

Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club

"Conserving Arizona's Land and Wildlife Since 1936"

February
2008

Monthly Newsletter

Don't forget your dues! Please pay to continue receiving important Club information !

February Events:

~ All Member Bass Derby
February 10, 2008



Next Club Meeting:

Date:

February 6, 2008

Location:

American Legion

Post #19

2575 S. Virginia Drive

Yuma, Arizona 85364

Time:

6:30 pm



WWW.

YVRGC.

COM

~ The club is off to a great start this year. As usual, memberships are due and we would greatly appreciate everyone getting Paul their money so I can keep sending this newsletter to each "member." Remember, the dues have increased but remain insignificant in cost compared to the amount of resources and benefits the Club has to offer. Show your support. If you aren't a member, become one. If you are a member, THANK YOU for your patronage!

~ Included with the newsletter is the activity card for the year 2008. With assistance from the Great President Ammons, we have simplified the card to allow easy placement in everyone's wallet to be immediately accessed when friends and family ask about the fantastic events held by the Club throughout the year! Ok, maybe I made up the line about "simplified." If there were more members who were interested in chairing an existing event, or chairing a new event, the Club would need a larger activity card to compensate the abundance of events! Please, if you have any ideas, speak with President Ammons and let's add to the already exciting list of activities.

Website

~ Please continue to visit the website @ www.yvrgc.com. Keep sending your hunting and fishing pictures to photos@yvrgc.com and I'll post them online!!!

Duane Shroufe Retired!

~ After serving the Arizona Game & Fish for many years (try over 24 years!!!), providing great knowledge and support for the sportsman of Arizona, Duane Shroufe has retired and you are invited to the retirement celebration being held on Monday,

March 24, 2008. However, you will need to RSVP and pay a fee of \$55 /person or \$100 / couple. Visit the Club's website and print the form, fill out the form, submit the fee, and attend in support! If anyone is worried about who will be assuming this position, have no fear, Larry Voyles is here! Congrats to Larry for this achievement and on be half of the Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club, we look forward to your contribution for the wildlife management of Arizona .

Bertin R. Lewis Sr



Water For Wildlife Golf

~ For those of you who like to golf, Mike Daily is looking for more players and has a plethora of prizes for those of you who will attend. Remember, the funds from the tournament are dedicated to the maintenance and improvements of waterholes located in the dry deserts of Arizona. There is a page included in this mailing which includes the registration form and rules for the tourney. If you need any more information, contact Mike Daily @ the number on your activity card!

Scott Wilson



2008 Membership Drive

Don't forget to get your 2008 membership to the club before February 6, 2008 to be included in the (2) \$200.00 cash drawings for those early bird members. The drawings will be held at the February meeting. If you lost your form or did not get one, just mail a check to the club and we will fill out the membership application and include you in the drawings. Regulars \$40.00, Seniors over 65 years of age \$30.00, Youth members 13 and under \$20.00. Winners need not be present. February will be the last month that we send newsletters to non-members. Don't pass up this opportunity to belong to the best outdoor organization in Arizona.

January Capsule Draw

There was \$80.00 in the bucket and the name drawn was Bryon Strom. Unfortunately Bryon wasn't at the meeting to win, he was busy protecting our borders in the Tucson area. God Bless You Bryon, you are a Great American.

Lake Alamo Cleanup

~ Please view page 5 of this publication and become a participant in the Alamo Lake Clean-Up. A fun time to do a little fishing while helping keep our land clean. Jon Fugate, Mike Gaither, and my Father, Jim Underhill, have been on this trip and it was a wonder that anything was accomplished. However, if they can do it, anyone can!! The details are below:

Alamo Lake

March 1, 2008

Registration - begins at 6 pm on Friday February 29 at the Alamo Lake Cholla Road Group Use Area

Cleanup work - starts at 8 am on Saturday March 1

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.

February 6, 2008

Dear Members:

At our January meeting, the prizes were awarded for members taking the biggest deer and the biggest javalina. There were some truly impressive animals taken to win these prizes.

Later in the month, several of our members attended the "Meet the Commission" meeting in Phoenix. We were well represented. We had a nice meeting at the governor's office and our annual awards we presented at the commission meeting were appreciated. We attended the Saturday evening banquet where several deserving clubs and individuals were recognized by the commission.

