



# Western Outdoor Times

February 2017

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*A Publication of Arizona Boating & Watersports*

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

READY, SET, GO!

## The Boating Season Begins



**Boating**

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& Target**

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Wildlife**

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Cruising**

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## We're Underway To An Awesome Year Outdoors

### Arizona Anglers Get Hooked On Kayak Fishing

While shore and motorboat fishing still lead the way, kayak fishing is rapidly growing in popularity as more and more anglers make the shift to the "Tupperware Navy".

The most recent national data suggest close to 2 million anglers go out on kayaks each year, as more kayak brands introduce wider, more-stable platforms from which anglers can test their skill against even large ocean-based fish, such as marlin, tuna and grouper.



#### Growth Attributable To Several Factors

According to Dallas Shewmaker, owner of LowerGear Outdoors, an Arizona-based kayak and camping-gear retailer with locations in Tempe and Lake Havasu, the growth can be attributed to a number of factors. "The cost of entry into kayak fishing is well below any motorized craft. Maintenance costs are minimal; transportation is much easier, and you can get into areas that are off limits to power boats. Most find kayak fish-

ing a more thrilling, up-close-and-personal experience with the target."

#### Many Brands, Models

There are many brands and models available to choose from, price points starting at around \$500. Added features as you go up the price ladder to \$3500 or more are better tracking, better surface areas for fishing accessories, and foot and even motor propulsion systems.

See **KAYAK FISHING**, Page 14



#### ON THE COVER

### It's Time To Get Underway

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

We thank Dallas Shewmaker of Lower Gear for reminding us of another way, of so many, to enjoy the Southwest's outdoors, specifically on the water. The "lower-gear" option for anglers is becoming more and more popular, and he urges those who are considering making a shift to kayaks to "try one on for size".

Kayaks, boating in general, and fishing are just a few of the ways to participate in and enjoy the plethora of resources and activities available to outdoors enthusiasts. During our publi-

See **ON THE COVER**, Page 19

#### IT'S SHOW TIME!

### International Sportsmen's Expo & Arizona Boat Show Returns To WestWorld, Scottsdale

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

ISE's Arizona show had great success at WestWorld of Scottsdale in 2016. The venue provides easy freeway access to the more populous eastern corridor and surrounding

cities. The show was able to expand its outdoor exhibits to include more recreational vehicles, a wakeboarding feature and more.

The inaugural year for ISE Scottsdale and Arizona Boat Show were a rousing suc-

See **ISE SHOW**, Page 14



**WAKE UP!** — In addition to the many always-popular ISE exhibits geared to the outdoor enthusiast, the wakeboarding feature continues to attract crowds and enthusiasm.

### Get Ready For The Largest Hands-On Outdoor Expo In Arizona

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

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

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

#### 'But Wait; There's More'

Don't miss the always-popular cowboy-mounted shooting competition. See OHV and ATV exhibits. Give kayaking a try at the "Lake Paddlemore" kayaking pond. Hike a field course and learn cool camping tips. Learn about boating and how to stay safe on the water. Talk to experts about Arizona's wildlife, fishing, hunting and more. Visit with more than 150 exhibitors, including outdoor recreation and conservation groups, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services.



**WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTED** — One of the highlights of the annual Arizona Game & Fish Department's Expo is not only to see all sorts of live wildlife but also to talk to experts about them. There is also at auction with some proceeds going to investigation of wildlife crimes and to the protection of the state's wildlife resources.

#### Don't Miss The Auction

The department will auction off its annual collection of wildlife assets at the Expo. Sets of antlers, hides, skulls and head mounts, as well as wildlife artwork and taxidermy — all seized during law en-

See **OUTDOOR EXPO**, Page 14

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#### Western Wildlife

##### Are You A Wildlife Supporter?

Wildlife lovers have another means of supporting wildlife by becoming a member of the AZGFD's "I Support Wildlife" program/Page 10



#### Boating

##### Arizona Yacht Club Has First One

For the past 16 years, AYC has hosted the first calendar year Leukemia Cup Regatta in the United States; the 2017 version is set for Presidents' Day weekend/Page 4







We are thankful for this nation and for the freedom to express our opinions, to debate both (or more) sides of issues, and to strive together for answers – sometimes in compromise – that will result in the common good.

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## DOWNSTREAM February 2017 Events Calendar

### BOATING

**10-12 PARKER:** 6th Annual ADBA Southwest Showdown – Drag Boat Races – Blue Water Resort & Casino. High-octane race on the Colorado River. free, 8 am – 3 pm, 602-614-0560 or <http://adbaracing.com>  
12, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. SAN DIEGO: Southwestern Yacht Club Open House; RSVP to [info@southwesternyachtclub.org](mailto:info@southwesternyachtclub.org).

**17-19 LAKE PLEASANT:** 57th Arizona Yacht Club Birthday Regatta and Leukemia Cup – Pleasant Harbor Marina. Participants from all over the U.S., 100 boats in 10 classes, sailboat race, benefits Desert Mountain States Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, free to spectators, 12:30 pm, <http://www.arizonayachtclub.org>

**23-26 PEORIA:** Arizona H2OMG! Festival - Lake Pleasant. A patriotic community event featuring the Arizona Copper Cup Grand Prix hydroplane race championships, a concert stage with continuous entertainment, an on-site carnival and an exposition hall. Celebrating the Greatness of America – Let Freedom Roar! With supercharged Grand Prix class hydroplanes racing at up to 170 miles per hour. <http://www.H2OMGFest.com>

**25 LAKE HAVASU CITY:** 2017 Hot Products IJSBA Mark Hahn Memorial 300 – Crazy Horse Campgrounds. World's longest PWC endurance race and the only race that uses a Le Mans start, top PWC racers from around the globe race in memory of Mark Hahn, the race is designed to allow first-time racers, as well as veterans, compete at their own level, 300 miles on Lake Havasu, free to spectators, 7 am, 928-764-2210 or <http://www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/67/>

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

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

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

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

### CAMPING/RVING/AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

**5 TUCSON:** 11th Annual Fleet Feet Arizona Trail Race – Colossal Cave Mountain Park. Southern Arizona's premier trail running event, features the beautiful landscape of the Arizona Trail. The race starts and finishes at La Posta Quemada Ranch (located inside the park) with participants following a gorgeous, yet challenging eight mile route, (trail-specific running shoes are strongly recommended), 7:30 am, <http://www.fleetfeettucson.com/racing/az-trail-race>



**Thorough 2/8/17 MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS:** "100 Miles in 100 Days" — [www.facebook.com/MCParks100MilesIn100Days](http://www.facebook.com/MCParks100MilesIn100Days)

**19 APACHE JUNCTION/GOLD CANYON:** 16th Annual Lost Dutchman Marathon - Run at the base of Superstition Mountain near the rumored site of the legendary Lost Dutchman Mine, a favorite of serious marathoners and casual runners alike, follows a USATF-certified course and can be used as a qualifier for the Boston Marathon, features a pre-race campfire, and includes a 2K Fun Run, 8K Trail Run, 10K and Half Marathon, \$22-110, 7:30 am, <http://www.lostdutchmanmarathon.org>

**24-26 SCOTTSDALE:** Discovery Getaway - The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is offering a one-of-a-kind adult camping experience in McDowell Mountain Regional Park that includes Steward-led hikes, presentations by desert experts, food, fun and tent camping with plenty of creative comforts provided by Arizona Outback Adventures (AOA). A journey through the McDowell Sonoran Preserve that reaches to the top of Tom's Thumb and along the rolling pristine trails of Granite Mountain. <http://discovery.mcdowellsonoran.com/>

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

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

### CLASSES/SEMINARS

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

### COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

**Through 2/5 SCOTTSDALE:** 81st Annual Waste Management Phoenix Open - Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale, one of the PGA Tour's top events, with the largest crowds on the tour, attracts the finest golfers in the world, \$20/day or ticket packages, 8 am - 6 pm, 602-870-0163 or <http://wmphoenixopen.com>

**10-12 SCOTTSDALE:** 6th Annual Waterfront Fine Art & Wine Festival - Scottsdale Waterfront. More than 125 juried fine artists will line the banks of the Scottsdale Waterfront, along with wineries and live musical entertainment, \$3, 10 am - 5 pm, 480-837-5637 or <http://thunderbirdartists.com>

**11 SCOTTSDALE:** 64th Annual Scottsdale Parada Del Sol Parade & Trails End Festival - A community celebration attracting more than 30,000 people and showcases the history, school groups, bands, live musical entertainment and shopping. Experience Arizona's old west entertainment. Starts at Indian School Rd to Oak St on Scottsdale Rd, free, 9 am, followed by Trail's End Festival, <http://ScottsdaleParade.com>

**24-25 TEMPE:** Tempe Empty Bowls - Tempe Empty Bowls is a hunger-awareness fundraiser that benefits the Tempe Community Action Agen-

cy and United Food Bank's Kid's cafe program. Hand-crafted bowls, planter pots, mugs, necklaces, platters and vases, made by potters at the City of Tempe Ceramics Program, local artists, and children ranging from elementary to high school students, will be available for purchase. Free, 11 am - 2 pm, 480-296-5573 or <http://tempeemptybowls.org>

### EXPOS/SHOWS

**25 GILBERT:** Gilbert Outdoors Expo - Riparian Preserve. A chance to brush up on various outdoor activities or learn new skills, including fishing, camping, hunting, hiking and much more, exhibitors and attendees statewide, 9 am - 2 pm, <http://www.gilbertaz.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/special-events/gilbert-outdoors-expo>

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

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

### FISHING

**11 PARKER:** 38th Annual Take a Kid Fishing - La Paz County Park. For beginning and experienced anglers, loaner rods are available, or free to bring your own, bait provided and you do not need to possess a fishing license to participate, free, bring the family and join the fun, organized by the Parker Bass Club and community, 10 am - 3 pm, 928-345-8698 or <http://www.parkeraz.org>

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

### SHOOTING SPORTS/ARCHERY

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

**21 TOMBSTONE:** 6th Annual Gunfight at Old Tombstone - See the fastest gunfighters in the Southwest compete head to head in fast draw, <http://www.oldpueblogunfighters.com>

**20-26 PHOENIX:** 25th Annual Winter Range - Ben Avery Shooting Range. More than 1,000 gather for the Single Action Shooting Society's National Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting, competitive events, displays of period military, exhibitions of western skills and crafts, 100 vendors from period clothing to antiques and reproductions, cowboy entertainment, singers, cowboy bands, trick roping, trick horses, food from chuck wagon cooking to hot dogs, <http://www.winterrange.com/>

