 a.m. from the IMAX Theater, while the first bus will leave the Grand Canyon Visitor Center at 8:25 a.m. The last buses will leave IMAX at 9:45 p.m. and the Grand Canyon Visitor Center at 9:30 p.m. daily.

Shuttle buses will make the following four stops in Tusayan: IMAX Theater/R.P.'s Stage Stop, Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn, The Grand Hotel, and Big E Steakhouse and Saloon.

Public Parking

Public parking for Tusayan shuttle riders is available near the IMAX Theater, R.P.'s Stage Stop, Big E Steakhouse, and at the Tusayan Greenway Trailhead parking lot at the north end of Tusayan (up the hill from the north-end roundabout). Informational signs for the shuttle bus service are posted along Highway 64 south of Tusayan, as well as at various locations within Tusayan.

Buses are easily identifiable and are fueled with clean-burning, compressed

natural gas. All shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible and are equipped with a bike rack that can hold up to three bikes.

Entrance Passes

The Tusayan Shuttle is free of charge; however, visitors entering the park via shuttle bus will need to purchase their entrance passes in advance. These passes can be purchased at park entrance stations or at the following Tusayan businesses: Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn, Canyon Plaza Resort, Red Feather Lodge, Grand Canyon Trading Post, National Geographic Visitor Center (IMAX), and R.P.'s Stage Shop.

Entrance passes purchased at these locations are valid for shuttle bus or private vehicle entry for seven days and are accepted at any of Grand Canyon National Park's entrance stations. Those holding a valid America the Beautiful National Park and Federal Recreational Lands Pass or other valid pass will not need to purchase an additional entrance pass.

Reduces Crowding, Carbon Footprints

In 2014, there were approximately 88,000 boardings on the Tusayan Shuttle, representing a reduction of about 15,000 cars entering the park. Last year, there were almost 6.9 million boardings on the

park's shuttle system overall, representing a reduction of two million short in-park car trips, thus reducing congestion and the park's carbon footprint.

Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dave Ueberuaga said of the service, "We are pleased to provide this shuttle service to park visitors and local residents again this year. Utilizing this free service helps to reduce crowding along park roadways and reduces your carbon footprint, further protecting Grand Canyon's unique resources. We hope everyone will continue to use and enjoy the Tusayan Route in 2015."

More Information

Information regarding the Tusayan Route and the park's other shuttle-bus routes, which run throughout the South Rim area, is available in *The Guide*, the park's free newspaper, online at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm>, or available at park entrance stations, visitor centers and entrance pass purchase locations. *The Guide* is also available online at http://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/news/upload/2015SRspring_letter.pdf.

For additional information on services and programs offered at the Grand Canyon, please click on the links referenced above or call (928) 638-7888.

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