



Western Outdoor Times

FREE

Arizona Boating & Watersports™



March - April 2015

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

'Row, Row, Row Your Boat'

Boating

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Tackle & Target

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Western Wildlife

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Signs Of Southwest's Spring Are Showing



ON THE COVER

Expert Shares Paddling Trip Tips For Fun, Safety

BY ED HUNTSMAN
RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM MANAGER, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD EIGHTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT

As spring approaches, temperatures rise, and ice melts, paddlesports enthusiasts begin to contemplate their first paddle-trip.

But, before grabbing the canoe, kayak or SUP for that first trip, Eighth Coast Guard District boating-safety program manager Ed Huntsman wants to offer a few tips to ensure your safe return after an enjoyable trip.

Know Basic Safety Skills

How to self-rescue in the event your boat capsizes along with proper paddling technique and how to read the water. Only take on challenges for which you are physically and mentally prepared as well as having an understanding of basic rescue skills necessary to assist others.

Never Paddle Alone!

Always paddle with others in the event there's a problem or challenge downstream so you're not on your own. Plus you'll have someone to share the experience with.

Dress 'Code'

Warm air and cold water can be a dangerous mix. Always dress appropriately for the weather conditions, understanding the probability you will likely get wet. Take extra (dry) clothing to change into when it happens.

Dos And Don'ts

Carry a supply of food and water adequate for the type and length of

See **PADDLING**, Page 19

GOOD NEWS!

ISE Relocates To WestWorld In 2016

Sportsmen's Expo and Arizona Boat Show® announce move to larger local facility.

Arizona's largest fishing, hunting, boating and travel consumer show, the International Sportsmen's Exposition and Arizona Boat Show®, has announced it will be moving from Glendale to the 386-acre WestWorld facility in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Beginning in the spring of 2016, the 16th annual ISE will utilize WestWorld's North Hall and Multiuse Tent, plus outside space. Show dates will be March 10-13, 2016.

"As evidenced by record attendance at our just-completed 2015 event, we have grown our show to the point that we no longer have adequate room for all our displays in the current location," said Brian Layng, ISE CEO and president.

"We are excited to have secured a long-term commitment at WestWorld during the peak visitor season in March."

Layng said that momentum generated by ISE 2015's success, combined with expanded space should produce significant growth in exhibitor and attendance totals for the 2016 ISE premiere at WestWorld in Scottsdale.

"We expect more than 400 exhibiting com-



WestWorld, Scottsdale, Ariz.

panies spotlighting adventure travel destinations in Alaska, Canada and throughout the West," said Layng. The event will also feature Phoenix's top marine dealers and lines of sport, pleasure and fishing boats.

"WestWorld's vast indoor and outdoor space will allow us to present the largest display of boats, UTVs, ATVs, trucks, campers and RVs that the show has offered since it was

founded in 2000," said Layng.

Excellent Location

Just one minute off the 101 Freeway, Westworld is close to the high-income areas of Scottsdale/Paradise Valley and within easy reach of Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler and Tempe.

See **WESTWORLD**, Page 19



Get Your Motor Running At The AZGFD Outdoor Expo

Get ready to climb into an OHV and go for a ride at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo presented by Shikar Safari Club International.

A 50- by 100-yard OHV track is the newest addition to the hands-on event on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix.

Qualified participants can ride in a side-by-side OHV and experience some of the latest OHV performance features. Admission and parking are free. Also see OHV and ATV exhibits.

Kayak, Hike, Talk, Visit

Give kayaking a try at the "Lake Paddlemore" kayaking pond. Hike a field course and learn cool camping tips. Get information about boating and how to stay safe on the water. Talk to experts about wildlife, hunting and fishing tips, and more.

You can also visit with more than 150 exhibitors, including outdoor recreation and conservation groups, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services.

Go online to read more about what's happening at the Expo, which last year drew 48,000 visitors during the weekend.

Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The 2015 Outdoor Expo is easy to get to, located on Carefree Highway, about 1/2 mile west of I-17 in Phoenix.

The title sponsor for this year's event is Shikar Safari Club International. Gold sponsors are Cabela's and Arizona State Credit Union.

Age-Friendly

There's hands-on fun for all ages. See all sorts of live wildlife. Check out the huge kids'

See **OUTDOOR EXPO**, Page 19

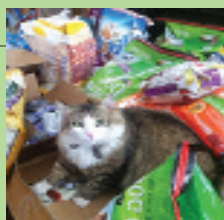
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Good Company

Pet Food Needed

The no-kill shelter Lost Our Home in Tempe, Ariz., is asking for donations to their food bank/Page 15



Land Cruising

Desert Bursts Into Bloom

State And County parks urge you to get out and savor the seasonal beauty of wildflowers in bloom/Page 11



Photo by Chelle Brookes

Western Outdoor Times

Arizona Boating & Watersports



THE CREW

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We are sincerely grateful to Doug Burt, Hunting and Shooting Sports Program manager for Arizona Game and Fish, for his devotion to environmental and wildlife nurture and sustainability. His focus on the Hunting and Angling Heritage Work Group (HAHWG) has continued to gain support from committed outdoor enthusiasts.

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DOWNSTREAM Events Calendar Beginning Mid March

BOATING

LAKE HAVASU CITY: April 11-12 — Jettribe Lake Havasu Open of Watercross Gary Hart Memorial – Lake Havasu State Park, IJSBA-sanctioned with some of the best PWC racers from the Western U.S. and Canada compete for points, two days of freestyle and closed-course racing, free, 9 am – 4:30 pm, 310-318-4012 or www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/17 05/

LAKE HAVASU CITY: April 10-12 — Havasu Marine Association's 24th Annual Boat Show – LH State Park, features more than forty different brands of boats, cruisers and sportboats, plus hundreds of marine accessory products. Chili Cook-Off and Salsa Challenge is new this year, \$4, 12 & under free, <http://golakehavasu.com> See story on page 5

TEMPE: March 28-29 — 12th Annual Arizona Dragon Boat Festival – Tempe Town Lake Marina, 50 dragon boat racing teams from all over the world are expected to participate, 40-foot-long rowing canoes, 20 paddlers, one steersperson & a drummer in a 500-meter race, features competitive and recreational dragon boat races, vendors, and Asian and Pacific inspired talented entertainment, free, 9 am – 4 pm, www.azdba.com

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

LAKE HAVASU: April 21-26 — Desert Storm. www.lakeracerllc.com. See story on page 6.

CAMPING/RVING/AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

LAS VEGAS: March 27-29 — The 12th annual "Mountain Gear Presents: Red Rock Rendezvous" (RRR) rock climbing festival; for more information on resigtration options or to register, visit www.RedRockRendezvous.com.

ARIZONA STATE PARKS: Through June 7 — The Arizona Family Campout Program; see story on page 1.

COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

PHOENIX: April 8-12 — 40th Annual Maricopa County Fair – Here We Grow Again - State Fairgrounds, an annual occasion to celebrate & pursue the traditional values of educational opportunity, agricultural prosperity & love of family, midway, commercial exhibits, hobbies, agriculture & youth exhibits, motorized events, \$9, children 7 & under are free, 602-252-0717 or www.maricopacountyfair.org



GOLD CANYON: Through March 29 — 27th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival – a medieval amusement park, a 13-stage theater, a 30-acre circus, an arts & crafts fair, a jousting tournament and a feast- all rolled into one non-stop, day-long family adventure, \$12-22, weekends & President's Day, 10 am - 6 pm rain or shine, 520-463-2600 or www.royalfaires.com/arizona/

PICHACO PEAK: March 21-22 — Civil War in the Southwest – Picacho Peak State Park, a historical re-enactment of Arizona's only Civil War battle, the Battle of Picacho Pass on April 15, 1862, featuring costumed soldiers staging battles at the actual site, re-enactments of an Arizona Civil War skirmish and the New Mexico battles of Glorieta and Val Verde, artillery demonstrations, encampments & civilian demonstration, 520-466-3183 or www.azstateparks.com

PHOENIX: March 20 — Music in the Garden Spring Concert Series – Desert Botanical Garden, featuring Chuck Hall Band, longtime inductee in the Arizona Blues Hall of Fame, living legeng Chuck Hall boasts a charismatic ensemble with a strong Southern roots influence, this lively performance is sure to be enjoyed by any blues fan, advance purchase recommended, \$20-25, additional dinner is also available, 21+, doors open at 5:30 pm, concert at 7 pm, 480-481-8188 or www.dbg.org

PHOENIX: March 20-22 — Spring Plant Sale Festival – Desert Botanical Garden, desert-adapted plants, garden volunteers, horticulturists and professional landscape designers on hand to answer questions and offer advice, free, Sat 7 am – 5 pm, Sun 9 am – 5 pm, 480-941-1225 or www.dbg.org

INCOME TAX DAY: April 15 — Check out Arizona State Parks donation credit. See story on page 15.

HELP THE HOMELESS: April 11, 7-10 a.m. — Join the Inaugural 5K I-HELP Walk for the Homeless ; Kiwanis Park South Soccer Fields, 6111 S. All American Way, Tempe (NE corner of Guadalupe Road and All American Way); registration fee of \$10 entitles you to a continental breakfast and an event T-shirt; you're invited to walk individually – or build a team of friends, co-workers and family members; prizes will be given for the largest team, top

fundraisers, and the most sponsors. www.ihelpwalk2015.myevent.com/

FISHING

LAKE HAVASU CITY: April 11 — 35th Annual New Horizons Pro-Am Bass Tournament – Lake Havasu State Park, learn from the pros during a friendly competition for the Big Fish prize or catch a tagged fish for a chance to win, \$225/team, 5:30 am, 928-846-1052 or www.golakehavasu.com

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

DAY AT THE DOCKS: April 19 — San Diego, Calif. www.facebook.com/Day-AtTheDocks

HUNTING/SHOOTING/ ARCHERY

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY: Sept. 26.

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

SHOWS AND EXPOS

PHOENIX: March 28-29 — Arizona Game & Fish Department Outdoor Expo – Ben Avery Shooting Facility, hands-on activities, demonstrations and exhibits on hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, archery, off-highway vehicle (OHV) and watercraft recreation, conservation and wildlife education, camping and other outdoor elements, free, Sat 9 am – 5 pm, Sun 9 am -0 4 pm, 602-942-3000 or www.azgfd.gov/expo See story on page 1.