**20-26 TUCSON:** 41st Annual Spring Grand American Trap Shoot - Tucson Trap & Skeet Club. Annual tournament for competitive shotgun shooting at clay targets presented by Tucson Trap and Skeet Club. 520-883-6426 or <http://tucsontrapandskeet.com>

**28-3/6 PHOENIX:** Western National Shoot - Ben Avery Shooting Facility. Including: off-hand, bench-rest rifle, black powder cartridge, trap and skeet, primitive archery, and primitive trail-walk, there will be a Trader's Row where clothing, shooting supplies, and various other merchandise is available for sale, free, 8 am - 5 pm, <http://www.nmlra.org>

### WATERSPORTS

**Diving SAGUARO DIVING & SPORTS:** Ongoing — Learn to Scuba Dive, Open Water Certification Dives, Private Class & Pool, Private Lake: [sales@saguarosports.com](mailto:sales@saguarosports.com)

**Frozen 11 FLAGSTAFF:** 10th Annual Kahtoola Agassiz Uphill - Arizona Snowbowl. Participants race in the snow up the second tallest peak in Arizona, a Fun Climb with half the vertical feet and half the distance and a competitive division that will be 3 miles with 1800 foot vertical climb and descent, \$35-55, 5 pm, <http://kahtoolaagassizuphill.com/basic-information/>

**LEARN TO CURL LESSONS:** Ongoing — [learntocurl@coyotescurling.com](mailto:learntocurl@coyotescurling.com)

### WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

**19 PEORIA:** 12th Annual Bikers Soar For Wildlife Motorcycle Event - Arrowhead Harley Davidson. Supports the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center, ride meanders through approx. 100 miles of great Arizona scenery, hawks, eagles, falcons and other animals from the Center will be on display as well as food, a raffle, an auction and more, registration at 8:30 am. \$25-35, 623-277-6926 or <http://www.azwildlifecenter.net>

**19 TUBAC:** Park to Park Hike: Great Backyard Bird Count - Explore habitats and count birds along the Santa Cruz River between Tumacacori and Tubac, then catch the free shuttle (available until 1 pm) back to your starting point. Beginners welcome. Binoculars available for loan. free, 8 am - noon, 520-398-2341 or <http://TubacAZ.com>

**25 KINGMAN:** 3rd Annual Mangy Mutt/5K Desert Run/Walk & 1K Kids Run - KRMC Hualapai Mtn. Campus. Benefiting the Low Cost Spay/Neuter Foundation, also look for our Bicycle event held the same day, \$15-30, <http://www.active.com/kingman-az/running/distance-running-races/3rd-annual-mangy-mutt-5k-run-walk-event-2017>

**EMPTY PET FOOD BANK IN TEMPE:** Ongoing — A unique food bank which serves cats and dogs needs your help. Lost Our Home Pet Foundation has been providing food and pet supplies to the pets of family in need since 2009, all through community donations. Donations can be made at the shelter location at 2323 S. Hardy Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282; Jodi Polanski, [Jodi@lostourhome.org](mailto:Jodi@lostourhome.org).

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

**RAISING MONEY FOR ANIMALS:** Ongoing — Heather L. Weaver: [www.azanimalassistance.com](http://www.azanimalassistance.com)

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

For a complete list of Arizona events, visit [www.visitarizona.com/events](http://www.visitarizona.com/events)



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Update your boating safety knowledge

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

February 2017				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	February 11 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Arizona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	February 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219

March 2017				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	March 11 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Arizona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	March 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219

## Registration Decal



Spaces or hyphens should appear here.

## Register your watercraft

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

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

## WWW.AZGFD.GOV 24/7 ONLINE SERVICE

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

Go to [www.AZGFD.gov](http://www.AZGFD.gov) to locate an office near you!



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

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



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



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

### Controlled

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



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



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

### Other Non-Lateral Markers

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



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



### Mooring Buoy

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

Note, the following actions are illegal:

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

### Need to borrow a life jacket?

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

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







# Hobie-McCulloch Cup Comes To Lake Havasu

The Hobie-McCulloch Cup — March 10-12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — is open to all multihull catamaran sailors; however, only current members of HCANA (Hobie Class Association of North America) are eligible to race in the regatta. Membership applications are available at the event.

Competitors travel from across the western United States for the event, which is the first event of the 2017 Hobie Division 2 Regatta schedule. Races will take place in the waters north of the island, from Windsor Beach, Lot 4. Spectators are welcome to watch the beautiful multi-colored sails race on the blue waters of Lake Havasu, from the water or the beach.

Event dates, times and/or details are subject to change. Please contact event coordinator to verify information: [www.lhyc.net](http://www.lhyc.net).



TOM LAVELLE

### Details

Venue: Lake Havasu State Park, Lot 4  
 Address: 699 London Bridge Rd.  
 (Google: 699 Old Hwy. 95)  
 Lake Havasu City, Ariz. 86403  
 Price: \$3 for spectators

# AYC's Leukemia Cup Is 'First In The Nation'

BY CHRIS SMITH  
 REGATTA CHAIRMAN

There are changes: a new date, new race courses, and new events, but the same fun and hospitality in the most beautiful setting for winter sailing in the desert — Lake Pleasant, Ariz.

The Arizona Yacht Club's "First in the Nation" Leukemia Cup and Birthday Regatta will be held on President's Day Weekend, Friday to Sunday, Feb. 17-19. The new date will eliminate conflicts with multiple other events that take place on the Martin Luther King weekend in January, while increasing the likelihood of warmer weather and better breezes.

The new courses will include gates and downwind finishes. The new events will include standup paddle boarding ("SUP") demos and instruction, SUP yoga, and SUP touring and racing. Also new for 2017 is the "Club Challenge" Cruiser race

between the AYC, LPSC and TSC.

And what about the fun and hospitality? Don't take my word for it. *Sailing World* describes the regatta as taking place at a "sacred Sonoran Desert outpost" with the "allure of Lake Pleasant and the surrounding Sonoran Desert."

We are proud that for the past 16 years, AYC has hosted the first calendar-year Leukemia Cup Regatta in the United States. The regatta also is an opportunity to celebrate the club's founding in 1958. That means you're signing up for a three-day birthday party.

Can't make all three days? No worries. Check out the activities each day. You just want to watch?

Go for a VIP cruise aboard *The Phoenix* on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost? A donation to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

They say it's our birthday. We're gonna have a good time. So have fun and make a difference at the same time.



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## WHAT'S Happening

at the MARITIME MUSEUM of SAN DIEGO on JANUARY 2017

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## Boaters: Should You Add Ice And Freeze Coverage To Your Boat Policy?

Many boat owners think they don't have to worry about freeze damage if they live in temperate states or if they keep their boat in heated indoor storage areas in Northern climates.

However, every year the Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) Marine Insurance Program gets freeze-damage insurance claims for boats in Southern states hit by a hard freeze, and claims for boats stored indoors in Northern states where storms took out the electrical power – which usually means no heat. So, the first rule of winter storage for any boat is to winterize properly.

Even then, small winterizing mistakes like not draining all of the areas of the engine raw-water system, can easily destroy an engine. For that reason, BoatUS says ice and freeze coverage may also be a smart option for do-it-yourselfers who

want peace of mind, or for trailerboaters who store their boat in a heated garage or travel between warm and cold states.

Typically offered as a policy "rider" to boats stored in northern climates, it's inexpensive. BoatUS offers the add-on coverage for as low as \$20. However, there is a deadline to purchase this coverage as most insurers don't offer it once temperatures get cold. (If it is too late this year for you to add the coverage, consider it when fall 2017 rolls around.)

BoatUS says the good news is that boat owners in more temperate states often have this feature added to their policies automatically, but boaters should check with their insurer.

For more information on boat insurance or ice and freeze coverage, go to [www.BoatUS.com/insurance](http://www.BoatUS.com/insurance) or call 800-283-2883.



**EVEN IN SOUTHERN STATES** — Storing a boat inside over the winter requires a look at your insurance policy first, says BoatUS.



**QUESTION** — Is this used boat trailer a good deal?

## Four Tips For Buying A Used Boat Trailer

As the boating season begins in the southern climates, some boaters may be looking to find a trailer to store or haul the boat. If you're looking to buy a used boat trailer now or planning on buying a boat that comes with a used trailer, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has four buying tips:

**Bring a measuring tape:** With older trailers, the capacity plate or sticker may be long gone or too hard to read after being outside in the weather for years. But if you'd like to know a rough idea of a spring-axle trailer's capacity, simply measure the diameter of the axle. An outer diameter (OD) axle tube size of 1.75" is typically rated for about one ton; 2.375" for 3,500 lbs.; and 3" for 5,200-7,000 lbs. — remember to subtract the weight of the trailer from the gross capacity.

**Buying out of state:** Trailers aren't

built the same because states' trailering regulations aren't the same. While most states require brakes for trailers rated to carry more than 3,000 lbs., some states require brakes on trailers as light as 1,500 lbs., while a few others let you coast up to 4,500 pounds — although that's not recommended. It can be expensive to retrofit brakes, and some states such as Florida require brakes on each axle. State-specific trailer registration information can be found at [drivinglaws.aaa.com](http://drivinglaws.aaa.com).

**Why tire diameter matters:** After an hour at highway speeds, a 13-inch tire will have spun 10,000 revolutions more than a 15-inch tire, which means more heat, bearing wear and increased chance of problems. Having a fully serviced spare tire ready to go — and the tools to install it — will solve many of the most common reasons for a trailer breakdown.

If all else fails, having an annual BoatUS membership with Unlimited Trailer Assist roadside assistance to safely tow both your boat trailer and tow vehicle up to a 100 miles will make a bad roadside breakdown suddenly get much better.

**Watch out for paperwork snafus:**

Not having ownership documents can sink a sale faster than you can say, "Did you put the plug in?" If the trailer is missing the vehicle identification number (VIN), it cannot be legibly read or doesn't match ownership paperwork, you may run into an issue with the DMV and have to apply for a replacement. It's better to have the seller handle this before the sale.

For a full look at this topic, see "Buying a Used Trailer?" at [BoatUS.com/buy-usedtrailer](http://BoatUS.com/buy-usedtrailer).

## Boat Motor Oil Analysis Made Simple

A lot goes on inside a boat engine, and akin to drawing blood, an engine oil sample analysis (OSA) can tell you a lot about the health of your boat's motor. While a single sample may not give you the whole story, an OSA creates a "baseline" that helps you look at your engine's health over time.

That's why some mechanics and surveyors recommend taking one sample every year. But what does a typical oil sample analysis include and what does it tell a boat owner or buyer? BoatUS, the nation's largest boating advocacy, services and safety group has some answers.

