



# Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club

"Conserving Arizona's land and wildfire since 1936"

## Monthly Newsletter

February  
2007



**DON'T FORGET! Applications for the Antelope / Elk draw are due February 13, 2007!**

### February Events:

- All Members Bass Derby  
February 4th, 2007

### Next Club Meeting:

February 7th

VISIT US ONLINE:

[YVRGC.COM](http://YVRGC.COM)



~It kills me to see such beautiful elk joined together. However, imagine the mount that would hang on your wall! I'm not sure about the end result, but there was a group of individuals who tried to help the massive animals.

### Website

~Don't forget about our website. I will continue to post the monthly newsletter so there won't be any excuses for missing the Club meetings!

For those of you who haven't found enough time to read last month's newsletter, please email [newsletter@yvr gc.com](mailto:newsletter@yvr gc.com) and request the award winning newsletter be sent to your electronic mailbox.

~Yet another month goes by. And for that matter, 2007 is in full stride! Time's flying by gents, better get outdoors and enjoy it while we can, especially with this great weather! Also, as the new club treasurer, I will only be reimbursing individuals at club meetings. This will allow more accurate financial tracking of club funds. Thanks!

~For the club, February is a slow month. How about somebody stepping it up next year for another club event?

### Hunting Tip:

~For those of you planning on putting in for Elk this year, the standard rule of thumb for long range elk shooting goes like this:

Sight your .270, .300 magnum, or .30-06 rifle in to shoot 3 inches high at 100 yards. That puts it dead on at about 220 yards. At 400 yards (maximum range), lay the crosshairs of the scope on the top of the bull's back, and you should hit it in the lower half of the chest with a steady hold.

I found a good sighted gun to be extremely important on my hunt in South Africa. I would have given up plenty of opportunities if the gun was not "on." Make sure you sight in your weapons because I don't want to write

### Bass Behavior

~Do you want to know the reason why you end up emptying your ice chest before you fill your live well? Knowing the water temperature and tracking it's changes is more important than you might think. More research has been on water temperature and bass behavior than any other in the fish's lifestyle. In colder water, for example, their metabolism slows and they become less active. What about the oxygen, another key in bass behavior. Without adequate oxygen in its bloodstream, a bass will slow its activity level. Generally, when the water temperature rises into the upper 50s Fahrenheit, sluggish bass begin moving out of deep water into more shallow depths in preparation for the. So remember, there are plenty of excuses why you aren't catching any fish!

about your "almost" had'em but it wasn't a good shot. Besides, who wants to hear about the "one that got away?"



~Unofficially the largest ram ever taken in 45C, Tim Parrish of Tucson, AZ is one lucky, or should I say skilled, man. This ram was harvested on the last day at 12:06pm Dec 31, 2006. This was after 21 days of hard hunting. Game and Fish scored him at 177 6/8 gross and 177 1/8 net. Helping on the hunter were Frank Ferguson III, Mike Daily, Mel Lee, Daniel Cruz, and Randy Jones (Wellton, AZ). Also helping was David Pereda (Prescott, AZ).

~The KOFA National Wildlife Refuge will have a new office located next to the Game and Fish office by April 2008. Ground breaking should occur within the next two months. All KOFA employees with the exception of the two maintenance men will have an office in the new building. The maintenance yard and equipment will be housed out at the Imperial Refuge. It is likely that Mr. Paul Cornes will become

the Complex Manager responsible for both KOFA and Imperial Refuges. Both assistant refuge managers will become respective managers, yet will continue to answer to Mr. Cornes who will, although some of us question, "have the final say."

### KOFA Lion Update:

~During our last lion capture attempt in late December, we collected 4 scat samples and found 2 old cache sites—one contained a badger and one contained a bighorn sheep. We found tracks of a female and a small male lion. We found no sign in Burro Canyon or in the Castle Domes, although a sheep hunter later reported lion sign in the Castle Domes. Joe Melton provided us coordinates of lion tracks he found near AGFD water catchments off the refuge. Ron Thompson will return in February for a sustained snaring/hound effort.

Lindsay Smythe  
Wildlife Biologist  
Kofa National Wildlife Refuge

Imagine that, there are reported lion kills of bighorn sheep!?



Hey Phil! I figured I would insert a photo of yourself with your little tiny mule deer. HA! HA! Oh yeah, I was told to let everyone know it's a coues. Whew, almost blew that one. Great Job!

Our Mission includes, but is not limited to:

The conservation of wildlife, habitat and natural resources. Education of the public to include conservation issues and firearm safety. To support and defend the second amendment of the United States Constitution. Provide recreation and organized activities to members and the public and participate in charitable and other community service activities especially those related to conservation and sportsmanship.

**Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Volunteer Opportunity**

**Project Title:**

Pronghorn Trap Set Up and Capture

**Description:**

This project involves setting up a pronghorn trap, which will be labor intensive and pronghorn capture, which will be fast-paced.

**When:**

January 30–31<sup>st</sup> – pronghorn trap setup. Volunteers will need to meet at 0730 at Safeway in Chino Valley.  
February 6–9<sup>th</sup> – pronghorn capture. Volunteers will need to meet at 0730 at Safeway in Chino Valley.

**Where:**

Granite Dells Ranch, Prescott Valley. Volunteers will need to meet in Chino Valley at the times/location designated above.

**Number of volunteers needed:**

10 for each period. *Volunteers will need to bring their own lunches.*

**Example of Duties:**

Volunteers will assist the Arizona Game and Fish Department project leader with pronghorn trap set up and capture. Volunteers should prepare for cold weather, possibly rain/snow. Additional information will be mailed to volunteers after January 22. *Volunteers will need to bring their own lunches.*

**Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:**

Volunteers need to be able to perform physical work and be willing to follow instructions from the AGFD project leader. T-post and fencing experience would be helpful.

**Training:**

he Arizona Game and Fish Department project leader will provide direction and training.

**Transportation:**

Volunteers will need to provide their own transportation to the meeting site in Chino Valley. Carpooling will be coordinated from there.

**Contact:**

All interested volunteers must contact:

Erin Riddering, Region III Game Specialist, at [eriddering@azgfd.gov](mailto:eriddering@azgfd.gov) or 928-692-7700 X 2330

**Yuma Women's Reel & Rifle Club  
Know Any Females who Fish, Hunt, Target Shoot???**

Members of the Yuma Women's Reel & Rifle Club (YWRRC) ask if you know of any women (young and old, all ages welcome!) that might be interested in the YWRRC???? This historic club is filled with wonderful ladies who value the outdoors, enjoy fishing and hunting, and have fun throughout the year. If your wife, sister, female cousins and friends like to fish and hunt, this is the Club for them. Your daughters are also welcome and encouraged to join (those under 18 need a sponsorship from an active YWRRC member). Please have them contact President, June Wolfe (210-7770) or Vice-President, Julie Foster (376-0974) for information on this historic and FUN club. **59<sup>th</sup> Year is here!**

**Meeting – Ladies of all ages welcome!**

February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #19, 2575 Virginia Drive (Ladies Auxiliary Room). Exciting discussion about upcoming derbies & plans for the Yuma County Fair booth and other 2007 Events, door prizes galore, much fun!

**TIME TO JOIN FOR 2007** – – – Annual dues \$20 (adults), \$10 (juniors/guppies) – – – Enjoy fishing, hunting, target shooting and competing with women of all ages! Share stories, get involved in the community and habitat conservation & build memories. Pay dues at the meeting or mail dues and address information to PO Box 1621, Yuma AZ 85366.

**Contests Underway & Derby Coming:**

January 1<sup>st</sup> brought the beginning of the Bass, Catfish & Striped Bass Contests that are progressive throughout the year. No one on the "Boards" yet! **DERBY:** Early Worm Derby (February 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>, Bass & Catfish) for all members.....join & compete for cash prizes and awards (trophies, plaques, vases, etc.)

**Hunting Tournaments & Shooting Events**

Tournament results (deer, dove & quail) to be announced in late January and results published here in your March edition! 2007 Tournaments will run during legal seasons. Target shooting events also to be planned!

**Interested in support of habitat and wildlife locally?** Consider your individual or group involvement in the Southwest Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC). For more information, contact Chairman, Frank Geary (928-342-1766) or June Wolfe (928-210-7770).

**Creative Playground – GET INVOLVED!** Members of the YWRRC will be baking cookies and volunteering during the Yuma West Wetlands community build of the 17,000 square ft playground designed by local school children. Visit the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation website for more information or call 373-5204.

\*\*\* FOR MEMBERSHIP FLYERS & INFORMATION Call June Wolfe \*\*\*



## Mussels Invading Arizona Waterways

Shaun McKinnon

The Arizona Republic

Jan. 23, 2007 12:00 AM

A fingernail-size shellfish from Ukraine has leaped the Continental Divide and spread down the lower Colorado River, an invasion that could gum up water delivery systems and power plants and permanently damage many of the West's lakes and streams.

Live quagga mussels were found in Lake Mead and two down-river reservoirs, Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu, all in the space of two weeks. The discovery is especially alarming because the Colorado and its lakes offer numerous outlets that could allow the destructive creatures to proliferate across a wide region.

Although less than half an inch long, the mussels pose serious threats. They can clog pipelines and damage machinery. They reproduce quickly, steal food from other aquatic life, befoul bodies of water with waste and can, in time, permanently alter a lake's ecosystem.