WATERSPORTS

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

Frozen:
SCOTTSDALE: April 9-12 — 12th Annual Desert Ice Bonspiel – Alltel Ice Den, 24 curling teams from Canada and the U.S. will participate in the tournament, <http://www.coyotescurling.com> or <http://www.deserticebonspiel.com/>

Swimming:
TEMPE: April 12 — Marquee Triathlon - Tempe Beach Park, kicks off Southwest triathlon season, with sprint and international distance events, something for everyone from first-time triathlete to the



Easter April 5

seasoned pro, and featuring a start area and transitions located near the Tempe Center for the Arts in beautiful Tempe Beach Park, International Course: **1.5-kilometer swim** | 45-kilometer bike | 10-kilometer run, Sprint Course: **.75-kilometer swim** | 22.5-kilometer bike | 5-kilometer run, www.redrockco.com

TEMPE: April 9 — Ironcure Splash & Dash + Swim Only – Race 1 – Tempe Town Lake, presented by Triple Sports, **Splash 750m** or **1500m**/Dash 5km; **Swim Only 750m** or **1500m**, a unique event with a relaxed atmosphere that is suitable for all levels of athlete, \$35-40, 6 pm, [/www.4peaksracing.com/](http://www.4peaksracing.com/)

PHOENIX: March 22 — 9th Annual Tri for the Cure Arizona – **Phoenix Swim Club**, Triathlon – Duathlon – 5K; Tri: 400m – 8Mi – 2.4Mi; Du: 1Mi – 8Mi – 2.4Mi; 5K, 7 am, www.triforthecureaz.com/

LAKE HAVASU CITY: March 21 — 12th Annual Havasu Triathlon – International distance triathlon - swim 1500 m, bike 40K, run 10K; sprint triathlon – swim 500m, bike 20K, run 5K, 7:30 am, www.tuesonracing.com/

WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

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

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



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Update your boating safety knowledge



Before you go...

Planning a trip out on the water? Ensure you have a great time while operating your vessel by performing this pre-departure check!

- Check the weather forecast for the area and timeframe during which you will be boating.
- Make sure the steering, throttle and light controls are all working properly.
- Check for any fuel leaks from the tank, fuel lines, and carburetor.
- Check the engine compartment for oil leaks.
- Check hose connections for leaks or cracks, and make sure hose clamps are tight.
- Drain all water from the engine compartment, and be sure the bilge plug is replaced and secure.
- Check to be sure you have a fully charged engine battery and fire extinguisher.
- If so equipped, make sure the ignition safety switch and wrist lanyard are in good order.
- Make sure you have the required number of life jackets (personal flotation devices or PFDs), and check that they are in good condition.
- Leave a float plan with a reliable friend or relative.

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

March 2015				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game and Fish Department	March 21 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game and Fish Department	March 21 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd. Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Coast Guard Auxiliary	March 21 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Bass Pro Shop 1133 N. Dobson Road Mesa	\$30	(602) 374-7312
U.S. Power Squadron	March 28 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Cabela's 9380 W. Glendale Ave. Glendale	\$25	(602) 908-7380

April 2015				
Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 11 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Cabela's 9380 W. Glendale Ave. Glendale	\$25	(623) 293-1637
Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 11 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Marine Max 1840 E. Boradway Tempe	\$20	(602) 550-8655
Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 18 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Bass Pro Shop 1133 N. Dobson Road Mesa	\$30	(602) 374-7312
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Headquarters 5000 W. Carefree Hwy. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd. Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219
U.S. Power Squadron	April 22, 29 and May 6, 13 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Arizona 333 E. Flower Street Phoenix	\$25	(602) 525-6318
U.S. Power Squadron	April 25 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Cabela's 9380 W. Glendale Ave. Glendale	\$25	(602) 908-7380
U.S. Power Squadron	April 25 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sportsman's Warehouse 19205 N. 27th Ave. Phoenix	\$25	(623) 465-2647
Arizona Game and Fish Department (Paddlesports)	April 25 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219

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



Renew Your Watercraft Registration Online!

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

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





Boating



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Arizona's Best-Kept Secret We Want You To Know What It Is



BY CAPT. DAVE ESPARZA

Established by Congress in 1939, the 30,000 members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary are *Semper Paratus* "Always Ready."

Vessel safety checks, harbor patrols, safe-boating courses, search and rescue, marine environmental protection — these are just a few of the services provided by the Auxiliary. Each year, Auxiliaryists volunteer more than two million hours benefiting boaters and their families. We invite you to learn more about who we

are and what we do to be *Semper Paratus*.

Auxiliaryists in Arizona are part of the 11th Southern Coast Guard District. Here in Central Arizona we are known as Division 10. Division 10 has six smaller units called Flotillas. The Flotillas are 10-1 in Tucson, 10-2 in Page at Lake Powell, 10-3 our band flotilla in Central Phoenix, 10-7 Central Phoenix and Glendale, 10-8 East Valley, 10-10 Prescott, and 10-11 Scottsdale, Tempe and Chandler.

For more information go to the Coast Guard Auxiliary national website at www.cgaux.org. Our moto is "Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty."



Photo by Kokopelli Trailers

Does Your Trailer Get Respect?

BY P/D/CDR CHUCK PETERSON, SN
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON

For the most part, boat trailers are like Rodney Dangerfield — "They don't get no respect." But, they're the only thing between our beautiful boats and trouble. And, the trailer tires are the only thing between the trailer and the pavement.

Why do we see boat trailers sitting on the side of the road? Usually for one of two reasons — first are underinflated tires, causing excessive heat buildup and sidewall rupture. Virtually all tire manufacturers recommend using maximum-rated pressure shown on the sidewall, even if the load is less than maximum.

The second cause of trailer tire blowouts is weathering. Our Arizona sun promotes weathering far worse than in northern and eastern states. Heat, ozone, and UV degrade tires. Inexpensive tire covers and parking on plywood, particle board, etc., dramatically reduce this degradation.

Most tire makers say replace tires between three to six years. Tread remaining is not a predictor of tire condition!

Check List

Other things to check before hitting the road include the following:

- Spare tire pressure,
- Tongue weight 5-7 percent of total weight,
- Coupler locked,
- Trailer winch locked,
- Tie downs on,
- Lights working,
- Chains hooked up and crossed under tongue, and
- Mirrors wide enough to see around trailer.

The above material is part of one chapter of 16 chapters in the United States Power Squadron's *America's Boating Course* presented at Cabela's March 28 and April 25 and at Sportsman's Warehouse April 25. Register with Chuck at (602) 908-7380 or at ChuckP7173@gmail.com.

Chuck Peterson is a past District Commander & Squadron Commander of United States Power Squadrons, America's largest recreational boating and education organization. He teaches many of their 29 courses and seminars. He has boated on the Great Lakes, around the Midwest, the Southwest, and around San Diego for several decades.

United States Power Squadron Current Class Schedule

3/28/2015 (Saturday) United States Power Squadron

Cabela's
9380 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85305
Time 9:30 am – 5:00 PM
Cost \$25.00 (including 6 months free membership)

To register call Chuck Peterson 602-908-7380 or email chuckp7173@gmail.com

4/22/2015 (Wednesday) United States Power Squadron

Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Arizona
333 E. Flower Street
Phoenix, AZ 85012
Time 6:30 – 8:30 PM
4 Nights (4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13)
Cost for 4 nights \$25.00 Total (including 6 months free membership)
To register call Bill Johnson 602-525-6318 or email BillJ6@gmail.com

4/25/2015 (Saturday) United States Power Squadron

Cabela's
9380 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85305
Time 9:30 am – 5:00 PM
Cost \$25.00 (including 6 months free membership)
To register call Chuck Peterson 602-908-7380 or email chuckp7173@gmail.com

4/25/2015 (Saturday) United States Power Squadron

Sportsman's Warehouse
19205 N. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027
Time 9:30 am – 5:00 PM
Cost \$25.00 (including 6 months free membership)
To register call Ron Werner 623-465-2647 or email rwnerner6370@gmail.com

5/20/2015 (Wednesday) United States Power Squadron

Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Arizona
333 E. Flower Street
Phoenix, AZ 85012
Time 6:30 – 8:30 PM
4 Nights (5/20, 5/27, 6/3, 6/10)
Cost for 4 nights \$25.00 Total (including 6 months free membership)
To register call Bill Johnson 602-525-6318 or email BillJ6@gmail.com

24th Annual Lake Havasu Boat Show

LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK
WINDSOR 4

APRIL 10-12

FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY

ARIZONA'S LARGEST
BOAT SHOW

OVER 100 EXHIBITORS.....
MORE THAN 60 BOAT BRANDS

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MORE SPECIAL ATTRACTONS...



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FOOD COURTS
LIVE MUSIC



LAKE HAVASU
CORNHOLE
CHAMPIONSHIPS



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JETTRIBE
PWC
WATERCROSS
RACING

Show Hours: Fri. noon to 6pm; Sat. 9am to 6pm; Sun. 9am to 3pm
Admission: Adults \$4.00, Kids 6 & under free, Free Parking

LAKEHAVASUBOATSHOW.COM





Boating

JUST SKIP IT

The Urge To Be One's Own Skipper Is Growing

BY CAPT. DEAN SEALEY
TRAINING DIRECTOR,
THE SAIL BOAT SHOP



Sealey

example in Phoenix is at Lake Pleasant. "The Sailboat Shop" offers both learn-to-sail (ASA 101) and the basic cruising (ASA 103) certification courses year around — both private and group lessons depending on your availability.

Lake Pleasant is just a 30-minute drive north from downtown Phoenix. The gentle winds of the lake make it a perfect location to start your sailing adventure. There is ample parking and the lake is surrounded by beautiful cactus filled mountains.

Since the 1990s the number of students enrolling in sailing schools has more than doubled. The number of schools accredited by the largest certification organization American Sailing Association (ASA), based in California, has close to 200 schools. This recent boom has turned the mom-and-pop sailing instruction business into an industry. It's also creating a smart new way of sailing without all the hassles of boat ownership.

A sailboat, it is often said, is a hole in the water into which one pours money. A used 20-foot sloop can cost \$15,000, while a new 32-foot sailboat can run upwards of \$110,000. Then there are the ever present maintenance and issues of storage.

In fact, more often than not, the owner becomes committed to sailing from a single port. ASA sailing certification courses, however, free their students from many of these costs and limitations. That's because ASA's certification standards are universally accepted all over the United States and in many other countries.

The rental option is especially popular with sailors who love to travel and try waters in different locations. With an ASA sailing certification, you could live in Phoenix and sail Lake Pleasant while taking vacation charters in San Diego's Mission Bay, Sea of Cortez, and Catalina Island!

Freedom and flexibility are the name of the game these days. It is seldom said that people who charter are doing so because they can't afford to buy a boat but rather that they are too smart to own. With personal vacation time getting shorter and shorter, chartering offers a hassle free way to spend time on-the-water with family and friends.