Most oil sample analyses will include the following:

- **Spectral Exam:** A spectrometer is used to find the quantity of various metals and additives in the sample — useful for finding excessive wear in bearings, pistons, rings, cylinders, valve train and gears. It also determines the composition of any oil additives.
- **Viscosity Test:** The thickness of the oil at a specific temperature is tested — useful for finding fuel dilution, the breakdown of viscosity enhancers or other contamination.
- **Flash Point:** Tests the temperature



ALISON MAZON

**EASY DOES IT** — It's easy to take an oil sample with the right gear.

at which vapor from the oil ignites — contamination can cause a specific grade oil to flash higher or lower than the design flash point.

• **Insolubles Test:** Insolubles are typically abrasive solids — higher readings are usually byproducts of incomplete combustion.

An OSA typically costs about \$25 by mail or at a local repair shop. If you'd like to learn how to take an oil sample or need more information, see the story "Oil Sample Analysis" by Alison Mazon in the magazine for it's insured BoatUS members, *Seaworthy*, at [BoatUS.com/oilsampleanalysis](http://BoatUS.com/oilsampleanalysis).

### Remember these dates in February

FEB 2  
FEB 14  
FEB 15  
FEB 20

GROUND HOG DAY  
VELENTINES DAY  
NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA DAY  
PRESIDENTS DAY

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# Boating

## Comprehensive Recreational Powerboat Education 'How-To' Manual Now Available

Visit [www.ussailing.org/recpowerboatmanual](http://www.ussailing.org/recpowerboatmanual).

The U.S. Coast Guard's National On-Water Standards (NOWS) Program grant management team and the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) are pleased to announce the release of a new comprehensive "How-to..." guide for designing

On-Water instruction using the American National Standard (ANS) for On-Water recreational powerboat operation.

The Power Standard Technical Support Document (Power TSD) was developed to assist education providers, course



developers and instructors in designing and implementing recreational powerboating skills instruction and assessment that meets the ANS.

### Assists Education Providers

The same team of recreational boating experts who produced the ANS for entry-level powerboat education developed the Power TSD. The 148-page document contains the most complete set of information and tools available to assist education providers, including the following:

Information about the ANS, why it was developed, and why education pro-

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MIKE FERRING

Optis Drifting On A Sunny Afternoon

## Learn To Sail Right Here In Arizona

Yes, it's true. You or your kids can learn to sail right here in the desert. The Arizona Sailing Foundation offers classes set up for fun—with maximum time on the water. A little classroom, a lot of boat. Soon you're scooting across Tempe Town Lake powered by nothing but the wind. What a kick!

ASF is the educational subsidiary of the Arizona Yacht Club, a nonprofit run by AYC members who share their passion for sailing with others. The classes use our boats and are taught by instructors certified by US Sailing.

### ASF Education Programs

#### Junior Sailing

- Opti 1 & 2 for beginning sailors as young as eight years old,
- High School Sailing – an after-school program for fun, learning, and a bit of competition, and
- Junior Performance Sailing – a class for students who've completed Opti 1 & 2 and are ready for their next challenge

#### Adult Classes

- Beginning Sailing – for first time and novice sailors,
- Powerboat Handling – US Sailing course for power boaters, and
- Introduction to Sailboat Racing – racing basics that will get you going—fast!

AYC Members may be able to receive a \$50 scholarship for a child to attend an ASF Junior class. You'll be guided through the sign-up process, including a medical questionnaire and legal release.

#### Learning To Sail

For the kids, it can begin with a Junior Opti class and progress through multiple levels (if they want to) until they're competing internationally in sailboat races. Several of our kids have done exactly that. If you're an adult, try out sailing with our Beginning Sailing class, where you spend more time on the water than you do in a classroom (but you'll still get all the necessary theory and jargon in the classroom).

ASF has a fleet of instructional boats kept in the marina at Tempe Town Lake, including Optis, O'pen Bics, Capri 14.2s, Lasers, and CFJs. There are two powered support boats and at least one is always on the lake during every class.

We have a core of volunteer US Sailing-qualified sailing instructors and US Sailing-qualified powerboat instructors (to teach powerboating and to drive the safety boats).

See **MANUAL**, Page 19

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# Tackle & Target



## HOLSTERS FOR CONCEALED CARRY

# There Are Many Things To Consider

BY JOHN ANDERSON

Once you get your concealed carry permit, you have to decide *how* you're going to carry. There are lots of options, and the bad news is that you really won't know which one you like best until you've tried them.

And, I don't mean just try on a holster at a store — you've got to actually put a gun in that holster and wear it for a few days. Don't base your decision on what your buddy uses — holsters are different for every person. You're probably going to end up with quite a few holsters in the drawer that you pretty much never use, as well as several that you wear at different times.

There are several different ways to carry, and for each method, manufacturers produce a variety of styles of holsters. The method you choose will probably depend a lot on how big you are. It's way easier for a big, burly man to conceal a full-size pistol than it is for a smaller man, especially if both men are wearing their shirts tucked in.



This is an outside-the-waistband holster that I use for classes and competition. They also make holsters like this with a retention clip so people can't come up and take your gun.

### Inside The Waistband

One of the most popular ways to carry concealed is inside the waistband. There are many different types of holsters for this — you can find both hard and soft holsters for you to wear inside the waistband of your pants. You may have to buy some bigger pants, as well.

The position your carry in is also a personal decision. You can carry on the side, near your appendix, in the back, or even on the side opposite your draw hand. Many inside-the-waistband holsters have a clip or two that slide down over the top of your pants and enclose your belt. This keeps them in place.

Other inside-the-waistband holsters are soft fabric of some sort. These go around you before you put your pants on, and they can be adjusted to fit snugly. These are especially nice for ladies, be-



This Alien Gear IWB holster puts leather between your skin and your gun. Two belt clips keep it in place.



This kind of holster is okay for transporting your pistol to the range to keep it from getting beat up in the range bag.

cause you don't have to worry about your gun dragging the waistband of your pants to the floor when you're using the restroom.

Some of these are simply wide elastic bands with holster areas sewn on, and many of these also allow you to carry extra magazines. Some of them are more like soft belts with a wider holster area.



Urban Carry holster: This one fits inside your pants but under the waistband. The top outside has loops for your belt, then the inside part fold over and is held closed by magnets. When you need it, just grab the flap and pull straight up.



This is designed to be strapped on before you put on your pants.

### Shoulder Holsters

Some guys prefer to carry "shoulder" holsters. These actually position the gun under your arm. A man who wears suit jackets all the time might find this useful. They even make undershirts for men and women that have removable cloth holsters which attach to the shirt via hook and loop material. You can position the holster to make it easy for you to draw. These shirts fit very, very snugly to keep the gun from moving around.

### Ankle Holsters

Ankle holsters are another option, al-



This wide elastic strap can hold two pistols. You can wear it around your waist or even around your hips.

though most people would only consider this for a small, possibly a backup, pistol. These also come in a variety of materials, and most of them also entail the use of a sort of garter system to keep the gun and holster from flopping around.



This is an UnderTech Undercover shirt.

### For A Woman

Concealed carry for a woman can be tough. Women tend to wear more tailored clothing, which makes the bulge of a gun difficult to conceal. They make holster bras, but not every woman is well-endowed enough to conceal a firearm there. Under the arm is a possibility, as is inside the waistband.

A smaller firearm is obviously easier to conceal, especially for smaller women. When you're wearing a dress, you might consider a holster that straps to your thigh. I personally don't recommend concealed-carry handbags, just because thieves often target women's handbags and you don't want a thief to become an armed thief.



Shown here is a Packin Tee.



This is Sneaky Pete (top photo, open; bottom photo, closed), which is designed to be worn openly on the belt. It looks as if you're carrying some kind of electronics instead of a gun.

This DeSantis leather holster can be used as a pocket or an IWB holster.



### Pocket Pistols

Another option for men as well as women is a pocket pistol. These are very small handguns that can be put in a special little holster that slides into a deep pocket. The shape of the pocket pistol holster disguises the shape of the pistol so that it isn't obvious that you are carrying. By the way, when people can see the gun that you are trying to conceal, it's called "printing".



This kind of holster is okay for transporting your pistol to the range to keep it from getting beat up in the range bag.

These smaller guns have disadvantages — they obviously hold far fewer rounds, and the smaller the gun, the bigger the recoil. But, pocket pistols are still

See **HOLSTERS**, Page 8



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## ARIZONA LAKES, ARIZONA PROS

# Matt Shura At Saguaro: This Versatile Angler Is 'Good People'

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

I've known Matt Shura since he was just a kid, and he's been a heck of a stick all that time. He started out catching bluegills at a pond at Power and Guadalupe with his dad when he was about five or six years old. That first bluegill had him hooked for life.

Then he started watching bass fishing on television, and he was fascinated. By age ten he had his first boat — a ten-foot jon boat with a trolling motor. One windy trip on San Carlos convinced him that a bigger boat was in order, though.

### Shura Started In 1989

Matt started fishing tournaments in 1989 — a WON Bass at Roosevelt. He was still in high school at the time, and was awed by fishing against the anglers he looked up to — guys like John Murray, Gregg Warne, and Butch Vasco.

Todd Herman told him about AllStar Bass and Matt started fishing the pro-ams as an amateur. He says he learned a ton by watching the pros he fished with and asking questions. Matt actually held the state record for largemouth bass for a time, with a 15.86-pound fish he caught at Canyon Lake on a spinnerbait. The fish was right on the bank near the marina, he says, and he actually missed it the first time it bit.

"When I was in junior high, I met Floyd Preas at Nevitz Marine," Shura says. "At the time, all I had in my tackle box was a Shad Rap. Floyd taught me how to split-shot, and I've been catching fish on it ever since."

### Mentors Gave Him Knowledge

He was also helped along by Brad Cook at Happy Hooker Tackle Shop.



**GOOD CATCH** — Matt Shura is shown with a nice bass caught at Saguaro Lake on a Little Dipper.

In those days there was no Internet, so newbies depended on seasoned anglers to help them. Brad took him out and showed him how to fish Westy Worms, and they fished AllStar teams together for a year. He learned structure fishing from Steve Foutch.

All these mentors and more gave him the knowledge for fishing both shallow and deep. One of the things that makes Matt such a great fisherman is this versatility. He's not one of those guys who has a favorite bait he throws all the time — fishing tournaments have made him a well-rounded angler who is confident with just about any technique.