In my opening paragraph, I wrote of awards and prizes for our members for their hunting abilities. This second paragraph is also what our club is about. Although this year we did not receive any awards as we have and our members have in the past, the respect and admiration the YVR&GC received at all of the functions we attended was beyond description. This does not happen overnight, but rather after years of being involved and more importantly being consistent in our beliefs and efforts. We should all take pride in our club.

The February commission meeting will be held at the Yuma Inn Suites. As we have in the past, the club will be cooking the Friday night dinner. All members are invited.

The calendars with the club function dates are in and will be on sale for \$5 at the February meeting. Budget accordingly.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Jim

P.S. Don't forget the application deadline for elk and antelope is February 12th.

YUMA VALLEY ROD AND GUN CLUB

February 6, 2008

Agenda

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
New Members & Guests
Dinner Ticket Draw
Speaker –Gary Hovatter, Arizona Game & Fish Department
Speaker – Norm Freeman, Candidate, Arizona Game & Fish Commission
Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
President's Report

Event Chairmen Reports

Legislative - Nick Heatwole
Roy Price New Member Bass Derby – Lannes Brock
All Member Bass Derby – Lannes Brock
Alamo Lake Cleanup- Chris Gotchie
Water for Wildlife Golf Tournament – Mike Daily
Fair Booth – Paul Williams
Hunter Ed – Buck Appleby
Waterhole Development – Charlie Hansen

New Business

Old Business

Discussion from the floor

Adjourn

The Water For Wildlife Golf Tournament

Sunday, March 2, 2008 at Mesa Del Sol Golf Course, 8:00 a.m. Tee Time

Format: 4 person scramble with a TWO drive minimum---with 7 skill prize holes

Minimum Handicap 50 per team. (No more than one player with a handicap of 10 or less!)

Tournament Is First come First Serve!!!

Registration Options:

Player Registration \$75
Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch

Team of 4 people Registration \$300
Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch

Team of 4 people with a Tee Sign \$350
Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch & Hole sponsor sign

Hole Sponsor Sign and "One" Player \$140
Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch & Hole sponsor Sign

Hole Sponsor Sign \$100
Includes a sign professionally posted at a Tee Box

\$5 MULLIGANS AND \$5 SKINS to be paid at the course TOTAL \$10 per player

Individual or Team Registration

Name _____ HDCP _____ PHONE _____

Name _____ HDCP _____ PHONE _____

Name _____ HDCP _____ PHONE _____

Name _____ HDCP _____ PHONE _____

HOLE SPONSOR SIGN NAME

Name:

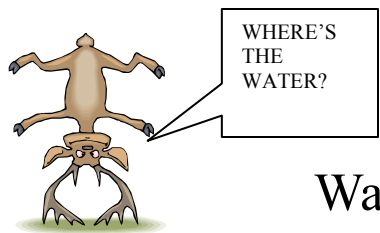
A Calling Card is Good!

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date:----- _____

Telephone _____ Total Amount Remitted: \$ _____

Make all remittance to: YUMA VALLEY ROD & GUN CLUB
Mail to: Mike Daily c/o YVRGC Water For Wildlife, 8101 E. Hwy 95, Yuma, AZ. 85365

For further information call: Mike Daily cell 920-2560 office 344-1886
George Reiners 314-3890 or Paul Williams 343-9099 or Buck Appleby 726-5656
Chris Mitchell 580-1461



Water for Wildlife Golf Tournament

RULE SHEET

White Tee-----Men
 Red Tee-----Women

2 Drive Minimum Straight Scramble
 Same cut of grass---2 club lengths

Skill Prizes:

- OOPS! It's in the water.** #5
 You must go in the water!!!!
 For player to get one ticket in bucket with name on it.
- Longest Drive. Front Side Men.** #6
- Closest to the pin. Front Side.** #8
- Longest Drive Women.** #9

*******Buy door prize tickets \$1.00/each or 6 for \$5.00*******

- Closest to the Pin. Back Side.** #13
- On the Green** #17
 You must be on the green!!!
 For player to get one ticket in bucket with name on it.
- Longest Drive. Back Side Men.** #15