Certification costs can start as low as \$375 for two days of learn-to-sail. Most learn-to-sail courses are offered on a simple 22-27-foot keelboat with mainsail and jib. Keelboats are dry and stable. They do not capsize.

Here in Arizona we are fortunate to have several good lakes for learning to sail. And



Bob Brown

HAVASU HAS IT! — Arizona's largest boat show is just around the corner: April 10-12. The 24th annual Lake Havasu Boat Show is primed to deliver more exhibitors and attractions than ever before. Join the fun at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4 on London Bridge Road. In addition to 60-plus different brands/kind of boats, there is a chili and salsa contest to benefit the local high school, the IJSA Jetribe PWC Water-Cross Race, and the appearance of the remarkable Miss Geico, reigning 2013-14 SBI offshore world champion. <http://www.lakehavasubootshow.com>

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TRAILER

Continued from page 4

5/30/2015 (Saturday) United States Power Squadron

Sportsman's Warehouse
19205 N. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Time 9:30 am – 5:00 PM

Cost \$25.00 (including 6 months free membership)

To register call Ron Werner 623-465-2647 or email rwerner6370@gmail.com

6/27/2015 (Saturday) United States Power Squadron

Sportsman's Warehouse
19205 N. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Time 9:30 am – 5:00 PM

Cost \$25.00 (including 6 months free membership)

To register call Ron Werner 623-465-2647 or email rwerner6370@gmail.com

10/14/2015 (Wednesday) United States Power Squadron

Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Arizona

333 E. Flower Street
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Time 6:30 – 8:30 PM

4 Nights (10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4)

Cost for 4 nights \$25.00 Total (including 6 months free membership)

To register call Bill Johnson 602-525-6318 or email BillJ6@gmail.com



Boating

Arizona Senate Confirms Zieler As Game And Fish Commissioner

The Arizona State Senate confirmed law-enforcement veteran James S. Zieler as the newest member to serve on the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

"It is an honor to be selected to serve on the Arizona Game and Fish Commission," said Zieler of St. Johns. "I look forward to serving and will do my best to enhance the Department's mission toward protecting and conserving wildlife within Arizona."

Zieler currently works with the Salt River Project as supply chain manager, op-



Zieler

erations and maintenance supervisor and safety and security coordinator. Before that, he served as chief of the St. Johns Police Department for nine years.

Zieler also has worked as a deputy with the Apache County Sheriff's Office, supporting joint investigations and operations with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, the

Navajo and Apache Nations and served on the Arizona Department of Public Safety's gang taskforce. His law enforcement background also includes three years as a corrections officer with the Arizona Department of Corrections.

In addition to serving on numerous law-enforcement committees and boards, Zieler has remained active in his community. Since 1999, he has conducted hunter education courses for the Game and Fish Department, served as a varsity scout coach

with the Boy Scouts of America and as a youth football coach at St. Johns Middle School.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission establishes policy for the management, conservation and harvest of wildlife, and makes rules and regulations for managing, conserving and protecting wildlife and fisheries resources, as well as for safe and regulated watercraft and off-highway vehicle operations. Commissioners each serve staggered five year terms.

Vote Today For Your Favorite Safe Or Clean-Boating Grant Idea

There are eligible projects in eight states, including Arizona.

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water provides local non-profit groups up to \$10,000 to help educate boaters on safe and clean boating topics. However, it needs your help to determine who will get the money.

With its 2015 Grassroots Grants program kicking off, the national 501(c)(3) is looking to the public to help it decide which of the eight submitted projects will receive funding in the competitive program. Boaters have until midnight on March 24 to go to www.BoatUS.org/grants/vote.asp to cast their vote, and may vote for their favorite project once a day until voting closes. Grants will be awarded in April.

Grant funds come from donations by the over half-million members of Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS). Since 1989, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.3 million to organizations that have developed creative projects to promote safe and clean boating on



their local waterways. A second option to vote is at Facebook.com/BoatUSFoundation.

The Grassroots Grants contenders are

Alaska — Cook Inletkeeper of Homer: Grant funds would be used for the Alaska Clean Boating Incentive Program offering discounts for boaters at local businesses.

Arizona — Newspapers Foundation of Yuma: Funding would be used to make an educational publication, *Wally's Wonderful World of Boating*, more accessible to schools and at boat ramps and local outdoor stores.

Maryland — Chesapeake Conservancy of Annapolis: Grant funds will be used to create a mobile *Chesapeake Boaters Guide* with boating safety and

clean water tips.

Minnesota — Kandiyohi County AIS Task Force of Willmar: Funds would be used to create an aquatic-invasive-species education and prevention app for smartphones that includes boat-cleaning information and invasive-species ID tips.

New Jersey — Lake Hopatcong Foundation: Funds would pay for Lake Hopatcong Guide Map with information on invasive species and pump-out station locations.

New York — The Lake George Association: Grant funds will be used for the multi-prong Lake George Invasive Species Education & Outreach program to teach boaters how to inspect their boat for invasive species and offer a video showing boaters what to expect when they arrive at an inspection station.

Tennessee — Keep Tennessee Beautiful of Memphis: Grant funds would address anti-litter educational outreach to boaters, and include public service announcements and outreach events.

Washington — Northwest Maritime Center of Port Townsend: Grant funds would create a series of educational videos and simulator for the "Read Your Radar Right, Reduce Collisions" project.



Jim Nichols, LakeRacerLLC

THE NEED FOR SPEED — Yes, you can set official Lake Havasu Speed Records at Desert Storm 2015! For the first time, the top speeds in each class recorded at the Desert Storm Shootout, Saturday, April 25 will become the "Official Record Speed for the Lake Havasu Flying Mile" and will be sanctioned and preserved by the Lake Havasu Marine Association. Event protocols are being formulated now and Ross Wallach has been retained to serve as Competition Director to facilitate the operations. Once again, a collection of the most significant performance boats across the nation are planning to converge on Lake Havasu April 21-26. "Desert Storm 2015 is slated to be our best event ever," says Jim Nichols of LakeRacerLLC.

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LAKE POWELL REPORT

It's A Special Year Ahead: Don't Miss Out On The Action

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

The striper hot spot this week at Lake Powell is Good Hope Bay. This will be a recurring theme in 2015. Striper numbers and shad forage are higher in the northern lake. Reports from Good Hope this week indicate it is possible to catch 100 strippers per day while graphing and spooning.

Begin At Good Hope Bay

Begin the search in Good Hope Bay near Red Canyon. You may have to go as far as The Horn to find a school. Graph the 25-45 foot contour looking for big striper schools. These schools are large and easy to detect. Stop the boat directly over the school and immediately drop spoons to the bottom.

Fish in an active school will hit the spoon as it comes down. Inactive fish have to be coaxed so jig the spoon off the bottom perhaps three to four times. Then retrieve the spoon as quickly as possible for 15-20 feet, before stopping and jigging at mid depth. This gives any trailing fish an excuse to grab the suspended spoon.

If there were no followers, rest assured the fish in the resting school are "looking up," just waiting for the bait to come back down. Give them what they want by dropping the spoon back to the bottom. If the spoon lands within the school again, they won't disappoint.

There will soon be a fish holding on to the spoon with others following, trying to get a good look at what the first fish ate. Then it's game on! The whole school goes into feeding mode. Work quickly to hook, land fish, unhook, and return the spoon to the water as quickly as possible. Admire the fish after the school moves on. Just concentrate on catching fish while the school is in range.



THIS IS THE YEAR! — Wayne Gustaveson stopped shivering long enough in February to toss a shad-shaped worm into shallow water on a drop shot rig and come up with a really nice 5.5-pound largemouth bass. This will be the year to catch really hefty large fish in a wide variety of species in Lake Powell.

In The Southern Lake

In the southern lake it is not quite that easy. Shad numbers are less and strippers seem to be separated from shad. Try trolling while graphing. Lately we have been seeing small groups of 10 strippers or less on the graph instead of the huge schools found in the north.

These randomly scattered fish are better targets for trolled lures than a precise spoon drop. Troll in the backs of most canyons where water color is slightly stained and water depth is the same 25-45 feet.

When a striper hits the trolled lure, be ready to toss a spoon or a crankbait to any following fish. There will be occasions when a small bunch of strippers follow the hooked fish and an extra two to three fish can be caught at each stop.

If Bass Are The Target

If bass are the target, some rally fat large and smallmouth are being caught near brush. That sounds simple but requires some explanation. Submerged shoreline vegetation is scarce and the lake level continues to fall.

"Brush" is defined as tumbleweed piles, cattail clumps washed into the lake from flash floods last fall, or any other unusual structure that a largemouth bass could call home. Sometimes it is a rock, ledge, or a change in water color.

Finding bass-holding habitat is challenging but may be the key to catching the huge bass that are available right now.

When a good spot is found, it can be fished more than once. If bass are caught in a likely spot, let it rest and return two hours later to find more bass.

Bass fishing in the southern lake seems to be almost as good as in the north. The general rule this year is that bass are bigger, fatter and more satisfying than in any recent year. There have been some really big bass landed already and many more are expected as the water warms.

Walleye Are Spawning Now

Walleye are spawning now so they are challenging to catch. Fishing will be better in mid-April after spawning is over. But, females that are not actively spawning can still be enticed by night crawlers towed behind a spinner rig on a bottom bouncer or a trolled crankbait ticking bottom at 12 feet in murky water.

A Banner Year Ahead

Expect to interact with some quality fish this year no matter which species is pursued. Don't miss out on the action. This year is going to be very special.

At press time, lake elevation was 3,591 and water temperature was 50-54F.



The New Look Of Miss Yellowtail Derby, Tiera Hanes

7TH ANNUAL YELLOWTAIL DERBY 2015

The Derby Is Ramping Up

From May 2 to June 7 a great place to be fishing is in San Diego at the Derby.

BY JOHN L. CAMPBELL

The reception at the Fishing Clubs meetings during this month was very enthusiastic. Many new anglers have signed up for the 2015 contest. The excitement is building — just about a month and a half until the first day to fish and even less until the Pre-Fish Seminar and Party at the Bali Hai.

Miss Yellowtail Derby 2015 Tiera Hanes has been very busy, promoting, signing up anglers and talking to sportboat captains about setting up Derby charters to Fish with Miss Yellowtail.

All of the San Diego Fishing Clubs liked the new "Guess the Weight of the Winning Fish" addition to the completion. It is the brain child of our longtime friend and Derby angler/sponsor Doug Kern of Fisherman's Landing Tackle Shop.