### Currently Fishing Teams, Pro-Ams

Currently, Matt is fishing Wild West Bass teams and pro-ams, the FLW Costa series at Havasu, the WON Bass at Clear Lake, and the US Open at Mead. He'll also fish local tournaments like Bass Junkiez and Monterey Bass when he gets a chance — Matt has been a firefighter full time since 1985. Actually, he's an engineer and a paramedic, so he gets to save people and drive the truck!

Matt's fishing sponsors are Nitro Boats, Mercury Outboards, Marlam Industries Granite Countertops, Airtime Cooling and Heating, A & M Graphics, Rapala, and Rim Country Custom Rods.

### Wins And Finishes

He and Johnny Johnson just won the American Bass Championship and received a Ranger RT188 aluminum boat. He has also won the Clear Lake Open and All Star Angler of the Year, in addition to numerous top-ten finishes in the US Open.

I've fished with Matt on a number of our Arizona lakes, but our most recent trip was to Saguaro to fish some Reaction Innovations Little Dippers. These small swimbaits often produce when topwater baits and jerkbaits won't. You don't have to give them any action — the way the tail is wedged, it has the perfect amount of action on its own.

### About The Baits

It's a subtle action that mimics a shad swimming. One of the reasons that Matt likes these little baits so much is that you can cover so much water so quickly. He says he can make five retrieves with a Dipper in the time it would take him to throw and retrieve a Spook just once.

The key to these baits is to choose the color that will match the baitfish on the lake you are fishing. Out West, that is mostly clear and shad colors, with hints of purple, blue, or green.

The Little Dippers have a slot for the business end of the hook to sit in, which makes them completely weedless. They are perfect for throwing into reeds and stick-ups, and they are awesome worked over skinny water. Matt likes to crank just fast enough to keep them right under the surface, leaving a V-shaped wake behind them.

See SHURA, Page 17

# WAKE ZONE

## Op/Ed



### WHEN DEMOCRACY FAILS

# Our Clock Is Ticking

BY JOHN (JK) KOLEZSAR  
SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR  
ELKHABITAT@GMAIL.COM

We have all been led to believe that democracy is the best way of life and that the United States is the best example of how a society should be lived. I have long held that belief, but current events have had me wondering if that is really true or if as a sportsman democracy could put an end to the pursuits that I hold dear. How can this possibly be? Let's follow along and see if you agree with my train of thought.

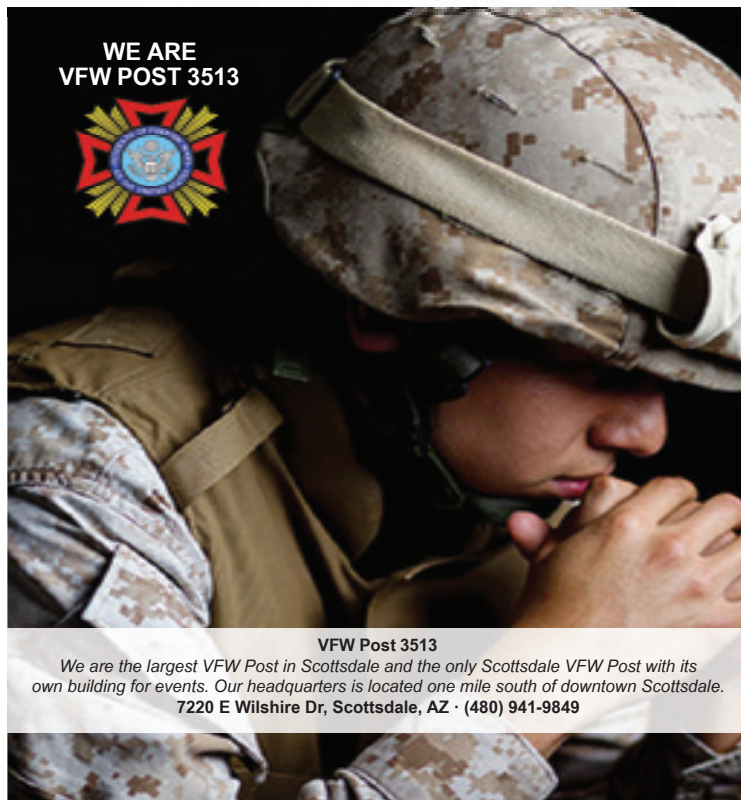
### The Right To Hunt And Fish

The right to bear arms is always front and center of any of our political discussions, but let's take a look at something that I think we all take for granted. How about hunting and fishing? Those who hunt and fish have never been able to explain to those who do not how we feel when we are in our element.

There are some on the far other side who consider what we do as barbaric or worse, animal cruelty. The biggest portion of the public has little or no opinion on hunting. Some knew that their grandparents or parents hunted and fished, but they themselves do not. Let's say that the per-

See DEMOCRACY, Page 17

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### HOLSTERS

Continued from page 7

very popular and almost every gun manufacturer makes them.

### Consider The Belt As Well

One thing you also have to consider is the belt you will wear with your holster. Those tactical belts made from nylon web with lots of Velcro and those big metal loops look pretty gnarly, but you should really try one on with your holster before you buy one.

They are designed so that the belt has to loop over on itself and close with Velcro. This makes the front part of the belt very thick — way too thick to go through the clips on your holster. So, unless you carry in the back or over on the side, that belt won't work for you. And, in my opinion, carrying right on your side in the 3 o'clock position is hard to conceal.

I have a belt like this and I love it, but I only wear it when I'm taking a class or shooting competition and I'm carrying openly. Then I wear my gun on the side and the belt is fine.

Margie wanted me to point out that for women who are carrying openly, at a class or competition or whatever, these thick nylon tactical belts are great because they are not slick like leather and the thickness of the belt helps keep the gun in place.

Apparently, the gun dragging the belt out of the loops and crashing to the floor in the restroom is a definite possibility when women open carry.

### Seasonal Changes

How you carry may change with the seasons. In the winter, you may wear a nice thick jacket that makes it easy to carry with any method. In the summer, though, in shorts and a t-shirt, you may have to switch to inside the waistband.

No matter what or how you carry, you absolutely must practice drawing from that holster. Get a blue gun (a plastic gun that has no mechanisms and can't be fired), and practice drawing it from the holster. You can get blue guns in the exact dimensions of almost any real pistol.

### Pay Attention To These!

Also, pay attention to what you have to do to get to that gun. Do you have to rip some Velcro open? How much noise does that make? Do you have to undo a snap or two? Could you do that if you were terrified and facing an attacker? All of these things should be considered.

There are almost endless possibilities when it comes to concealed carry, and that's because people are different. Try a variety of methods and you're sure to find at least two or three ways to carry that you can be comfortable with.



## FISHING WINTER CRAPPIE IN ARIZONA

# Jim Goughnour Offers Some Suggestions

*Some good lakes to try are Bartlett, Apache, Roosevelt and Canyon.*

FROM AZGFD

Many anglers have reported spotting huge schools of black crappie on fish-finders at lakes such as Roosevelt and Canyon. Other good lakes to try are Apache and Bartlett. (Crappie fishing at Alamo Lake reportedly is poor.)

With some stable winter weather, this can be an excellent time to fish for crappie and they head into deeper waters of our desert impoundments and form large schools.

But some anglers will troll jigs with

grubs, roadrunner jigs, small crankbaits, and vertically jig with 2-inch grubs and Rapala Jigging raps — without any bites. Why not?

Jim Goughnour of Rim Country Custom Rods offered some solutions.

“Winter crappie fishing in AZ can be excellent — just know how to set the hook and feel a light bite.

“The recent fronts moving through the area have been impacting the bite. So my first thought is to advise anglers to make sure they’re fishing during the right day. Large schools of crappie are relatively easy to find right now. Actively feeding crappie are in 20-25 feet depths.

“If fishing deeper depths that lack cover such as trees, stumps or rock piles, an angler could be trying to catch inactive fish.

“The best bait for Roosevelt at any time of year is a Lit’l Fishy bait. It’s a

shad-imitation bait in a pearl color with a blue stripe on the back (they are available at the Hwy 188 Tackle store in Tonto Basin). Fish this bait vertically and slowly over the school, using a 1/16-ounce jig head hook.

“During the winter, the bite is far less aggressive. The equipment should include an ultralight 5-foot, 6-inch spinning rod and PowerPro braided 4-pound line (I prefer the yellow color). The braided line is needed due to the extremely light bite. If the angler is not using this equipment, he or she may not be feeling the bite.

“The bite feels like the rod is slightly bending due to pressure. I typically mark my line at 30 feet, and when I reach that depth, I slowly raise the entire rod — not the tip — about 2 feet. If I feel anything, I set the hook.

“Using this technique, 99.9 percent of the crappie will be hooked in the roof



**NEW YEAR ‘SLAB’** — Jon A. caught this 14 1/2-inch crappie on January 1 at Canyon Lake. Jon said, “The crappie were in full winter mode, holding deep and completely gorging themselves on shad in the morning. It was caught on a minnow jig and released soon after the photo was taken.”

of the mouth. Unlike a trolling technique where the crappie may be hooked in the lip, using this technique you can set the hook. If after lifting the rod a few times, I don’t get a bite, reel up about two turns on the reel and repeat the rod lifting process.”

So go get some winter crappie! Need a license? Get ‘em 24/7 online and help conserve wildlife for future generations.

# The Two Skilled Gunsmiths Continue Their Project/Passion

BY MIKE BERGER WITH PAT KNIGHT

*Editor’s Note: Retired Fire Chief Mike Berger and his friend Pat Knight have been submitting articles about the progression of refurbishing vintage rifles; their mutual project I would call a passion, and we are certainly benefitting from their willingness to share the story. It continues here with reference to the gun’s stock.*

The next main component of a rifle is the stock. Many rifles today are built with a synthetic stock material. There are people who think this is a cost saving mea-

sure. They have obviously not checked prices on some of the offerings from McMillan, H.S. Precision, or any of a dozen companies that produce high quality precision stocks from synthetic materials.

### If Not Cost, What?

So if not cost, then what? The two simple answers are weight, and accuracy potential. Some of the synthetic stocks can remove a significant amount of weight from a rifle. When combined with a slim barrel contour, lightening cuts in an



Shadow Line Cheek Piece

See **GUNSMITHS**, Page 13



## GALLEY PROOF

# South Meets South With This Bourbon-Glazed Catfish Recipe

FROM AZGFD

So you’ve caught some line-ripping cats and taken advantage of bragging to some buddies about your Mr. Whisker’s success; now try cooking for them with this great recipe. Here’s an alcohol-infused creation to turn your catfish into some fine Southern dining.