The tiny mollusks had already attached themselves last week to the structure that pumps water from Lake Havasu to a canal serving Los Angeles. Divers were inspecting intake pipes Monday at the Central Arizona Project, which moves water to Phoenix and Tucson. Inspections are likely later at hydroelectric plants along the river.

Until this month, the mussels had never been seen west of the Rocky Mountains and were mostly confined to the northeastern United States, mainly the Great Lakes. Authorities believe the mussels arrived in Arizona the same way they crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the late 1980s: They hitched a lift, most likely on a boat. In this case, it was one that launched at Lake Mead. Because the Colorado River reservoirs attract so many visitors from around the country, officials fear the mollusks could spread quickly to other lakes if boaters and anglers don't take extra precautions.

"Now that they're here, the best thing we can do is get the word out to boaters," Turner said. At the same time, he said, scientists will continue to study the creatures, looking for hints that new factors, such as the desert climate, could change the mussels' behavior.

"We don't want to give up on whether there are things that can be done at least to prevent further spread or slow further spread," Turner said. "While you may not be able to eradicate it, you may be able to control it."

Biologists and National Park Service officials had long feared an invasion at Lake Mead of zebra mussels, the better-known cousin of the quagga. Devices designed to detect mussels were in place at the reservoir, which straddles the Arizona-Nevada line, but they were placed at shallow depths where zebra mussels would live. Quagga mussels survive at lower depths.

That's another dose of bad news because Lake Mead and the other reservoirs were built in canyons hundreds of feet deep, giving the mollusks room to breed and multiply. Many of the water intake pipes, including one serving Las Vegas, sit at those lower depths.

"We don't want to create panic," said Bob Barrett, a CAP spokesman. "There is not any threat to the water supply. This is not a threat to the public health. It is a maintenance problem for us. If they begin to build up, we'll scrape them off."

If some of the mussels or their larvae were to get sucked into the pump and survive the trip down the canal, they could wind up at Lake Pleasant in north Peoria. But wildlife officials say the most likely transport route is with boaters making the rounds at various lakes.

"These things can settle on docks, boat ramps, in beach areas, and they have the potential to attach themselves to boats, sometimes down in the cooling systems, where you may not see them," said Larry Riley, fisheries chief for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "The potential for them to spread accidentally is definitely there."

If the mussels spread to smaller lakes around Arizona, they could multiply quickly and inflict serious damage, Riley said. The mussels filter water, up to 1 liter a day, and strain out phytoplankton and other microscopic particles as food. That disrupts the food web and can eventually starve the fish at the top of the web.

That's just the start. The mussels excrete waste that robs the lake of oxygen and, by filtering the water, allows sunlight to reach deeper into the lake and feed underwater plants. Their growth can upset the balance of life and can forever change a lake's ecosystem.

In extreme cases, scientists believe the mussels can actually ruin a lake, or at least parts of it. Biologists say it is possible that an invasion of mussels in Lake Erie has created "dead zones."

## ***UNDECLARING MY CITIZENSHIP***

Becoming Illegal (From a Maryland resident to his senator)

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes  
Senate Office Building  
309 Hart  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Sarbanes,

As a native Marylander and excellent customer of the Internal Revenue Service, I am writing to ask for your assistance. I have contacted the Department of Homeland Security in an effort to determine the process for becoming an illegal alien and they referred me to you.

My primary reason for wishing to change my status from U.S. Citizen to illegal alien stem from the bill which was recently passed by the Senate and for which you voted. If my understanding of this bill's provisions is accurate, as an illegal alien who has been in the United States for five years, all I need to do to become a citizen is to pay a \$2,000 fine and no income taxes for three of the last five years. I know a good deal when I see one and I am anxious to get the process started before everyone figures it out.

Simply put, those of us who have been here legally have had to pay taxes every year so I'm excited about the prospect of avoiding two years of taxes in return for paying a \$2,000 fine. Is there any way that I can apply to be illegal retroactively? This would yield an excellent result for me and my family because we paid heavy taxes in 2004 and 2005.

Additionally, as an illegal alien I could begin using the local emergency room as my primary health care provider. Once I have stopped paying premiums for medical insurance, my accountant figures I could save almost \$10,000 a year. Another benefit in gaining illegal status would be that my daughter would receive preferential treatment relative to her law school applications, as well as "in-state" tuition rates for many colleges throughout the United States for my son.

Lastly, I understand that illegal status would relieve me of the burden of renewing my driver's license and making those burdensome car insurance premiums. This is very important to me given that I still have college age children driving my car.

If you would provide me with an outline of the process to become illegal (retroactively if possible) and copies of the necessary forms, I would be most appreciative. Thank you for your assistance.

Your Loyal Constituent,

Pete McGlaughlin