Anglers must enter before the Derby starts, and there is only one entry per person. In the case of a tie, the first one received will count. Enter online at www.yellowtailderby.com

Sponsors And Supporters

The 2014 Yellowtail Derby is sponsored and supported by the following: The Port of San Diego, The Bali Hai Restaurant, Kusler Yachts, Ballast Point Brewery, Vessel Assist, Cousins Tackle, Boyce Image, West Marine, Everingham Bros, Fisherman's Landing, H&M Landing, Point Loma Sportfishing, SkyMed, Tom Ham's Lighthouse, Fisherman's Landing Tackle, Hotel Buena Vista Beach Resort, 976 Bite, Terrafin, SportClips, FastSigns on Midway, UniButter, Bob Cox Bone Carver, Angler's Arsenal, Angler's Choice Tackle, Ballyhood "Top Gun," De-Fishing Soap, Get the Gaff, Interstate Batteries, Broken Yolk, Viejas Casino, Maritime Institute, Ramona Café, Sycuan Casino, PB Fish Shop, Squideo Fishing, Yachtfinders, Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times, Sunroad S D Boat Show, BlueSkyNews.com, Let's Talk Hook UP radio, Rod and Reel Radio, Shake Rattle & Troll Radio

For More Information

Contact John L. Campbell, (619) 991-5480, johncinsd@gmail.com.

New National Campaign Asks Anglers To Pledge To Pitch It

Recreational fishing industry is asking anglers to properly dispose of soft plastic baits.

Americans are more conscious than ever about properly disposing of, or recycling plastic containers and other materials. The recreational fishing industry, through KeepAmericaFishing®, its grassroots angler advocacy campaign, is asking anglers to add their worn out soft plastic baits to that list.

The Start Of It All

KAF-PitchIt, the new Pitch It campaign was the direct result of a proposed legislative ban in Maine on the sale and use of soft plastic baits. While legislators were contending that baits discarded in our waterways were harming fish populations, the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) is not aware of any study done in the wild showing the detrimental impact of soft baits. Years of laboratory tests on soft baits have shown that most fish regurgitate or pass them without harm.

The Real Problem: Litter

While there are many environmental factors that have an impact on lakes and streams, ASA contends that, regarding soft plastic baits, what really exists is a litter problem. As the voice for the recreational fishing industry, ASA and KeepAmericaFishing developed the Pitch It campaign to address this issue, educate anglers on proper disposal methods, and influence a positive change.

"The genesis of the Pitch It campaign was the potential legislative ban on soft

plastic baits, and that is its current focus," said KeepAmericaFishing Director Liz Ogilvie. "However, we would like to extend the campaign beyond soft plastic baits to address trash of any type littering our nation's waterways."

The Appropriate Action

Ogilvie also said that ASA and KeepAmericaFishing believe that building awareness and educating anglers is the appropriate action to stop other states that may consider introducing their own legislative actions.

"Our industry has stepped up to take the initiative to tackle this problem head-on and demonstrate that recreational anglers are — as always — the best stewards of our nation's waterways," stressed Ogilvie. "In fact, there is a lot of support from the industry on this issue, but special thanks go to the World Fishing Network, Strike King and angling pro Kevin Van-



Dam who were all significant contributors to getting the campaign off the ground."

Van Dam Blogs

In his January 15, blog post, Pitch It supporter Kevin Van Dam said, "There's no excuse for throwing anything in the water that isn't going to break down immediately. A crusty sandwich is one thing, but old plastics, fishing line or any tackle should be carried to shore at the end of the day. I encourage you to share this information with other fishermen and convince them to keep damaged plastics in their boats until they get to land where it can be disposed of properly. We have to lead by example."

See **CAMPAIGN**, Page 8



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Tackle & Target

EXCERPTS FROM MID-MARCH AZGFD REPORT

Spring Fishing Is Here; Enjoy The Fun

The Reel Deal

Spring fishing is here in all its bedding-bass, crisp-morning glory.

Yet the vernal equinox, or the first day of spring when the Earth is neither inclined toward, nor away, from the sun, isn't until Friday, March 20.

And the summer trout stocking schedule just came out. Read all about where trout are being stocked in a lake near you.

This week's full moon has coincided with consistent, warm weather. The result? Springtime spawning conditions for largemouth bass have graced the desert impoundments.



Largemouth Bass



Flathead Catfish

So Many Great Options

So many great options can be at the end of the line. Flathead catfishing is picking up, and Arizona has become a destination for these bruisers. Crappie are a bit more active, stripers are stripping line at Lake Powell and Lake Pleasant, trout stockings will transition into those of catfish (first community waters cat stocking: March 19), and redear sunfish have already reached world-class status at Lake Havasu.

Take a deep breath for a second and appreciate all Arizona has to offer anglers



Striped Bass

and hunters. From the desert to the mountains, all such sportsmen help conserve our wildlife for future generations because, if you didn't know, the Arizona Game and Fish Department does not receive state tax dollars. We rely heavily on active hunters and anglers who are passionate about our wildlife.

So thank you.

Mr. Whiskers Returns

Spring also means Mr. Whiskers returns to the Community Fishing Program lakes – the first stocking: March 19. Get ready for the catfish, too.

Have you heard the good news about trout stockings at Willow Beach? Read C. Douglas Nelson's Las Vegas Review-



Black Crappie

Journal article about "Rainbows Shining Again."

Okay, that's all. Nab a license online (it helps conserve wildlife), and have fun — it'll be hard not to.

Thank You, Anglers!

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

Through a federal excise tax paid by manufacturers on fishing gear and motorboat fuels, it provides grant funds for fishery conservation, boating access, and aquatic education.

AGREEMENT FINALIZED

Rainbow Trout Stocking To Be Restored

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with Mohave County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), succeeded on March 4 in executing agreements to restore rainbow trout stocking at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery, which is located along the Colorado River south of the Hoover Dam.

"I am very pleased that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission have finalized an agreement to begin restoring rainbow trout stocking operations at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery in Mohave County, Arizona," Arizona Senator John McCain said.

Anglers Support Jobs, Economics

"This agreement is vitally important to the angling community in Arizona, which supports approximately 1,700 jobs and generates \$75 million in economic activity along the Mohave County/Clark County stretch of the Lower Colorado River," said Senator McCain, "I want to commend the Commission for prioritizing this project, as well as USFWS for working with local stakeholders to find a reasonable engineering solution to restore trout stocking."

"I also thank Mohave County Supervisor Hildy Angius, whose advocacy and tireless work helped both parties reach this important agreement."

A summary of the terms of the agree-



Willow Beach

ments are as follows:

The Department will cost-share 50 percent of the pipeline repair (\$389,000) of Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery;

The USFWS will repair the pipeline and produce rainbow trout for stocking in the Colorado River for five years, supply two million triploid rainbow trout eggs to the Department annually for five years, supply 160,000 Apache trout eggs to the Department for 10 years, coordinate annually with the Department on these efforts, and

The Department will be given the opportunity to provide input into the planning as needed.

This Is A Win

"We are proud to finalize a cooperative agreement providing vital assistance to an important industry in Arizona, and grateful

to Senator McCain for his staunch support of returning trout propagation to Willow Beach," AZGFD Commission Chairman Robert Mansell said. "With this agreement, Arizona will retain its reputation as one of the finest sport fishing destinations in North America."

Arizona Congressman Paul Gosar said, "Today's agreement to restore rainbow trout stocking at Willow Beach is a win for jobs, Arizona's economy and sportsmen throughout the country."

"Countless individuals stepped up and deserve thanks for speaking out after trout stocking was arbitrarily terminated. I'm proud that our collective efforts will protect trout fishing in Mohave County for future generations and I was honored to play an important role in saving this worthwhile program."

On Nov. 21, 2013, the hatchery, operated by the USFWS, conducted an emergency stocking of 11,000 rainbow trout when the low water level made it impossible to draw water. The hatchery, however, lost 20,000 fish due to a lack of water movement through the system. Since then, the hatchery has been unable to rear or stock sport fish.

"This partnership will ensure continuation trout stockings going forward in the Colorado River," AZGFD Fisheries Chief Chris Cantrell said. "This is a great day for Arizona anglers."



Avondale Friendship Park

Catfish Return To Phoenix/Tucson March 19

FROM AZGFD

Mark your calendars! The cats are coming/are back. Our first stocking of the season: Thursday, March 19.

For delivery: Close to 15,000 pounds of hungry catfish into 21 core waters — Get your family, grab a picnic basket, and come on outside because it's the perfect time of year to hit the lakes.

Last Trout Stocking Of Winter

Our last trout stocking for central and southern waters this season is taking place March 2-7. Trout will continue to be stocked into Green Valley Lakes in Payson until early May.

Welcome Avondale's Friendship Park To Program

The Department finalized an inter-government agreement with City of Avondale to add Friendship Park Pond. We hope to begin stocking with a load of sunfish during the week of March 23-28. (This is tentative.)

Avondale is the 16th community within the program, and we now have 36 waters total. Additional waters are expected later in 2015.

Tonto Creek Hatchery Host Wanted

When: May 2015 to Sept. 2015

Where: Tonto Creek Hatchery is located approximately 17 miles east of Payson, Ariz.

Description: The hatchery host is a volunteer who lives onsite and interacts with visitors, assists with tours, and helps with light facility upkeep.

Example of Duties: Host duties include interacting with visitors, picking up litter, cleaning visitor restrooms, replac-

ing full sign-in sheets, tracking visitor numbers, maintaining and updating department pamphlets in visitor center information boxes, occasionally feeding fish, and other duties as needed. Host is on duty Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8-5 p.m. Occasional work during the week may also be needed. Expect 20-30 hours weekly.

See **HATCHERY**, Page 9

CAMPAIGN

Continued from page 7

Educational Tool And More

The Pitch It microsite on www.KeepAmericaFishing.org not only serves as an educational tool, but it also aims to be a repository for recycling programs across

the country. "We are hearing about local tackle shops, clubs and even individuals who have started recycling programs for their local area.

"It's important that we list them in one place, so anglers can easily find a repository for their disposable tackle," noted

Ogilvie. "Perhaps people will discover an opportunity right around the corner that they never knew about."

For more information, contact info@keepamericafishing.org or visit the Pitch It microsite at <http://www.pledgepitchit.org/>.



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Tackle & Target

Responsible Shooting Practices Emphasized In Initiative

Campaign seeking to ensure recreational shooting access to public lands gains support in Arizona.

A growing number of outdoor recreationists are getting involved in an effort to ensure continued access to public lands in Arizona by promoting outdoor ethics.

RESPECTED ACCESS
The Respected Access is Open Access in Arizona initiative is being supported by a coalition of partners including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and Tread Lightly!, a national non-profit organization that promotes responsible outdoor recreation through education and stewardship programs.