## Fare Afield’s Bourbon-Glazed Catfish

BY JOHNATHAN O’DELL

Serves 4  
Prep Time: 5 minutes  
Cook Time: 10 minutes

### Ingredients:

- Four 6-ounce catfish fillets
- 1/4 cup cornmeal
- 2 tablespoons Cajun seasoning
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/3 cup bourbon whiskey
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar

### Directions:

1. Place oil in a large skillet or sauté pan on medium heat. In a shallow dish, combine cornmeal and Cajun seasoning and mix well. Coat catfish fillets in sea-



soned cornmeal, shake off any excess and set aside.

2. In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add bourbon and brown sugar and stir until sugar has dissolved. Cook over medium heat for 5 minutes.

3. When the oil is hot, carefully add fillets and cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until done. Remove fillets to individual serving dishes, then spoon the bourbon glaze onto each fillet.

(This recipe was originally published in the May-June 2015 issue of *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine and was included in the “Drink With a Fish” article that was awarded an Award of Merit in the Food Feature category from the International Regional Magazine Association.)



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# Western Wildlife



## What Is 'I Support Wildlife'?

FROM AZGFD

I Support Wildlife™ bridges the widening gap between wildlife facing new threats and a sharp increase in the cost of conservation. A one-year membership lets you explore Arizona's unique natural heritage while taking action to preserve our wildlife legacy for the future.

### What Does An I Support Wildlife™ Membership Give You?

• Access to the new "premium" version of the Recreational Access Arizona (RAA) online mapping application. The premium RAA mapping application is a significant upgrade over the free version and is a tremendous tool whether you are planning a hunt, documenting your favorite camping spots or birding areas, or just exploring Arizona. It works on most mobile devices (with an active cell service) and lets you see your current location in reference to different data layers, including Game Management Units, wildlife waters, Arizona land ownership, an ESRI USA Topographic (USGS 24k Topo) basemap and more. Even better, the premium mapping application allows you to create your own point locations and automatically save and sync that data to all of your devices. This has many more features than the free version.

• One-year subscription to *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine. This award-winning, bi-monthly magazine is loaded with spectacular photos and compelling stories about wildlife and outdoor recreation.

• Up-to-date fish stocking reports. Ready to head out to your next angling adventure? These reports will give you the latest information on where fish are being stocked in Arizona.

• I Support Wildlife™ window decal. Show everyone that you are a supporter of Arizona's wildlife.

• Best of all, your \$25 annual membership helps support wildlife conservation efforts in Arizona.

### How Do I Join I Support Wildlife™?

In order to purchase an "I Support Wildlife" membership, you need to have or create a free Arizona Game and Fish Department Customer Portal account with all of the required fields (those with an asterisk) filled out. Once you have created your Portal account, click "Join Now" on this page and follow the prompts.

### What Challenge Does I Support Wildlife™ Help Meet?

What is the Problem? Arizona is home to more than 800 wildlife species, from Gambel's quail to bighorn sheep. But their natural habitats — which stretch across 50 million acres of public land — are increasingly at risk. A rapidly changing world presents a host of threats to wildlife: Expanding cities, competing uses for open space and increasing demands for a limited water supply all play a role in this.

It is the job of the Arizona Game and Fish Department to protect, restore and preserve these species and the places where they live. But no Arizona tax dollars go to support this mission. In-

## AZGFD Offers 10 Ideas For 2017

*As many of us reflect on 2016 and think about the changes we'd like to make in this new year, how about adding an outdoors resolution to the list?*

From the Arizona Game & Fish Department here are some ideas for current outdoors enthusiasts and some who are new to the joys of participating in it:

**1. Buy a hunting, fishing or combo license and head out for some outdoor fun while supporting wildlife.** Licenses are inexpensive: Arizona residents pay \$37 for a general hunting or fishing license or \$57 for a combo hunt/fish license; nonresidents pay \$55 for a fishing license or \$160 for a combo hunt/fish combo license. Licenses are valid for a year. You can also buy short-term (one-day) licenses at \$15 per day for residents, \$20 per day for nonresidents. All license purchases help fund wildlife conservation efforts. You can buy them online 24/7 at <https://license.azgfd.gov/home.xhtml>.

**2. Set up a free AZGFD customer portal account.** The portal lets you create a secure account where you can view and manage your licenses, draw results, bonus points and memberships in your own personal "My AZ Outdoors" section. Just click on the "Sign in to Account" button in the upper right-hand corner of the [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) home page and then select the "Create an Account" option, and you're on your way into a world of wildlife!

**3. Take a youngster outdoors.** Look for animal tracks together and identify the critter that made them. Armed with only a bird identification guide, embark on an

expedition to see how many species you can find. A day in the field will create memories that last a lifetime — for both of you.

**4. Pick it up.** Vow to clean up not only after yourself, but those who aren't as considerate. Take an extra trash bag along on your next outing and spend a few minutes picking up those empty cans, cigarette butts or campsite trash. After all, respected access is open access.

**5. Explore "Expo."** Save the date — March 25-26 — and experience the great outdoors at the department's 2017 Outdoor Expo at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility. There will be plenty of hands-on activities, wildlife presentations/educational demonstrations, and the opportunity to meet with outdoors groups, agencies and exhibitors. Admission and parking are free. (See story on page 1 of this issue.)

**6. Hunt something new.** Don't let the odds of being selected in the random draw keep you from applying for what could be the hunt of a lifetime. If you've always dreamed of hunting bison, pronghorn or bull elk, then get in the game and fill out an application. Also, don't overlook small game or other species that can be hunted year-round.

**7. Be a wildlife watcher.** Arizona provides some of the best wildlife-viewing opportunities in the nation, with more than 800 species of wildlife. It's a fun,

inexpensive activity the entire family can enjoy.

**8. Fish local.** Make it a point to wet a line this year at one (or more) of 38 waters in the Community Fishing Program. With lakes and ponds in 17 Arizona communities that are seasonally stocked with rainbow trout, channel catfish and bluegill, there's always a hotspot close to home. This is a great way to introduce a youngster to a fun, lifelong sport. Your reward? Hearing that youngster squeal with delight while pulling in his or her first fish.

**9. Buy an "I Support Wildlife" membership.** Wildlife lovers have another means of supporting wildlife by becoming a member of the department's ISW program. Your \$25 annual dues get you a great online mapping application, a one-year subscription to *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine, up-to-date fish stocking reports, and provide much-needed funding to sustain important wildlife and habitat conservation projects. (See story on this page.)

**10. Be a conservationist.** It's difficult to imagine what our wildlife populations might be like today without the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. For a presentation from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, produced by Arizona Game and Fish, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE4L9KicSeU>.



Mexican Wolf



Hereford Bull

## Policy Promises Ranchers Compensation

*Editor's Note: Although this interim policy was approved in November, there have been some obstacles in the delivering of the compensation. We welcome input on this issue; please send your "Letter to the Editor" to [editor@azbw.com](mailto:editor@azbw.com).*

The Arizona Livestock Loss Board this winter approved an interim policy that allows ranchers to receive compensation for cattle taken by a Mexican wolf.

While conservation efforts are helping to re-establish the Mexican wolf population within their historical range in Arizona, this program has resulted in the loss of some commercial cattle.

The board's unanimous vote in November allows ranchers to be compensated for a wolf-depredation incident after it is investigated and confirmed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services field representative.

### A Burden To Ranchers

"The Mexican wolf reintroduction program has been a significant burden to ranchers in Mexican wolf range," said Arizona Livestock Loss Board Chair-

man and Arizona Game and Fish Department Director Larry Voyles. "We had one rancher testify that he had suffered 13 depredations just this year alone. Few family owned businesses can survive losses at this level."

Under the interim policy, a commercial producer/operator can apply for reimbursement for damages incurred up to \$2,500.

The board will consider claims for incidents that occurred after Sept. 1, 2015, until available funds are exhausted. Claims approved after funds have been exhausted will be paid when and if additional funding becomes available.

### An Interim Remedy

The policy is meant to serve as an interim remedy until the board develops and adopts permanent rules outlining eligibility requirements and compensation for the loss of livestock due to wolf depredations.

"In voting unanimously, the board is trying to compensate the ranchers who are directly impacted by the Mexican wolf reintroduction program and who earn their living off the land," Voyles said. "The suc-

cess of any conservation effort requires the tolerance and support of the people who are closest to the effort. Bottom line: Mexican wolf conservation ultimately has to occur on a variety of landscapes."

### Other Approvals

Also during the November meeting the board unanimously passed:

A letter to the Arizona Congressional Delegation requesting funding to address the issues associated with the Mexican wolf re-introduction program;

Draft legislation asking the Arizona Legislature for funding to meet its statutory obligations;

A letter to the Arizona Attorney General asking for a formal opinion on the applicability of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to wolf depredation of livestock;

A letter to Gov. Doug Ducey to request a rule-making moratorium exception to authorizing rule-making;

A letter of agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation;





## Two Great Winter Hikes (Walks) Are Close To Phoenix

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

If you are looking for easy hikes with great scenery close to Phoenix, I've got a couple for you. Both of these are easy enough for very small children and older folks, but one has a waterfall (sometimes!), and one has a flowing river. Both have entry fees, but they are small.

The Hassayampa River is a hundred miles long, but for most of that distance it runs underground. At the Hassayampa River Preserve near Wickenburg, however, the water comes to the surface and runs crystal clear over the sand. The glorious riparian area here is full of cottonwood-willow forest that is home to some of Arizona's most amazing animals.

### Nature Conservancy Preserves

According to the Nature Conservancy, 90 percent of these Sonoran Desert riparian areas have been lost, damaged, or degraded. These areas are incredibly beautiful, so it's wonderful that the Nature Conservancy is protecting as many of them as they can. If you would like to help, you can become a member of the Conservancy and learn more about their mission at [nature.org](http://nature.org). Members get in for half price, as well.

We have been to several of the Nature Conservancy Preserves here in Arizona, including the lovely Ramsey Canyon Preserve near Sierra Vista, which also has a stream, the San Pedro River, and Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, which is a gorgeous place near Patagonia, Ariz. These places are protected from habitat destruction by the Nature Conservancy.



Trinity Anderson is shown at Palm Lake at the Hassayampa Preserve.

### Part Of Vulture Mountain Recreation Area

With the way Arizona cities spread out, you just know that without the Nature Conservancy, the Hassayampa Preserve area would be under streets and homes by now. Instead, you can go there and visit, and walk along a couple of miles of gor-



Grandpa John Anderson and granddaughters Emily and Trinity Anderson cross the Hassayampa River.



geous trails. In January of this year, the preserve acquired a new partner and part owner – Maricopa County Parks and Recreation. When we were there, the lady explained that the Nature Conservancy would still own the preserve itself, but the Parks and Recreation would take over the entry building and it would become part of the Vulture Mountain Recreation Area.