******Only one skill prize can be won per player.******

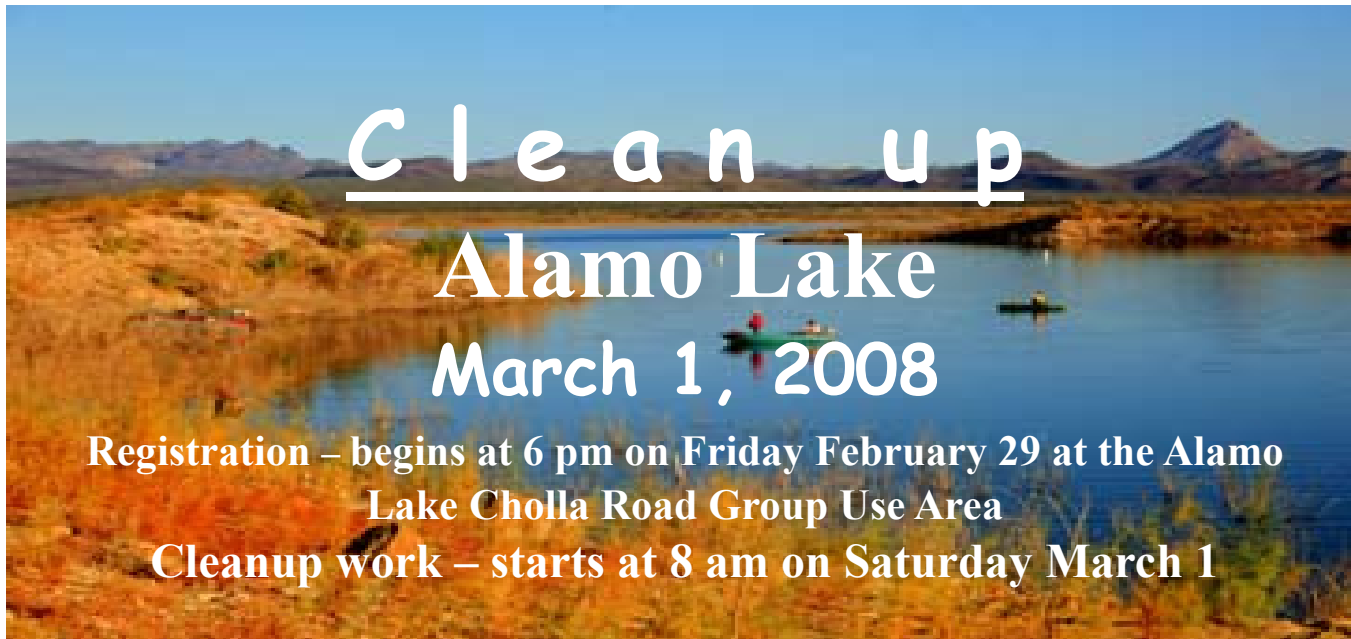
Mulligans-----1 on the front 9 1 on the back 9
 \$5 for 2 **Must** be used before next player shoots

Skins-----Money will be paid back 100% of those that enter.
 \$5 each player If no winner, money will go toward Water for Wildlife.

Handicap: will be 10% of total team handicap with a maximum of no more than 10.

***WILL PAY: 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD GROSS AND 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD NET WITH 1 WIN PERTEAM.**

PLEASE DO NOT CHEAT MOTHER NATURE IS WATCHING YOU!



Arizona State Parks will waive the camping and boat launch fees for participants and those staying at the Cholla group use area. Other facilities are available at the regular rates. If you have a boat, bring it along. The Arizona Game & Fish Department will operate a pontoon boat for the collection of large trash. Dinner Saturday night and a raffle will be held for the participants.

If you can help with the raffle door prizes, please notify the contact below.

The cleanup will be concluded at 3 pm on Saturday March 1.

Bring your camping gear, gloves and join the fun

Contact – Stewart Kohnke, Wildlife Manager
(928) 684- 3763 or (928) 342-0091

SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

January 24, 2008

First, I apologize; the last monthly update was in September 2007. With my month vacation in West Africa in October, and all the work when I got back, unfortunately I have been too busy to get one out until now. This will cover everything since then.

Captive Breeding:

North Half: All the pronghorn in this section are doing well. There are 9 male yearlings born last year in this section, which we are planning to capture, ear tag and move into the Southeast Quarter within the next few weeks. This will decrease the harassment to pregnant females and young fawns to be born this year.