Spreading The Message

Outdoor billboards, public-service announcements, and outreach and education efforts are spreading the important message that Respected Access is Open Access in Arizona. Volunteer cleanups over the last few months at several public lands locations around Phoenix have drawn hundreds of volunteers.

For example, more than 400 people showed up at a January event at the Hewitt Station area of the Tonto National Forest. They cleaned up more than 40 tons of trash at 10 different locations.

"The momentum is building and we're thrilled at the involvement of so many responsible outdoor recreationists," said Lori McCullough, executive director of Tread Lightly! "Engaging the recreational shooting community in addressing these issues is the proactive solution to these problems and we hope all recreational shooters will become ambassadors for this effort."

The campaign took shape because of ongoing problems with irresponsible behavior on public lands. Trigger trash, illegal dumping and vandalism such as shooting up saguaro cactus have led to the closure of some public lands locations

See **SHOOTING**, Page 15

Wake Zone™

LETTER TO HAHWG ATTENDEES

Winter Meeting A Huge Success

FROM DOUGLAS BURT
HUNTING AND SHOOTING SPORTS
PROGRAM MANAGER, ARIZONA GAME
AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Hunting And Angling Heritage Work Group

Well, you all have done it again — you have all blown me away! The Winter HAHWG meeting had a great turnout and diverse cross-section of participants like I've not seen. Look at this turnout:

- 50 attendees
- 17 first-timers
- 28 organizations represented
- 10 game and fish work units or regions represented

The biggest takeaways from the meeting for me were the following:

- Everyone liked the new one-day meeting format for the winter,
- Unity and common focus / interests,
- Collaborative discussions,
- Buy in to the Adoption Sequence — creating new hunters and anglers is a process (we all contribute), and
- HAHWG is on the national scene, being talked about and modeled after.

We experimented with video presentations to inform, share and trigger discussions and I think they did a great job. Below are links for your use both personally — and to share with your members, groups, or contacts — they really help share a common voice, message and call to action for preserving our heritage.

VIDEO: North America's Wildlife Conservation Legacy (AFWA), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE4L9KicSeU>, Discussion of video consisted of threats, challenges, concerns.

VIDEO: Imagine a World, Save the Hunt (NWF), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QduAWlzlG3c>, Discussion of video consisted of how we are starting to see national unification and efforts for recruitment and retention.

VIDEO: Kids & Wild Gobblers (AZGFD), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjE08kyLe2g>, Discussion of video consisted of what a camp/event can look like, elements of a HAHWG camp, partnerships, types of events, best practices, what it takes to be a hunter, etc.

Breakfast and lunch were sponsored by Youth Outdoors Unlimited, Mule Deer Foundation & Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Association Shotgun Division — Thank you!! The fantastic HAHWG-pleasing food from "Muffin but the Best" was a huge hit. They do catering around the state and can be reached at (602) 373-1536

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



HAHWG Group At Winter Meeting

Save The Dates

July 11-12 — Flagstaff Nordic Center, Flagstaff — Summer HAHWG Meeting

Tentative Topics: Report from Focus Group Study of past HAHWG participants, what makes "retention," online event registration system, and 2015-16 season kick-off

April 16-19 — Youth Turkey Camps (See video noted above; it's a great chance to see an event if you are new to HAHWG.)

May 1 (est.) — Local Sportsman's Group Grant opens.

June 9 — Fall Draw deadline

Late-July (est) — Draw results

Sept. 1 — Dove season

PR Opportunity

I'd also like to introduce and extend an invite to each of you to connect with KTAR radio host Mike Russell. He is an outdoor enthusiast and advocate. His show airs noon-2 on Saturdays and he is a fan of hosting guests and promoting positive ac-

tivities, programs and such. Please introduce yourself.

Mike Russell, KTAR, *Go Outdoors* - Get Outdoors With Mike Russell - KTAR.com

<http://ktar.com/332/1706997/Get-Outdoors-With-Mike-Russell>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/getoutdoorsaz>

EDITOR'S NOTE: Articles are welcome at *Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times*: editor@azbw.com

HAHWG Focus And 'Why' Of Recruitment and Retention

I was thinking about why we do what we do, and I took a stab at what I thought that looked like. In the end, it's all about species and habitat; the other elements are critical, but they are for that end purpose.

Species And Habitat

Conservation model — user pay, public

See **MEETING**, Page 15

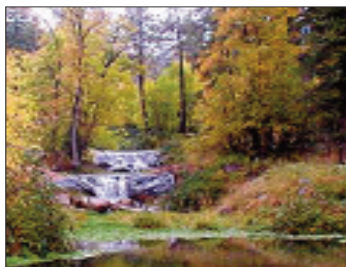
HATCHERY

Continued from page 8

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities: Host should have good communication and interpersonal skills, enjoy talking with different types of people, provide excellent customer service, and follow supervision/instruction from hatchery staff. Host should be able to perform basic cleaning and maintenance duties. Knowledge of trout fishing, birding, and Arizona wildlife is a plus.

Training: Volunteer host will receive training in the following areas: interacting with visitors, answering visitor questions, safety training, and basic fish culture.

Other Notes: Must have own travel trailer or motor home. A recreational vehicle hook-up site is provided. Water, electricity, and sewer is provided. Applicants will need to provide references and will be interviewed via a phone interview with



Tonto Creek Hatchery

hatchery staff. A background check may be required.

Contacts: Trevor Nelson, Fish Culturist II, (928) 478-4200, tnelson@azgfd.gov; Bryce Sisson, Hatchery Manager I, (928) 478-4200, bsisson@azgfd.gov



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Western Wildlife



Mexican Wolf Population Exceeds 100

Some points of an often-controversial issue are discussed and updated.

FROM AZGFD

The following news release was issued jointly by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Population survey shows a 31 percent increase in the population.

The Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team (IFT) has completed its annual year-end population survey for endangered Mexican wolves and documented a minimum of 109 animals in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2014.

This is a 31 percent increase over the previous year and the fourth consecutive year with at least a 10 percent increase in the known population. There were a minimum of 83 wild wolves identified in the 2013 survey.

Milestone Reached

"In 1982, the Mexican wolf recovery team recommended a population of at least 100 animals in the wild as a hedge against extinction; until we initiated the first releases in 1998, there had been no Mexican wolves in the wild in the United States since the 1970s," said Southwest Regional Director Benjamin Tuggle. "Although there is still much to be done, reaching this milestone is monumental!"

According to Arizona Game and Fish Director Larry Voyles, "This survey demonstrates a major accomplishment in Mexican wolf recovery. In 2010, there were 50 Mexican wolves in the wild; today there are 109, a more than doubling of the population in Arizona and New Mexico."

"With our Mexican wolf population consisting of wild-born wolves, we expect the growth rates observed this year to continue into the future. In spite of considerable naysaying, our 10(j) program has been a success because of on-the-ground partnerships. We have every reason to believe that our efforts at reintroduction will continue to be successful."



KUDOS - AZGFD's voluntary non-lead ammunition program designed to further California condor conservation reached record participation levels in 2014. For hunters in the condor's core range in northern Arizona, 91 percent voluntarily chose to use either non-lead ammunition or remove gut piles from the field. Of the 91 percent, surveys show that 73 percent of successful hunters used non-lead ammunition, an increase of 13 percent over the previous year. In addition, 65 percent of the small number of hunters who still used lead ammunition removed their gut pile from the field to prevent condors from feeding on it.



1st Day of Spring March 20

Genetic Health In Future

In spring of 2014, the field team successfully implemented a technique in which genetically valuable pups were transferred to a similarly aged litter of an established pack. The IFT captured one of the two pups that were placed in the established pack during the 2014 survey, which confirmed that this "cross-fostering" technique is an additional method for improving the genetics of the wild population.

The IFT also conducted 14 releases and translocations of wolves last year, some of which provide promise for improving the wild population's genetic health in the future.

"Testing and implementing new management techniques, such as cross-fostering, can help us improve the genetics of the wild population," said Tuggle. "The experimental population is growing — now our strategy is to focus on establishing a genetically robust population on a working landscape."

The survey results reflect the end-of-year minimum population for 2014. Results come from data collected on the ground by the IFT from November through December of 2014, as well as data collected from an aerial survey conducted in January and February of 2015. This number is considered a minimum number of Mexican wolves known to exist in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico as other Mexican wolves may be present but uncounted during surveys.

Survey Results

The aerial survey was conducted by a fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter. Biologists used radio-telemetry and actual sightings of wolves to help determine the count. The results from the aerial survey, coupled with the ground survey conducted by the IFT, confirmed that there are a total of 19 packs, with a minimum of 53 wolves in New Mexico and 56 wolves in Arizona.

The current survey documented 14 packs that had at least one pup that survived through the end of the year, with two that had at least five surviving pups through the end of the year.

The 2014 minimum population count includes 38 wild-born pups that survived through the end of the year. This is also considered a minimum known number since it might not reflect pups surviving but not documented.

The Mexican wolf recovery program is a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, White Mountain Apache Tribe, USDA Forest Service and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service — Wildlife Services, and several participating counties.

For more information on the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program, visit: www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexican-wolf/ or www.azgfd.gov/wolf/.

AZGFD Votes To Take Legal Action

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to support federal officials' new 10(j) rule for Mexican wolves. Some groups critical of the rule are said to lack on-the-ground field perspective of what changes will lead to success.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission voted recently to intervene in a lawsuit filed by environmental groups earlier this year against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The lawsuit is over the Service's recently-revised 10(j) rule that governs the management of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico.

"The Game and Fish commission took this action to defend the Service's new 10(j) rule for Mexican wolves. The rule relies on sound scientific principles and helps address critical stakeholder concerns that have long challenged the Mexican wolf reintroduction effort," said Commission Chair Robert Mansell.



Mexican Wolves

Different Aspects

"It's important that this action is not confused with the department's recent action meant to encourage the Service's development of a new recovery plan. The 10(j) rule and the recovery plan are designed to address very different aspects of Mexican wolf recovery."

The regulations implementing the Endangered Species Act require the Service to work with a state's wildlife agency to develop an acceptable rule revision. The negotiations that took place between the Service and the Game and Fish sought to balance the needs and interests of the Mexican wolf reintroduction project, local stakeholders and all other wildlife species held in trust by the department.

The department provided its points of concern with possible resolutions to the Service in December 2013, allowing the Service sufficient time to incorporate the changes into the preferred alternative before issuing the draft Environmental Impact Statement. The lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity last month considers the Service's cooperation with Arizona Game and Fish Department a violation of federal law.

AZGFD Committed

"The department is committed to re-establishing wolves in Arizona and the new 10(j) rule will help us do that through the use of valid science, accurate historical perspective and consideration

See **MEXICAN WOLVES**, Page 18

Wildlife Can Benefit From Your Donation

Taxpayers can help conserve bald eagles, wolves, and tortoises, among others.