The Hassayampa Preserve is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and also on Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve day, and New Year's Day. Any other day you can visit, and the entry is \$5 per person, or \$3 for members. Kids under 12 and Friends of the Hassayampa are free. On the day we went, the weather was overcast and because of recent rains, the river was flowing wonderfully.



A lovely grey fox seemed fairly unperturbed by our presence.

### The Lion Trail

We wanted to see the whole Preserve, so after looking at the exhibits in the Visitors' Center, we went out the back door and turned right to the Lion Trail. This lovely little loop trail crosses the river right away, on a footbridge made from boards laid lengthwise. The water is sparkling pure and spreads out over a wide area of sandy riverbed with lots of bright green water plants.

We saw hummingbirds sipping the water between the plants. The trees are huge and you walk in their shade almost the entire time. Since it was January, most of the leaves were now on the ground, making a soft and almost silent carpet for us to walk on. The remaining leaves were shades of



yellow and brown.

Our granddaughters loved this place, and it would be a great spot to bring kids. The trails are smooth and relatively flat for the most part, and it's a lot of fun to cross the river on those little bridges. There is a picnic area, too – and when we were there, a gray fox was visiting. We also saw a huge variety of birds. If you're a birder, you can download the bird list online at [nature.org](http://nature.org) before you go. There are strategically placed benches along the paths where you can sit and watch the wildlife, including birds.

### The River Ramble

After doing the short Lion Trail and crossing back over the river near the Visitor Center, we headed north on the River Ramble. This trail follows the river on the west part of the loop, and we wanted to go to Lykes' Lookout, but the recent rains had washed out the bridge. This is the one trail with a lot of elevation change to it. We'll be sure to take it next time.



The grass along the Willow Walkway was incredibly green and lush.

### Mesquite Meander, Palm Lake

After watching the fox in the picnic area (and a cardinal and some other birds, too), we headed south on the Mesquite Meander. The westernmost part of this loop follows the river, and then it turns east and north and intersects the Palm Lake Loop. Palm Lake was dredged out to be a lake long ago and the Conservancy is letting it go back to a natural state, but when we were there, it was a nice pond because of the recent rains.

Rather than go back to the Visitor Cen-



The trails are easy and beautiful.



A pair of Mallard ducks enjoy their water world.

ter straight away, we took the eastern side of the Palm Lake Loop and the Willow Walkway. If you really meander around and go on every single part of every trail, you'll cover two or three miles because you will be going over some parts twice.

Even though it's not a huge area, there are so many different kinds of habitats to see that you will think you are really covering a lot of territory. We saw a little pond on a quiet part of the river with rushes and ducks, and the Willow Walkway near Palm Lake has an area that was absolutely gorgeous because the tree trunks were quite black in the overcast light, and the ground beneath them was a solid carpet of vivid green grass like velvet.

Honestly, you've got to visit this place. I bet it's gorgeous in the spring, but it sure is pretty in the winter too. I suggest you go after a rain.



This is Emily Anderson in the wash below the falls. All the kids on the trail loved climbing on these.

### Waterfall Trail

Another trail that is a *must* after a rain is the Waterfall Trail in White Tank Mountains Regional Park west of Phoenix. We actually went to the Waterfall Trail the day after Christmas, and it was fairly crowded. In fact, we had to wait in a line of cars at the park entrance.

The line was even longer when we were leaving! Entry fee is \$6 per vehicle for day use. The park opens at six, but we



## Tonto National Forest Announces Remaining 2017 Fee-Free Days

Tonto National Forest joins other federal agencies in offering four more fee-free days on public lands in 2017.

The fee-free program is in cooperation with other federal land management agencies under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Fees will be waived at all day-use sites including picnic grounds, shorelines and boat launches operated by the Tonto National Forest. Concessionaire-operated facilities, camping and campground fees will not be

waived. The remaining four fee-free days observed by national forests in 2017 are these:

- Feb. 20 – President's Day
- June 10 – National Get Outdoors Day
- Sept. 23 – National Public Lands Day
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

Traditionally, fees are not charged on 98 percent of national forests and grasslands, and approximately two-thirds of developed recreation sites in national forests and grasslands can be used for free.

Forest officials hope these fee-free days provide an incentive for people to visit the nearly 3 million acres of Tonto National Forest's land held in trust for their enjoyment and use.

A Tonto Pass is usually required at the above sites, and are available at over 200 vendor locations or local Forest Service offices. Tonto Daily Pass vendor locations are available at the Tonto National Forest Web site, [www.fs.usda.gov/tonto](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tonto), or call the Tonto National Forest at 602-

225-5200 during business hours.

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

## Glen Canyon Releases Off-Road Management Plan

The National Park Service recently announced the release of the Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The plan analyzes a range of alternatives and actions for managing off-road use of motor vehicles as well as on-road use of off-highway vehicles and street-legal all-terrain vehicles.

Glen Canyon Superintendent, Billy Shott, said he is excited that the plan is moving forward. "The Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan, or ORV plan as we like to call it for short, has been under development since 2007," Shott said.

"I am excited that the plan is moving forward at this stage and I hope we'll be able to take action in the near future to protect the exciting recreational opportunities offered to visitors at Glen Canyon, while continuing to preserve the natural and cultural resources that make our park special to them and millions of other visitors from around the world."

impacts that could result from continuing current management strategy, or implementing any of the four action alternatives. After a waiting period of at least thirty day, the National Park Service will issue a Record of Decision documenting the alternative that has been selected. The alternative that is selected will then be adopted as a special regulation governing off-road use of motor vehicles, as well as on-road use of off-highway and all-terrain vehicles at Glen Canyon.

Garfield, Kane, San Juan and Wayne counties cooperated in the development of the Off-Road Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Shott said he is pleased that the process to draft the plan was a collaborative effort that incorporated input from multiple stakeholders.

"I'm very pleased with the response we've had to developing the Off-road Vehicle Management Plan," Shott said. "We gathered input and comments from the general public at numerous venues, received input from the Bureau of Land Management, and had input from the Utah counties that border our park. I think the plan we've prepared together is very representative of the balanced approach we need to manage off-road use in Glen Canyon."

### Five Alternatives

Shott said that the plan was prepared

in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and would guide management of off-road vehicle recreation at Glen Canyon once a record of decision is issued by the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Office. Five alternatives were considered in the development of the plan.

**Alternative A**, the "no-action" alternative, represents the continuation of existing management policies related to the use of off-road vehicles in Glen Canyon.

**Alternative B**, the environmentally preferred alternative, would only allow motorized vehicle use on existing park roads.

**Alternative C**, the recreation opportunity preferred alternative, would expand recreational opportunities by increasing the number of off-road routes in the park as well as the expanding the types of vehicles that would be allowed on park roads.

**Alternative D** would limit the number of off-road vehicle routes and areas and prohibits the operation of off-highway and all-terrain vehicles throughout Glen Canyon. **Alternative E**, the National Park Service preferred alternative, designates a mixture of opportunities for motorized recreation on park roads and designated off-road routes, and certain shoreline areas, but prohibits such use in areas where natural or cultural resources may be at risk.



ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

**Alternative E:** The National Park Service preferred alternative, **Alternative E**, which maintains many of the off and on-road recreational opportunities that are currently available at Glen Canyon, though some routes and areas not designated under the plan will be closed and restored. It also includes provisions to develop a comprehensive communication plan that will improve signage and route markings, inform visitors about park regulations concerning off-road vehicle use, and educate visitors on the unique resources in the park and ways they can help protect them.

A permit system will be implemented to facilitate communication with visitors, and recover costs associated with monitoring routes, providing visitor safety, and mitigating damages to natural and cultural resources.

To seek additional information, obtain a copy of the plan, or provide comments, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glea-orvplan>.

### Compares Environmental Impacts

The plan compares the environmental

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### HIKE

Continued from page 11

got there considerably later, around 10 or so. Of course, almost all the people in line there were headed to the Waterfall Trail. Water is a magnet in Arizona.

This trail is wide, smooth, and has little elevation change. It's sort of like walking on a gravel road; it's that big. When we were there we were never out of sight of other people – we were actually in quite a crowd to be honest. You do gain a bit of elevation and the views are beautiful.

But the real attraction is the waterfall. Since there had been rains recently, there was still water, especially in pools below



This is the actual waterfall, which is not exactly spectacular, but not dry either. You have to come right after a good rain to see it in full force.

the falls. The waterfall itself was a bit of a trickle, but it was fun because once you get close, you have to clamber over some rocks to get into the little cave-like area where the fall is, and since it is so small, people wait and take turns, so when we were in there, Trinity and I were the only ones there. The entire floor of the area was a pond of very clear water, and the tiny trickle over the rocks into the pond was very pretty.

### Black Rock Long Loop

The streaked from the falls is lovely too – all big boulders and little pools, but drying out by the time it gets very far from the falls. There are petroglyphs all around



This is the pool at the very base of the waterfall.

the trail if you keep your eyes open, and after seeing the falls we took off on an intersecting trail called Black Rock Long Loop. On this trail we were alone most of the time, which made our granddaughters happy. This was a nice trail too, with good views, but mostly it was an opportunity to get away from the crowds and stretch our legs.

With the Waterfall Trail and the Black Rock Long Loop together, we hiked a little over three miles. The Black Rock Loop takes you back down almost to the road before swinging around and coming back to the Waterfall Trail.

### Try Now Before It Gets Hot

Both of these hikes are excellent, easy winter hikes close to Phoenix. If you have kids or people who have trouble on steeper or rougher trails, these are ideal. You can download trail maps online for both of these sites. Try them before it gets hot!

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## GUNSMITHS

Continued from page 9

action, and lightweight rings, mounts and scopes, the resulting rifle fully loaded, with sling, will be well under 7 pounds.

The next answer is accuracy potential. A wood stock is an organic material that can absorb, or release moisture, changing dimensions. While these changes may be invisible to the eye, they are huge when it comes to accuracy.

The Term "Accuracy"

The term "accuracy" is both simple, and complex. An accurate rifle is able to put multiple shots in very close proximity, to the same point of aim each time it is used. Accuracy is simply the elimination of all variables — ammunition that is totally consistent fired from a rifle that is the same each time. Factors like the harmonics caused by the firing of the ammunition, hand position etc., all effect accuracy.