Southwest Quarter: All the pronghorn in this pen are doing well also. There are 3 male yearlings in this pen that we will also capture and move to the Southeast quarter. We are also planning to capture an adult male from the US population to put in this pen for breeding, to replace the adult buck that died in August. We had initially thought we would just allow the 2-year-old buck in this pen to breed this year, but this meant we would have to move his mother and female siblings out of this section before breeding. Not wanting to risk any harm to the females, we decided it would be better to move him out and bring another male into the pen.

Southeast Quarter: The 5 juvenile bucks in this section are doing well. On January 11-12, we captured 4 of these bucks and placed GPS radio collars on them in anticipation of their release into the wild. Unfortunately, they became wise to our darting techniques, and we could not capture the fifth animal. We are in the process of putting a gate into this section of the pen, which we will simply open and let all 5 leave the pen. After they have left, we will put the excess males from the north and southwest section into this section to hold for a year until their release.

We suspect there is a bobcat coming and going through the pen. We have seen sign mostly in the southeast quarter. We have 4 traps in the pen, and are trying to catch and remove it. This is one of our top priorities now, as there will be newborn fawns in the pen in a month or so, and we need to be sure there are no predators accessing the pen.

We still have 2 of our 4 positions vacant, and are trying to fill them as quickly as possible. In the meantime, Loeta and Sean are working especially hard at the pen to get all the work done.

Water Projects: Nothing new to report at this time.

Forage Enhancements: Nothing new to report at this time.

Other Projects: We are continuing to make progress on the initial work to start a second captive breeding project. We had a meeting at YPG with USFWS (Kofa, Cabeza Prieta and Ecological Services), Yuma Proving Grounds, Marine, Air Force and BLM personnel to discuss the project. The USFWS is in the process of setting up an Interdisciplinary Team to continue to move this project forward.

Cabeza Prieta has hired a new Wildlife Biologist/Recovery Team Leader. Jim Atkinson started on January 14th.

We conducted a range wide survey in Sonora Mexico December 6-14. We observed 360 pronghorn comprising 33 groups on the survey. The largest group was 37 animals, and was seen on the east side of the highway; several single pronghorn were also seen. The majority of the pronghorn were seen in the area east of Highway 8, where we observed 325 pronghorn in 27 groups. West of Highway 8 (including El Pinacate), we observed 35 pronghorn in 6 groups.

Applying the sighting probability model and associated correction factors, our estimate of the total population was 404. In the area east of Highway 8, the population estimate was 354. West of the highway, the population was estimated at 50 pronghorn. This estimate was lower than the previous two surveys (634 in 2006, and 684 in 2004). We observed many areas that were extremely dry; in some places, vegetation appeared dead. We suspect there has been a serious drought in pronghorn range in Sonora, leading to the lower numbers this year. However, while we were doing the survey, there were several significant rain showers, which should green the area up and help the remaining pronghorn.

We also captured 4 pronghorn (3 female, 1 male) and placed GPS radio collars on them in the Pinacate Biosphere Reserve. Unfortunately, on a follow up telemetry flight, the male's collar was on mortality signal. When we recovered the collar, there was nothing left of the buck except some tufts of hair. However, due to the short time lapse between collaring and the death, we suspect it was capture related. This buck's temperature rose dangerously high during the collaring, and likely led to internal problems.

We have begun using a new technique for capturing Sonoran pronghorn, in an attempt to reduce mortalities from the net-gun method. A new drug, which is reversible, A3080, has been used on African antelope with good results. Prior to using it on Sonoran pronghorn, it was tested on American pronghorn in Chino valley, in which 15 female pronghorn were darted with the drug from a helicopter. These animals were then radio collared, the drug reversed, pronghorn recovered, and released. There were no mortalities on this capture (typically 10-15% of American pronghorn captured with the net gun die). Based on this success, we have used this technique in Mexico and at the captive breeding pen. Of the 15 Sonoran pronghorn we've captured with this drug, the buck in Mexico has been the only mortality.

Wild Pronghorn: We have conducted several telemetry flights. Pronghorn have typically been using the burned area on South Tac (up to 20 pronghorn in one group), the San Cristobal Valley, and Mohawk Valley. On the last flight, we saw a group of 12 pronghorn on North Tac, the first time in over a year that they have been up there (also in a burned area).