Did you know that your state taxes do not support the conservation of Arizona's wildlife, but your donations do? Taxpayers can help the state's wildlife at tax time by "making a mark" on their state income tax form.

The Arizona Wildlife Fund is a voluntary program that allows Arizona taxpayers to make a donation to specifically help imperiled and endangered wildlife, including majestic bald eagles, black-footed ferrets, California condors, Apache trout, Mexican wolves and desert tortoises, among other nongame species.

Fund Provides Support

"Since Game and Fish does not receive any general fund dollars, the Arizona Wildlife Fund provides important support for managing and conserving some of the state's most iconic native species," says Mike Rabe, non-game wildlife branch chief for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

"The fund goes only to nongame species that are not hunted or fished, and the cumulative effect of even a dollar can

have a tremendous impact on conserving one of Arizona's greatest natural treasures — its wildlife."

Arizona Is 1 Of 40

Arizona is one of 41 states that allow taxpayers to make a contribution to worthwhile causes. Since Arizona started the program more than 25 years ago, taxpayers have donated more than \$5 million to the conservation of nongame wildlife.

For the 2013 tax year, the average donation was nearly \$25.

The Arizona Wildlife Fund box can be found on line "64" of the state's long income tax form, or line "33" of the short tax form.

For more information on the Arizona Wildlife Fund, visit www.azgfd.gov/makeamark. To learn more about the conservation and reintroduction efforts the fund supports, visit www.azgfd.gov/w_c/nongame_species.

Did You Know?

The Arizona Game and Fish Depart-



ment has trust responsibility for managing more than 800 native wildlife species — the most of any inland state — for current and future generations of Arizona citizens. www.azgfd.gov/h_f/northamerican-model.shtml



RV Land Cruising



BLOOM BOOM

It's A Wildflower Boom Year!

Arizona State Parks tracks mountain blooms with 'Ranger Cams.'

Visitors are flooding the gates at Picacho Peak State Park to get into the park in time to see the mountainside blooms of bright yellow Mexican poppies, purple lupine, pink globemallow and yellow brittlesh.



Picacho Peak

The different wildflowers as they start to bloom in all the different State Parks, the rangers take pictures and post them on the Arizona State Parks website at <http://AZStateParks.com/RangerCam2015>.

Picture Perfect

Executive Director Sue Black said, "Our rangers and volunteers take pictures as soon as the flowers start blooming and visitors can then decide when to leave other states to come here and take their pictures. Updated information about flowers at each park will be posted to help people around the country plan their trips to Arizona."



Boyce Thompson

Call the "State Parks Wildflower Hotline" at (602) 542-4174 and customer service staff will provide details for long distance travelers. "We want the visitors to check the website regularly, look at the pictures and then drive out into the sur-



Catalina



Lost Dutchman

rounding deserts," said Black.

According to Picacho Peak Park Manager Aaron Soggs, "At Picacho the rain data is showing just about 12 inches which is the accumulated total since September of 2014. The last great year of flowers was 1998 when there was 12 inches of rain and

we are seeing the same result now with the abundance of Mexican poppies blooming.

"The public is coming to take their family pictures, picnic, and hike because the flowers line the trails."

See **WILDFLOWERS**, Page 15

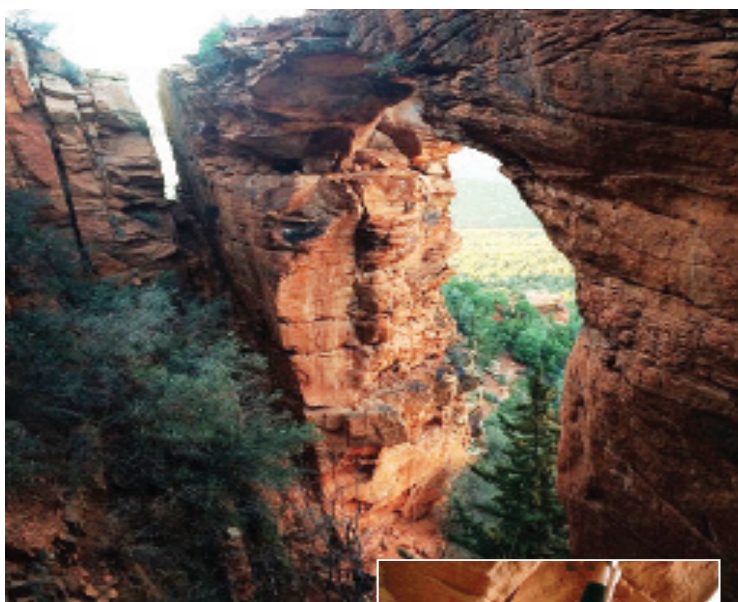


Cattail Cove

The Arizona State Parks department reports that the bloom this year is because over the past six months the park has received an accumulated record of almost 12 inches of rain. To help the public track



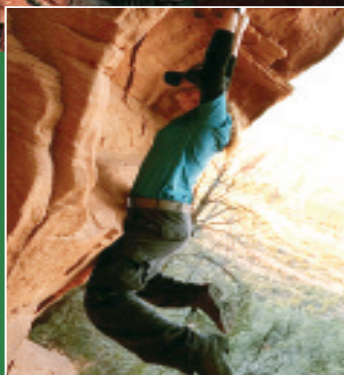
Buckskin Mountain



Kelsee Haws

Hanging Out

Kelsee Haws, an enthusiastic outdoors woman and firefighter captain at Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology, is shown "hanging out" at Devil's Bridge, Sedona. She recommends a beautiful 1.8-mile hike in the Red Rock country to this beautiful, year-round destination - just a short drive west of Highway 89A. Her comment: "Join in the fun up in Sedona and have an adventure of your own!"



GO WILD FOR FLOWERS - Ahh - spring is in the air! Along with the warm temperatures comes the chance to view Mother Nature at her finest as she carpets the desert floor with an array of beautiful colors. While some may curse the allergies the wildflowers bring, others are gleefully grabbing their cameras and heading outside to capture photos before they disappear. "We encourage everyone to visit our county parks during this wildflower season," said Maricopa County Supervisor Chairman Steve Chucuri. "This winter, the Valley received an ample amount of rain, and the parks are poised for a beautiful wildflower season."

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RV/Land Cruising

PINAL MOUNTAIN RECREATION SITE

This Makes A Great Day Trip From Phoenix

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

If you're looking for a great day trip from Phoenix, I've got a great idea for you — the Pinal Mountain Recreation Area. We have driven past the little brown sign for it in Globe dozens of times, and we finally decided to go check it out. I'm really glad we did, because it's a beautiful place. There are campgrounds and plenty to see

up there, and the Forest Service site says the campgrounds are good for trailers up to 20 feet.

We actually had a bit of a time finding it, even though we took the turn at the sign. We wound up at a dead end and had to backtrack, and asked a resident which way to go, but he had no idea.

It turns out that Russell Road turns into FR 55, and that's the way you need to go.



Cave On Side Of Road



Sulfide Del Rey Campground

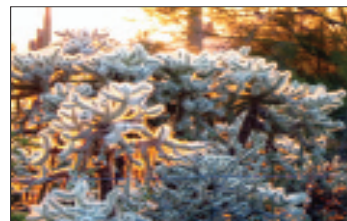
There are a couple of other roads that head into the mountains, and, in fact, we came out on one that took us right by the Besh-Ba-Gowah Archaeological Park.

Soon after becoming FR55, the road is gravel. It's a twisty road that winds up the mountains and there are some gorgeous views. At one point there is a cave, probably an old mine, right next to the road. I hopped out to look at it, but I decided not to go in. Caves aren't my thing!

Desert To Forest

One of the cool things about mountain roads is watching the scenery change around you. We went from desert to forest in about an hour. We crossed a little stream that was running and we even saw some leftover snow on the road. This was mid-February, so it was still very chilly at the top.

There are a lot of trails and there is even a map you can print out online. We didn't



Sunset Through Chollas Behind Tom Mix Memorial

hike any of them, but we will be back. This was strictly a reconnaissance trip. From what I could see on the map, the trails all seem to be out and back trails, and all of them look to have a lot of elevation change. It is a mountain, after all.

The first campground we came to was the one we ended up liking the best. It was called Sulfide Del Rey site and the woods were gorgeous. There are picnic tables, fire pit grills, and a vault toilet, but no drinking water.

This was the site of an old community where the miners lived to get away from the heat of the desert where they worked in the day time. There are ten sites here and no fees. Just pack out your own trash. There is a 14-day stay limit.

High Points

Further up the road there are two more campgrounds — Pinal and Upper Pinal. Pinal has 13 units and Upper Pinal has only three, but both campgrounds have toilets, tables, and grills. Again, there is a 14-day stay limit and no drinking water, but also no fees. Pack your trash out. The Forest Service lists the elevation of these campgrounds as 7,500 feet, so dress accordingly.

The forest around the campgrounds is ponderosa pines and white fir, and hiking trails take off all over the place. According to the map, there are at least eight trails within a mile of the Pinal and Upper Pinal. These campgrounds are on sites that were once used by the U. S. Army for heliograph signaling in the late 1800s.

We have found many such sites on our rambles — near the Chiricahuas, in the Pinalenos, and now here again in the Pinals. The army used mirrors to reflect sunlight and send messages to widely separated outposts. Pretty cool!

A Place For Solitude

We stopped to stretch our legs and have a little picnic at the Upper Pinal site and there was absolutely no one there. In fact, the only other people we saw the whole time were quad riders and one little family roasting hot dogs over a fire in one of the campgrounds. If you're after solitude, this place is hard to beat, at least in February.

There are a couple of dozen homes on the mountain, and there are a lot of radio towers on several different peaks, so the

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RV/Land Cruising

DAY TRIP

Continued from page 12

road is very well maintained. You don't need a 4WD in dry conditions.

You can't really get lost up there, either. Although there are several little side roads to investigate, none is long and you always end up back on the main road, which makes a loop at the top.

You end up coming back down the same way you went up, except that you can take a right at one point when you're almost back to Globe and take FR112 the rest of the way. This is the way that takes you past the Archaeological Park.

'The Shores'

It wasn't very late in the day when we left the Pinal Recreation Site, so we decide to take a long loop back to Phoenix and we headed south on Highway 77 toward Winkelman. At milepost 141.4, north of Winkelman, we saw a sign that said "The Shores."

It's a recreation site on the Gila River where you can camp, picnic, bird watch, and even hop in the river if you want to. It's a popular tubing site, but when we were there we were the only humans.



Rope Swing At 'The Shores'

There are no fees here, either.