### There Is Something About A Wood Stock

And yet there is something about a wood stock — the warmth and beauty of the colors and individual pattern of the grain in the wood. A wood stock can truly be the very soul of the rifle.

The start is the selection of a wood blank that has the grain properly flowing to ensure that the finished rifle will be strong, as well as beautiful. Next is the shaping of the stock, which must take into account the caliber, the rifle's use, and the size, gender and build of the owner.

A stock that "fits" is a pleasure to shoot. It naturally comes to the shoulder, and almost seems to aim itself. A stock that is poorly fitted can be just as accurate, but never comfortable to shoot. Part of the plan for the stock will be features like pistol grip, cheek piece, recoil pad, forend tip, inlays, metal accessories and special features.



Stock Blank With Stock Outline

### The Selected Stock Blank

The selected stock blank had beautiful color, figure (the pattern of swirls, stripes and patterns in the wood that make each piece unique) and grain flowing properly in the critical areas. The top line of the forend then had to be established, so that wood removal could begin. The rough shape was established, and the inletting process began.

Inletting is the removal of wood so that the metal becomes imbedded in the wood of the stock. If done properly, the metal seems to almost grow out of the wood. This is a precise, and tedious process involving measurements, mill work, more measurements and even more wood



Zebra wood Inlay

removal. Then comes the continued process of sinking the barreled action into the wood to the correct depth.

### Cannot Rush This Process

This tedious process cannot be rushed if you want a successful outcome. Next are the uses of chisels, scrapers, and cutters. The process continues with the removal of ever smaller amounts of wood as it starts to look as if the wood and metal belong together. A viscous liquid stain is applied to the metal, and contact with the wood is shown by transfer of the color, indicating areas where high spots need to be removed. This process is repeated for the bottom metal of the action using the action screws to properly locate everything front to back and side to side.

### Easier Now

This process used to be much more involved when the metal had to be fully bedded in wood, yet the end result rarely produced the level of accuracy that we now take for granted. Now there are epoxy-bedding compounds used that are so precise that the stampings in the bottom of the receiver are exactly reproduced in reverse in these bedding materials. This

does not relieve the gunsmith of doing an extremely close job of fitting metal to wood, but rather enhances the completed product.

### Flat-Bottomed Action

The action being used is a flat-bottomed action. These action types usually have the best accuracy when the barrel is also partially bedded along with the receiver. Areas must be relieved to allow proper harmonics and room for disassembly. This is not a process for the novice. A minor mistake can result in inaccuracy.

More serious consequences can include a permanent bonding of the wood or synthetic stock to the metal. Repair



Scope Mount And Scope



This is a Stainless Montana Action like the one in the story, but even larger, for the .505 Gibbs cartridge. This is scheduled for a later build.

of this mistake can include the machining away of the stock and damage to the metal structures of the rifle.

As part of this bedding process, the barrel is free floated. This involves the removal of enough material in the barrel channel to allow the barrel to move freely during the firing cycle, allowing an identical moment of movement of the barrel. Again, this results in removal of an inconsistency that potentially affects accuracy.

### Shaping Continues

Once the barrel and action are bedded, the shaping of the stock continues. Each stock is different, with intended features such as cheek piece, forend shape, length, and many other features come into play. I am reminded of one of the Karate Kid movies, where Daniel learns to make a Bonsai Tree by picturing in his mind, and removing anything that does not look like the tree in his thoughts. Such is the case here, where wood is removed where it does not look like the stock. The difference is that this must be done slowly, as no new growth can ever replace too much wood removed.

### Selection Of Certain Features

As the shaping is done, certain features must be selected, such as the style of the stock, cheek piece or not, and which style. Should it have a forend tip, grip cap, inlays, or carvings? Should it be checkered, and if so, what pattern? For this caliber, a recoil pad is highly advisable, but options include butt plates, or checkering the butt of the stock. All of these features will impact the final look and in some cases, the function of the rifle.

Features included in Rifle number one

included a shadow -line cheek piece of a unique design, with flowing lines and a hollowed area to allow for full contact, while allowing proper eye position with the scope. A forend tip, grip cap and an inlay behind the action were all made from a single piece of Zebra wood, and the grip cap also features a Mammoth Ivory inlay. Shaping of the pistol grip area was open to save the knuckles during recoil, and contoured to provide a firm grip without checkering.

### Other Custom Features

Other custom features of this rifle include a barrel band mounted front sling swivel, which saves the web of the off-hand during hard recoil, and a barrel band front sight. These were obtained from NECG (New England Custom Gun) and customized by machining clover-shaped cutouts in the band areas.

The rifle was finished in matte black Cerakote Finish. This is an extremely tough, wear resistant finish that is an excellent protectant for a firearm. The previously described clove-shaped cutouts had the insides coated with a bronze Cerakote to provide an attractive contrast. The finish was then baked to provide its maximum strength.

The stock was finished in many coats of hand-rubbed oil finish, with repeated sanding between coats to properly fill all of the pores of the wood. It was then polished to a high gloss finish, which really set off the beautiful wood.

The sighting system of the rifle required some special attention as it would be going to Africa. Travel of that magnitude could prove hard on the optics (scope) of a rifle, so a redundant back-up system would need to be included.

This rifle was equipped with a Voere quick-detachable mounting system, which allowed rapid scope changes, with each scope maintaining a very close return to zero. It also has an integral peep sight, visible when the scope is off. Scopes used for this trip were a Leupold VX-3 in 4.5X14 with custom turret and side parallel focus knob. The backup scope was an IOR 8X56.

With this setup, the rifle would be able to perform, no matter what.

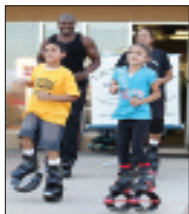
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**KAYAKS** — As shown on the cover of this issue and as Dallas Shewmaker of Lower Gear writes in his article "Arizona Anglers Get Hooked On Kayak Fishing" (page 1), more and more boaters are making "the shift to the 'Tupperware Navy.'" This is apparently true from Arizona to Florida, as evidenced in this photo from Cudjoe Key, Fla.



**DAN WILCOX**  
**CELL POWER** — Dan Wilcox (Web master extraordinaire) of Lion's Light Corporation shows that even from a distance, modern technology allows him to carry on with his business. He and his wife Lea are "on the road" in their new RV, stopping here at Cudjoe Key, Fla.



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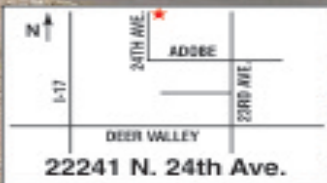
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# Raucous Renaissance Revelry Returns

Don't miss Raucous Revelry at the Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival! The Arizona Renaissance Festival is a medieval amusement park, a 13-stage theater, a 30-acre circus, an arts and crafts fair, a jousting tournament and a feast -- all rolled into one non-stop, day-long family adventure. You never know what you will find on or off the stage!

## 16th-Century European Village Market

The Festival is an outdoor event that combines entertainment and wares reminiscent of what may have been found in a 16th Century European village market celebrating the arrival of the King and Queen to their shire.

Walk through the gates to be transported back to a simpler, more jovial time. Mingle with over 2,000 costumed characters, eat a giant roasted turkey leg; take part in games of chance and skill; cheer on your favorite knight; select a hand-crafted rose for that special someone... so much to see and do. Eat Drink and be Merry is the order of the day at the Village of Fairhaven.

The upcoming 2017 Arizona Renaissance Festival is already in preparation!

Mark Your Calendar dates for February 11th through April 2nd, 2017 when the annual Arizona Renaissance Faire's Festival takes the royal stage.



**PLEASURE FEAST** — Food, Fools and Frivolity: Don't miss the incredibly delicious and wildly raucous Pleasure Feast! Savor five courses of fine foods and ample drink, served with a side order of live entertainment and Festival souvenirs! Be treated like royalty as the King's kitchen and the boisterous serving wenches dish up a roaring good time!

## Celebrating Years Of Cheers

Celebrating 28 years of cheers, the Arizona Renaissance Festival opens every weekend on Saturdays and Sundays and on Presidents' Day. The Renaissance Festival will be open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, rain or shine. Always Free Parking.

The Renaissance Festival is held near Apache Junction, Arizona- between Phoenix and Tucson.

## One Of Our Favourite Highlights

The Pleasure Feast is a one-and-a-half



**CRAFTS** — An always-popular feature is the arts and crafts faire.

hour five course medieval feast with live music and comedy entertainment, fine food and ample drink, plus festival gifts and souvenirs. With limited seating twice daily, advance feast reservations are recommended.

- Arizona Renaissance Festival, Festival Village, 12601 East Highway 60 Gold Canyon, Ariz.

- Dates: Feb. 11 to April 2
- Recurrence: Recurring weekly on Sunday, Saturday



**JOUSTING** — Jousting is given the 21st Century roar of approval. Knights will again strap on the heavy suits of armor, settle astride snorting chargers, take up their lances and tilt with each other for the annual Arizona Renaissance Festival jousting tournaments.

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- Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Price: General admission: \$24 adults, \$21 for seniors 60 and over plus active and/or retired adult military personnel and their spouses, \$12 children 5-12; children under 12 free.

## SHURA

Continued from page 8

It isn't unusual when you're fishing this bait to see the fish following it. When this happens, most people want to slow down, but Shura says that's a mistake. The best thing to do is speed it up — he says this triggers bites because the bass thinks the bait is getting away. If speeding up doesn't do the trick, kill it and let it fall. Often this is all it takes to make the bass suck it in

and head for deep water.

## Some Tips

Another thing you will see is that once you have a bass on the line, other bass will be behind it, following. This, says Matt, is a sure sign that you should stay and fish the spot thoroughly, maybe even throwing a Senko around.

For the smaller (4-inch) baits, Matt uses a medium-action spinning rod with 10-pound-test braid. He ties on about a

6-foot leader of 8-pound-test fluorocarbon. You want the leader to be just long enough to have the knot be just above that first big guide on your spinning rod when the lure is reeled up to throwing position. If you make the leader too long, that knot will smack against that first guide over and over, potentially weakening the line.

## Shura 'Pays It Forward'

Matt actually learned about these baits

from one of his non-boaters who was catching fish on them like crazy. He's always eager to learn new things, and he also pays it forward by teaching at Bass Pro Shops seminars at the Mesa store and is always being willing to help out fellow fishermen, even strangers.

If you see his bright orange Nitro on the water, don't hesitate to stop and say hi. Matt Shura is good people!

## DEMOCRACY

Continued from page 8

centage of the non-hunting society is 85 percent, which means that we, as hunters, pursue our recreational processes with the unspoken approval of the non-hunting public.

## A Look At California

One only has to look to California for a model of what could possibly happen here in Arizona or worse, across the United States. In California, the sport of hunting and fishing is almost a dirty little secret. Hunting certainly has been ripped by their liberal media as a Neanderthal activity and one of the members of their game and fish commission, Dan Richards, was removed from his position because he *legally* harvested a mountain lion in another state while he was a commissioner.

The following is a quote that exists on the Internet regarding his firing.

"Jennifer Fearing, California state director of the Humane Society of the United States, applauded the commission's action and faulted Richards for posting graphic photographs of the hunt online and for criticizing detractors. 'Richards has paid a high price for flaunting his out-of-sync values in Californians' faces,' she said. 'We are very glad to see the commission hold him accountable for his unprofessional behavior.'"

So, we have the president of the California Fish and Game Commission being fired for a perfectly legal activity and daring to post photos of his trophy. It is no secret that we have more than a few residents who at one time lived in California. It is also no secret that the demographics of Arizona are changing.

We were, at one time, considered the last bastion of the Wild West in the Southwest. Now, however, we have many more urban people than those who are rural.

Cattle ranching, the timber industry and even mining come under fire from groups that have an avowed dislike of these activities, along with hunting and fishing. How long will it be before the uninformed public, gets driven by a liberal media into some frenzy about hunting or fishing?

## Public Needs To Know

There is a strong need to educate the public of why hunting and fishing are ethical good choices for recreation. Failure to do so will simply allow those who literally are hunting us to continually press for a law that prohibits hunting or fishing. California has many mountain lions, but the voters there, under a "democratic" process have declared the mountain lion to be a "special species" and no one can hunt them. While the current catch phrase has been "The winds of change are blowing" in regards to our latest national elections, I would caution all who love to hunt and fish to pay attention to those same winds when it comes to hunting and fishing.

## Our Clock Is Ticking

The best quote that I have ever heard goes along the following lines: "For those who hunt and fish, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not, no explanation is possible". That may be our own death knell at some point in the future unless we educate the non-hunting public and do it in a professional and courteous manner.

Our clock is ticking as more and more of the public distances themselves from the basic life cycle that is sanitized into cellophane-wrapped meals that show no semblance to the animal or fish from which it came. The democratic process may someday curtail us in our now-legal pursuits and that is where a democracy can fail.



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## Don McDowell Is 'The Bass Daddy' – And So Much More

BY CAROL L. ALLEN



Many of you know Don McDowell as the host of the extraordinarily popular and award-winning radio show "Shake, Rattle, and Troll", which airs each Sunday on KFNX 1100 AM from 7 to 9 a.m. and on Inter-

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McDowell is a professional bass angler, a saltwater charter master, a member of the United States Coast Guard, a hunting enthusiast, and, of course, a radio personality. He is a powerful advocate for fishing, hunting, conservation, and veterans as well as an out-



**AZZGFC AWARD WINNERS** — Jim and Carol Allen, "Writer[s] of the Year" are shown with their friend Don McDowell (center), "Advocate of the Year – Federal".

spoken watch dog of the American political scene.

His mission statement highlights his goal: to expose his sponsors' products and services to a serious marketplace while promoting good sportsmanship.

See **MCDOWELL**, Page 19

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*And, share your love with the pets of Lost Our Home!*

Join a group of pet lovers like you for a unique, one-of-a-kind experience with the Phoenix Suns and the LA Lakers on Wednesday, Feb. 15. Do this all for the love of shelter pets — and enjoy an exciting evening of basketball as well.

Get your tickets and get ready for a fun night! Arrive before the game and watch the pre-game warmups for both teams from the first six rows!

Find your game seats in a section filled with pet lovers like you and cheer for your favorite team while the pets at the shelter cheer for you!

Get tickets here: <http://ow.ly/Yk-n8308czXM>



## 2017 Medical Exam Room Building Project: Will You Help?

*This year, we want to fulfill Laurie's Dream.*



Laurie Beauchamp

came too sick to work on her dream and she left this world, after a long battle with cancer.

It has been over a year since her passing and with a lot of patience and hard work, the time has come to get Laurie's Dream building done.

A few years before Fur and Feather Animal Assistance's founder Laurie Beauchamp passed away in 2015, she had a dream to raise the funds to build a new office with an exam/clean room, bathing station and supply storage on the property.

She had plans drawn and talked about ways to raise the money to get the supplies. She spoke with volunteers on how to create a work party to erect the building and help with the finish work.

But this was not to be. Laurie be-

Starting in January 2017, our building supply campaign got underway by applying for grants, opening a Go Fund Me account, seeking donations at events, planning a fundraiser and looking for a foundation of volunteers. We really want you to help us with Laurie's Dream.

Please contact Sarah Ross at [furandfeatheranimalassistance@gmail.com](mailto:furandfeatheranimalassistance@gmail.com) or 575-773-4674.

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**TAKE 'N BAKE REVOLUTION**



## MANUAL

Continued from page 6

viders should use it in their powerboat instruction programs

Tips and recommendations from recreational boating experts across the country for how to use the ANS to design, develop and implement courses, curricula, syllabi, and lesson plans that deliver high-quality On-Water, skills-based powerboat instruction, and

Guidelines for using performance assessment / measurement rubrics to design specific behaviors into programs that result in skilled entry-level powerboat operation.

### Additional Tools, Resources

The Power TSD also makes available additional tools and resources that aid in the design and implementation of On-Water instruction, including these:

- The ANS itself (titled On-Water Power Standards)
- An extensively field-tested Checklist Tool for assessing student performance as well as calibrating student evaluations to ensure consistency across instructors
- The ANS for Basic Powerboating Knowledge that can be used to help integrate knowledge and skills development, and
- Information, guidelines and suggestions for how to ensure On-Water, skills-based instructional programming complies with the ANS.

All recreational boating-safety education providers, large and small, national or local, are encouraged to use the materials contained within the Power TSD to develop or enhance their On-Water instruction. By taking an active role in raising the overall quality and availability of skills-based training and instruction for entry-level recreational powerboat operation,

education providers can help create a culture of safety in recreational boating that reduces accidents and saves lives on our nation's waterways.

### Available For Download

The Power TSD is freely available for download as a PDF on the NOWS Program website ([www.onwaterstandards.org](http://www.onwaterstandards.org)) and the ABYC on-line store ([www.abycinc.org](http://www.abycinc.org)). TSDs are also under development for national standards for Sailboats and Human-propelled craft, which will also be available for free download once completed.

The NOWS Program is part of the US Coast Guard's (USCG) National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation that is being used to organize both On-Land Knowledge and On-Water skills Standards within a comprehensive system of recreational boating education.

### For More Information

US Sailing, the grantee, has engaged an impartial professional facilitator to spearhead the program so that all recreational boating constituencies are equally represented in the organization of this system. A core team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) is developing National On-Water Skills-based Standards for SAIL, POWER and HUMAN-propelled domains of recreational boating, as well as an instruction standard that applies to all three domains. More information can be found at [www.onwaterstandards.org](http://www.onwaterstandards.org).

For more information related to the On-Water Standards Grant, the SME Team members, their role in the program, and other details about the National On-Water Standards Program, please contact National On-Water Skills Standards Facilitator K. Brian Dorval, at [grantfacilitator@gmail.com](mailto:grantfacilitator@gmail.com).

## LEARN TO SAIL

Continued from page 6

Naturally, a nonprofit program of this scope needs contributions and we welcome yours. If you have a boat (of any kind in seaworthy condition) or trailer, consider donating it to ASF and receiving a tax deduction. Or simply contribute money. Please see our donate page.

### The Mission

The Arizona Sailing Foundation, Inc., will provide fun, safe, community based education in the art of sailing on a non-discriminatory basis. The Arizona Sailing Foundation, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to

all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

For more information, visit <http://arizonayachtclub.org/education/>.

The O'Pen Bics were available for test drives, recruiting juniors to the February class in these exciting new boats. Photo: Phil Freedman

O'Pen Bics, performance boats for young teens. Photo: Phil Freedman

## RANCHERS

Continued from page 10

Election of Ken Van De Graaff as the new chairman, replacing Director Voyles.

The board was established by law in 2015 to address depredation by Mexican wolves on livestock operations within Arizona. The program is designed to provide

compensation to livestock producers who incur costs to their operations from Mexican wolves with the goal of increased tolerance for the presence of this subspecies on working landscapes.

For more information about the program, visit <https://www.azgfd.com/Agency/LiveStockBoard>.

## MCDOWELL

Continued from page 18

His passion for the outdoors, coupled with his extensive professional sales and marketing experience, has made him a natural for the highly competitive world of bass fishing and performance bass boats.

In addition to awards from the Arizona Game & Fish Department for "Media of the Year", he was recognized in January as their "Advocate of the Year — Federal".

The energy and sincerity of this man and the success of his business are stellar.



## ON THE COVER

Continued from page 1

ation year, we will try to highlight many of them and welcome your suggestions as

to what you might like us to feature in an upcoming issue.

Thinking "outside the box" can open the outdoors to new possibilities for all of us.

# Extend Your Boating Pleasure

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# ARIZONA'S **BEST KEPT SECRET**



Located just 55 minutes from Tempe Town Lake on beautiful Bartlett Lake in the heart of the Tonto National Forest, Bartlett Lake Marina's family atmosphere and beautiful surroundings makes it a wonderful location for your friends and family to enjoy an unforgettable Arizona day on the water.



## **2,815 ACRES OF FUN!**

Bartlett Lake Marina has a boatable surface area of 2,815 acres - more than Canyon Lake and Saguaro Lake, combined. Fed by the pristine waters of the Verde River, Indians of this valley spoke descriptively in their legends of the river's "sweet waters".

Outdoor enthusiasts frequent Bartlett Lake for a variety of recreational opportunities, including shoreline camping in Arizona's natural desert terrain. While in this part of the Tonto National Forest, visitors may see mule deer, bald eagles, javelina, coyotes, and many indigenous desert plants, including the majestic saguaro, mesquite trees, and blooming ocotillo.

## **BOAT RENTALS**

Bartlett Lake Marina we are ideally located 17 miles northeast of Carefree and only one hour from Phoenix. Our marina offers a range of well equipped comfortable pontoon rental boats. All safety gear and full instruction are included. We welcome novices! You can trust our rental boats to keep you and your family safe while exploring the surrounding bays. We have a number of different pontoon boats for your party needs. We also offer a variety of packages from full day rentals, and weekend rental packages.



PONTOON BOAT



SKI BOAT



PERSONAL  
WATERCRAFT



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