A bit farther south, about half a mile past milepost 144, is the Christmas Recreation Site. There is primitive camping at both sites, with fire pits and vault toilets.

We continued on past Winkelman, but you could get on 177 here and head back to Highway 60 and Superior. We opted to see Mammoth and Oracle, so we continued south.

Mammoth, Oracle, Tom Mix

The town of Mammoth was named after the Mammoth Mine, so named because they believed the gold ore deposits were mammoth. It's a small, pretty town of about 1,500 people.

Oracle is just down the road, and we plan to come back on a weekend so that we can check out the Oracle State Park. It isn't open on weekdays. At Oracle Junction we took Highway 79 (Pinal Pioneer Parkway) back to town, with one last stop — the Tom Mix Memorial.

We arrived there just at sunset, signed the book, and headed home. All in all, a

wonderful day — where else but Arizona can you be in the desert, the forest, snow, and the beach all within hours on the very same day?

Getting There

Here is how the Forest Service says to get to Pinal Mountain Recreation Area. We simply drove to Globe and turned at the sign, but we got a bit twisted around at first. Maybe this way will work better for you:

"This site is 14.5 miles southwest of Globe. From Globe, follow paved Jess Hayes Road southeast of Globe to the junction of Icehouse Canyon Road/Forest Road (FR) 112 and Sixshooter Canyon Road/Forest Road (FR) 222. Continue on paved FR 112 for 2½ miles, to the junction of FR 55 and FR 112. Take the right fork and continue on the partially paved FR 55 for 2½ miles. At the junction of FR 55 and FR 651, turn left. Proceed 10 miles on unpaved FR 651 to the site." These are the FS directions to the campgrounds.



Tom Mix Memorial



Upper Pinal Campground

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RV/Land Cruising

March Events Feature Archaeology/Heritage Awareness

Events have been scheduled throughout Arizona in March; many still ahead.

For the entire month of March 2015, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)/Arizona State Parks (ASP) is coordinating activities throughout the state for the 33rd annual celebration of Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month (AAHAM).

These events will focus on current efforts to preserve our past by protecting our fragile and non-renewable cultural resources. AAHAM combines education with entertainment to reach both adults and children in an effort to teach responsible stewardship of our cultural resources.

Museums, historical societies, tribes, agencies, parks and archaeology organizations will be hosting events across the state; events are also planned in Arizona State Parks as part of their interpretive programs.

Proclaimed by the Governor each year, this celebration will feature prehistoric and historic site tours, exhibits, hikes, open houses, lectures, demonstrations and other activities throughout Arizona.

A free statewide listing of these events and activities is now available by contacting the ASP offices at (602) 542-4174 or by visiting the ASP website at <http://AZStateParks.com/archy> (see list for your region below). To view the more detailed list of events visit <http://AZStateParks.com/archy>.

Central Arizona

Cave Creek, March 21, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Scavenger Hunt: Discover the Hidden Treasures of the Cave Creek Museum. Sponsored by the Cave Creek Museum. Search the dark corners and bright hall-

ways in a challenging scavenger hunt. Follow the prehistoric and historic clues and unravel the mysteries of several artifacts on exhibit at the Cave Creek Museum. Appropriate for ages 6 to 11. Limited to 30 children. Adults must accompany the participant. Cave Creek Museum, 6140 E. Skyline Dr. Free. Contact: Evelyn Johnson, (480) 488-2764 or www.cavecreek-museum.org.

Mesa, Wednesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tours: Mesa Grande Cultural Park. Sponsored by the AzMNH. Self-guided tour of Mesa Grande Archaeological Park. Mesa Grande, 10th & Date St., a block west of Country Club Dr. on Brown Rd. (turns into Date St.). Admissions are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 3-12. Groups of 10 or more who would like a guided tour with an archaeologist may call 480-644-3553 to book, or visit mesagrandeculturalparks.org for more information.

Mesa, March 28, 2-3 p.m.

Lecture Series: "Busting Myths — Archaeology, Pseudoscience and the Media." Sponsored by the AzMNH. Dr. Jerry Howard, Curator of Anthropology, will speak about archaeology, pseudoscience and the media. Archaeology is a favorite topic in the media today, but how much of what you see is accurate? Come learn how to evaluate claims made in the popular media — where does the truth lie? AzMNH, 3 N. Macdonald St. Regular entrance fees apply. Contact: Emily Early, (480) 644-5907 or emily.early@mesaz.gov.



Tony the Marine

HISTORY VIEW – An expansive plaza in front of the Mesa Grande Temple mound was enclosed by a large adobe wall.

Phoenix Area

Deer Valley, March 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Program: Archaeology Festival. Sponsored by the Arizona State University, Center for Archaeology and Society, Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve. Participate in interactive stations on archaeology and desert ecology, hands-on crafts for kids, ancient spear throwing demonstrations, a mock archaeology dig, and roasted agave tasting. Special guided tours of the petroglyph trail and musical performances will also be featured. Wear hiking shoes and hats. Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve, 3711 W. Deer Valley Rd. Free. CONTACT: ELIZABETH JEROLD, (623) 582-8007 or dvractours@gmail.com.

Phoenix, March 20, noon-1 p.m.

Lecture Series: The Science of Pottery - Archaeological Research and Modern Examples: "The Development and Evolution of Domestic Pottery in Arizona." Sponsored by the PGM Auxiliary. Speaker Chris Garraty will discuss the development of ceramic container technology for everyday domestic use in prehistoric southern and central Arizona. PGM, 4617 E. Washington St. Free. Contact: Laura Andrew, (602) 495-0901 or laura.andrew@phoenix.gov.

Phoenix, March 27, noon-1 p.m.

Lecture Series: The Science of Pottery

See **ARCHAEOLOGY**, Page 15

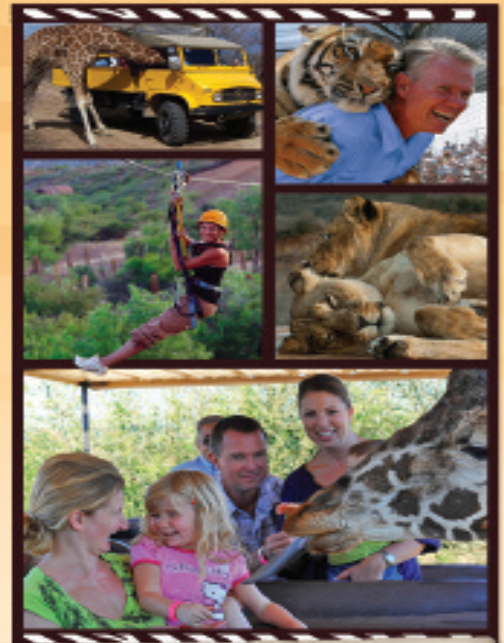
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RV/Land Cruising

Check Out State Parks On Your Taxes

Arizona State Parks is on 2015 income tax return for the first time.

Arizona State Parks will be on your 2015 Income Tax Return Form 140 for the first time! Taxpayers are able to make a voluntary contribution to Arizona State Parks from their Arizona tax refund.

"For the first time you can make a donation on your Arizona State tax form," said Executive Director Sue Black. "Giving a few extra dollars can create a lasting legacy for the State Parks, trails and historic sites."



According to the "Arizona We Want 2.0" report, an Arizona 2009 Gallup Poll stated that Arizonans rated the state's natural beauty, outdoor parks and trails as its greatest assets. The "Arizona We Want 2.0" report said the next steps to reverse the financial crisis for state parks and recreation areas is to ensure their quality and accessibility for future generations.

The State of Arizona allows taxpayers to make an income tax contribution on their Form 140 to many causes that they feel are important, and now Arizona State Parks will be among the choices. This is the first year donations to the Arizona State Parks department has been offered on individual tax forms for the tax donation program. To keep updated on how these specific funds are allocated throughout the year call (602) 542-4174 or visit Arizona State Parks' website at AZStateParks.com/checkout.

SHOOTING

Continued from page 9

around Phoenix to recreational shooting.

Impact On Shooters

While these unacceptable activities are perpetrated by a small portion of irresponsible shooters, they have a big impact on all recreational shooters.

"We are pleased to be a partner in this effort to promote responsible shooting practices on public land," said Mary D'Aversa, manager of the Phoenix District Office Bureau of Land Management. "We are responsible for 2.4 million surface acres in Arizona and we recognize how citizens value access for the recreational activities they enjoy. We encourage all recreational shooters to get involved in the "Respected Access Is Open Access in Arizona" effort by taking part in upcoming events and helping to spread the word about appropriate recreational shooting habits to shooting friends and partners."

Take The Pledge

Take the pledge to ACT responsibly. Go online to www.openaccessarizona.org and pledge to be a responsible shooter and sign up for a chance of winning a prize. The pledge asks people to be accountable for their shooting behaviors, to clean up after themselves and Tread Lightly on public lands. Those who pledge will have a chance to win a \$100 gift card from a sporting goods store. One winner per month will be drawn.

"The Arizona Game and Fish Department is a strong supporter of this campaign," said Game and Fish Director Larry Voyles. "Arizona is fortunate to have many millions of acres of public land open to multiple use. By engaging a broad community of stakeholders to promote good stewardship practices and participate in clean-up efforts, we are assisting in the maintenance of these areas and protecting future access to them."

Good Company

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Pet Food Bank Supports Families In Need

BY CARLA LANDWERTH

You've probably heard of, and even supported food banks for people, but did you know there are pet food banks as well? In addition to being a no-kill shelter that saves hundreds of pets annually, Lost Our Home Pet Rescue also has a Pet Food Bank.

Many Had To Choose Between Kids And Pets

Executive Director Jodi Polanski states, "When I started this rescue in 2008 I saw many families struggling during the financial crisis. We were being asked to take in pets from families who wanted to keep their beloved family member, but simply couldn't afford to feed them. They were being forced to choose between feeding their kids and feeding their pets. We started the Pet Food Bank for this reason."

Families in need can apply to the food bank, and once approved, can receive pet food and supplies for their cats and dogs for up to six months. Polanski states, "This service has helped many families through a time of crisis, and allowed them to get back on their feet and keep their family, including their pets, together."

Supported Through Donations

The food bank is supported entirely through donations from the community. Lost Our Home receives dog and cat food, cat litter, pet treats, and other pet supplies



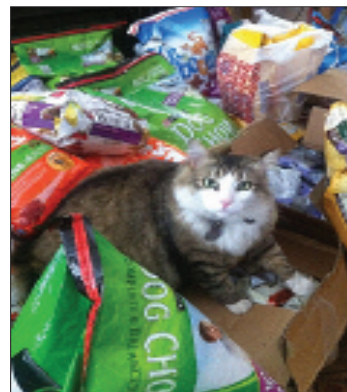
Woof, Please?

almost daily at the shelter. Sadly, the donations received are not keeping up with the community need.

"We feed several hundred pets monthly, and we never turn away anyone who qualifies, but we have had to ask people to wait two or more weeks while our food supplies are replenished. Our concern is pets may be going hungry during that time," states Michelle Lewis, director of operations for Lost Our Home.

Please Tell Us

To qualify, you should be prepared to explain to staff why the need for assistance exists now, and what steps you are taking to resolve your current situation. Lost Our



Meow, Thank you!

Home is full of compassionate people who do their best to help everyone they can.

How To Donate

You can make pet food and clumping cat litter donations at Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, 2323 S. Hardy Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282. We accept all types of food so we are able to supply families with the same food they currently feed their pet.

Lost Our Home also has a "Wish List" on Amazon.com for those who prefer to click and shop.



Join us for the annual historic re-enactment of an Arizona Civil War skirmish, Battle of Picacho Pass, and the New Mexico battles of Glorieta and Val Verde at "Civil War in the Southwest" at Picacho Peak State Park. The three re-enactments will take place on Saturday, March 21 and will be repeated on Sunday, March 22. Activities will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days but gates will open at 9:30 a.m. and no further entry is allowed after 3 p.m.

WILDFLOWERS

Continued from page 11

Bladderpods Begin Bloom Boom

Flowers in the desert bloom based on the elevations, the rainfall at a certain area, and the temperature. Usually the order of the bloom is bladderpods, Mexican poppies, chuparosa, globemallow, brittlebush and then other cacti species.

Already on some trails in the valley, the little yellow bladderpods, are creating yellow carpets across the landscapes. The tiny yellow-cross style flower gets its name from the small, round fruit pods that develop after pollination.

Catalina State Park and Boyce Thompson Arboretum are also now seeing the

many different types of blooming wildflowers as well. Different elevations affect the different times of the blooms. The public is encouraged to tour State Parks to see flowers on weekdays when there is less traffic and there is plenty of parking.

Wildflower books are available with brochures and maps in rural areas at all of the State Parks. The "State Trails Guide" with 550 hiking trails is also available at all of the State Parks. For details on different areas around the state, call the State Parks Wildflower Hotline (8am-5pm weekdays) at (602) 542-4174 or watch "Ranger Cam" featuring pictures taken regularly at <http://AZStateParks.com/RangerCam2015>.

ARCHEOLOGY

Continued from page 14

- Archaeological Research and Modern Examples: "Ceramic Evidence of Prehistoric Long Distance Interactions - Intrusive Ceramics from Pueblo Grande." Sponsored by the PGM Auxiliary. Speakers Laurene Montero and Dr. Todd Bostwick will discuss ware distributions of intrusive ceramics identified at PGM during archaeological investigations from the 1930s to the present. PGM, 4619 E. Washington St. Free. Contact: Laura Andrew, (602) 495-0901 or laura.andrew@phoenix.gov.

Phoenix, March 27, 10-11 a.m.

Tour: Park of Four Waters. Sponsored

by PGM. The prehistoric Hohokam were an agricultural society, using irrigation canals to grow corn, beans, squash, and cotton. The Park of Four Waters tour will take you through undeveloped, natural desert to the ruins of some of these canal systems. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water. Appropriate for ages 13+ years. This is a first-come, first-serve tour. Space is limited. PGM, 4619 E. Washington St. Regular Park entrance fees apply. Contact: Laura Andrew, (602) 495-0901 or laura.andrew@phoenix.gov.

Wickenburg

Desert Caballeros Western Museum (DCWM), through March 31: (Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 pm and Sunday,

MEETING

Continued from page 9

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Visit www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills for a list of mentored events.

Visit www.azgfd.gov/hahwg to learn more about the Hunting and Angling Heritage Workgroup.

"...The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others." — President Theodore Roosevelt, 1907

"When you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it." — Theodore Roosevelt

noon - 4 p.m.)

Exhibit: Wickenburg's West: Adaptation/Reinvention/Transformation. Sponsored by the DCWM. Ongoing in the Quayle Family Gallery at DCWM, 21 N. Frontier St. Regular admission fees apply. Contact: Denise Maggs, (928) 684-2272, ext. 100 or www.westernmuseum.org.

For More Information

For more detailed information, contact either Kris Dobschuetz, SHPO Archaeological Compliance Specialist, at Arizona State Parks/SHPO (602) 542-7141 or by e-mail at [kd2\(at\)azstateparks.gov](mailto:kd2(at)azstateparks.gov) or Ann Howard, Deputy SHPO, at Arizona State Parks/SHPO (602) 542-7138, or by e-mail at [ahoward\(at\)azstateparks.gov](mailto:ahoward(at)azstateparks.gov).

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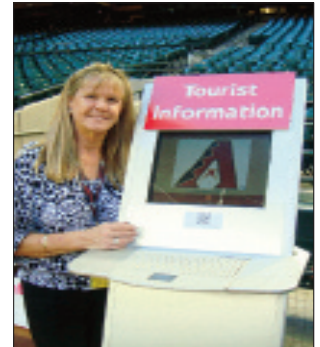
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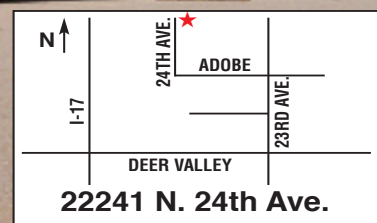
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MEXICAN WOLVES
Continued from page 10

for the changes to the modern landscape that make it impractical to recreate a wolf population as it was a century ago," said Jim DeVos, assistant director for wildlife management at the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The new 10(j) rule lays out some of the steps to guide Mexican wolf conservation on the ground, while the recovery plan provides a broader approach to guide the program to a defined recovery goal.

The department notified the Service that it intends to take legal action to try to push the development of a recovery plan for Mexican wolves as the current plan is more than 30 years old and so outdated that it fails to provide a necessary framework for the program.

Point Of Criticism

One of the points criticized in the new 10(j) rule concerns expansion of the Mexican wolf population. The department used extensive biological studies to guide the recommendation for westward expansion of wolves in Arizona. Studies clearly indicate a relatively sparse ungulate population in western Arizona that is inadequate for supporting wolves.

To allow wolves in the initial phase of expansion to disperse and occupy areas with limited prey is likely to lead to more conflicts between wolves and humans and domestic animals. The department recommended against initial expansion into these areas to avoid conflict that may necessitate the removal of wolves.

Critics of the new 10(j) rule also disagree with the population objective de-

finied in the new rule. The population objective for Arizona is only a part of Mexican wolf recovery. Arizona is an important component of Mexican wolf recovery, but full recovery must incorporate Mexico as well.

Arizona, New Mexico, Mexico

Historically, Mexico held 90 percent of the habitat for Mexican wolves and it still contains significant areas that could support wolves. True recovery can only occur if both Mexico and Arizona have viable, sustainable wolf populations.

The new rule will allow wolves a corridor to disperse into Mexico. Interconnection between wolves in Mexico and those in the Arizona-New Mexico population will increase genetic diversity.

For more information on Mexican wolves, visit www.azgfd.gov/wolf.

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PADDLING*Continued from page 1*

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Keep In Touch

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get to let them know when you've returned home safely.

'Can You Hear Me Now?'

Take a means of communication with you in a waterproof bag. A submersible VHF marine band radio on a coastal trip or cell phone on inland paddles provides a communications link, which may turn out to be very valuable in the event of an emergency or delay.

It's For Life

Always wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket suitable for the type of paddling activity you're doing. Make sure it fits snugly, the snaps are snapped and the zip-

pers zipped. In more than 80 percent of paddling related fatal accidents, the victims weren't wearing a life jacket.

Learn And Live

Take a class — they're fun, enjoyable and will enhance your skill set. For more information on paddlesports courses ranging from basic and introductory paddling to surf and whitewater SUP, check out the American Canoe Association (ACA). Courses are conducted by experienced and certified instructors on the water near your home and provide the basics needed to ensure fun and safe paddling.

For more information on the ACA, check out their Web site at [www.american-](http://www.american-canoe.org)

[canoe.org](http://www.american-canoe.org).

Classroom courses are also available through the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Details can be found at http://cgaux.org/boating/class_finder/index.php. Also, see page 3 of this issue.

Safe, Fun Paddling Is The Goal

Paddling is a wonderful way to spend quality time on the water. Just ask Debbie Huntsman, our "cover girl" who is shown paddling on Lake Pleasant (photo credit: Ed Huntsman).

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OUTDOOR EXPO*Continued from page 1*

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Once again, admission and parking for the Expo are free! You may want to bring some cash for the many food and beverage concessionaires that will be on-site, or for the commercial vendors who will be selling outdoors-related goods or services. For those who want to try shooting sports, there is a nominal charge for ammunition at some of the target shooting venues.

For more information, visit www.azgfd.gov/expo.

www.azgfd.gov/expo.

Did You Know?

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

WESTWORLD*Continued from page 1*

Short drive times, convenience and virtually unlimited parking make WestWorld an ideal new location for the Scottsdale International Sportsmen's Exposition and Arizona Boat Show.

Room to Grow

In 2014 WestWorld opened its state-of-the-art, 120,000-sq.-ft., climate-controlled Exhibition Building. An adjacent 120,000-sq.-ft. Tent Facility brings the total available space to 240,000 sq. ft. The additional space allows ISE to grow several categories, including boats, RVs and powersports vehicles.

Scottsdale

Supportive of tourism and events, Scottsdale emphasizes sports, western history, equestrian riding and outdoor activi-

ties. World-class resorts and restaurants help Scottsdale attract more than six million out-of-state visitors each year.

Popular Events

WestWorld's new state-of-the-art facility is currently home to some of the largest and most-popular consumer events in the Southwest, including Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction, Goodguys Spring Nationals car show, and the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show.

Features

- Adventure-travel destinations
- Lodges and resorts
- Fishing and hunting outfitters and guides
- Hunting and archery retail
- Personal Water Craft, kayaks, SUPs
- Boats and accessories
- RVs and campers
- UTVs, ATVs and powersports

accessories

- Truck-aftermarket items
- Wildlife and outdoor art
- Apparel, camo, optics, calls
- Mountain-living furnishings
- Scuba destinations, instruction, gear
- Sportsmen clubs, groups, organizations

Contacts

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Info@SportsExpos.com
www.SportsExpos.com/WestWorld after April 1.

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P.O. Box 2569, Vancouver, WA 98668-2569, 360-693-3700 or 800-545-6100; 360-693-3352 (fax)



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