



# Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club

"Conserving Arizona's Land and Wildlife Since 1936"

May  
2007



## Monthly Newsletter

Harvested An Animal? Please Send Your Pictures To Be Displayed On The Website And Newsletter.

### May Events:

- **Big Bass Derby**  
May 6, 2007

### Upcoming June Events:

- **Ted Townsend Memorial Catfish Derby**  
June 2-3, 2007
- **Combo Bass/Catfish Derby**  
June 9-10, 2007
- **Prairie Dog Shoot**  
June 23-24, 2007

### Next Club Meeting:

**Date:**

May 2, 2007

**Location:**

American Legion Post #19  
2575 South Virginia Drive  
Yuma, Arizona 85364

**Time:**

6:30 pm

VISIT US ONLINE:  
[YVRGC.COM](http://YVRGC.COM)



~ Phil Townsend and Dean Edwards with turkeys taken on April 14, 2007 on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The beard on Phil's turkey measured 10 3/8 inches and Dean's is 9 1/2 inches. This is Dean's first turkey.

### Website:

~There is such a thing. Visit us on the web!

~ The cool weather is soon gone. On the brighter side, with the heat comes the big fish. Also, all of the stories Jon Fugate has for me when he shows up to work on Mondays. Fishing stories about the "big one" that got away... The lower river has been displaying some nice fish. The only thing you need to remember is to pack your 9mm. There was reported shots fired at boaters loading their boats at approximately 10:30pm within the last month or so. Just think, hunt/fish combo! If you fish near the border, consider entering the Border Patrols number on your cell phone speed dial.

### KOFA Lion Update:

~ We have finally been successful in collaring a mountain lion, a young male, on the refuge. We have been tracking his locations via satellite GPS and investigating cluster locations as possible kill sites. So far we have not discovered any lion-killed sheep. We are busy trying to acquire funding for more GPS collars, although we plan to try and collar at least one more lion with a radio collar before the hot weather sets in. There were several photos of lions in March, most likely because of the hot weather we had early in the month.

Lindsay Smythe  
Wildlife Biologist  
Kofa National Wildlife Refuge  
(928) 783-7861 x 16

### Big Bass Derby

~ It's fishing time! Good luck catching that big lunker. I am fortunate to have detailed information from Fugate as to the whereabouts of some huge fish. He has been stocking a portion of the river with some bass well over 10 lbs.

### April IRS Bass Derby

~Results of April 15, 2007 IRS Bass Derby. 1st Place Ed Foster 12.20lbs—2nd Place Mike Gaither 11.89 lbs—3rd Mike Underhill 10.62 lbs. The BIG FISH went to Mike Underhill weighing in at a whopping 7.29 lbs. Also, 9 year old Jacob Ware finished in 5th place with 5.14 lbs. of fish! 9 YEARS OLD!



~ The 2007 Yuma County Fair Booth was a success !!26 new members signed up at the booth. Club member Jeff Miller won the \$10,000.00 first place raffle. The last of 1250 raffle tickets were sold by 5:45 PM on Sunday evening. Congratulations to the 38 club members who sold 938 raffle tickets to their friends, family members and business associates. Jim Ammons sold 158 tickets, Larry Smart sold 100 tickets, Randy Jones sold 50 tickets, Doug Beach sold 50 tickets, Jeff Miller sold 50 tickets, Clint Curry sold 46 tickets, Tommy Taylor sold 45 Tickets, Wayne Meyer sold 25 tickets, David Root sold 25 tickets, Doug Edwards sold 25 tickets, Terry Bathrick sold 25 tickets, Chet Moore sold 25 tickets, Clint Underhill sold 25 tickets, Brian Cypert sold 25 tickets, Mike Gaither sold 25 tickets, Mark Zellar sold 25 tickets and thanks to many other club members who sold anywhere from 5 to 20 raffle tickets. Harold Wah is still in the lead with 12 new members signed up so far this year.



~ I had to throw in a picture of Bob and Jeff Kammann's (both club members) red stag they hunted in New Zealand. Just one of the few animals harvested. The pictures taken of the hunt and land were absolutely unbelievable. Notice how Bob's stag is MUCH bigger than Jeff's !!!

### June Catfish Derby

~A bit early, but I was asked very politely to insert a plug for the upcoming catfish derby. The Annual Ted Townsend Memorial Catfish Derby will be held June 2nd and 3rd, from Saturday at NOON until Sunday 8 am. (Weigh-in at Fisher's 8:00am) You must be a member of the club to participate, sign up now to enter. From kids to adults, there will be plenty of prizes to give away. A special raffle including a rod & reel combo will be raffled off to those who weigh in a fish. Sign up sheets at Sprague's Sports and Sportsman's Hideaway. Last but not least, who can complain about a \$1 dollar entry fee?

### New Member Drive

~ Don't forget, the year is flying by and the race is still on for those individuals who want to sign up the most new members. Remember, the Club President is forkin' out the money for the give away!

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.

## **Letter to the Editor 4-20-07 paper**

### SACRED ONLY APPLIES TO NON-TRIBE PROJECTS

I am writing to comment on the recent lawsuit announced by the Quechan Indian Tribe's President Mike Jackson to stop the land transfer in Wellton for the Arizona Clean Fuels Refinery. The tribe is claiming that this land, which by my estimate is 40-plus miles away, is sacred to them. More on that later, but I would like to start with some other "sacred sites" in the state of Arizona facing similar problems.

For the past several years, the Arizona Snowbowl in Flagstaff has been trying to generate artificial snow with reclaimed water. This is due to severe drought affecting the area. This also has been denied by countless lawsuits brought by American Indian tribes (Navajo and Hopi) under the religious freedom act.

Yet several tribes in the state are either operating or planning to operate several golf courses using the same type of water. They also claim the site (the Snowbowl) is sacred and would trample their religious freedom, although the area in question is less than 1 percent of the entire San Francisco Peaks area.

Next we have the Hualapai Indian Tribe at the Grand Canyon. While in the past they have objected to most development at the Grand Canyon, they now have that monstrosity called the Skywalk that juts 70 feet out over the canyon rim.

Hmmm, no lawsuits filed by any tribes on that one. Oh, that's right, there's that sovereign government immunity rule that all the tribes hide behind to fill their coffers. It seems the tribes of this state only find the bulldozers offensive when they are not the ones operating them!

Which brings me back home to Yuma County. The people of the Wellton area have decided that the refinery to be operated by Arizona Clean Fuels will be a benefit to their entire community. It will generate taxes and high paying jobs.

Even so, the people of Wellton and the Wellton Mohawk Irrigation District are taking every precaution, because they would not sell out their culture, their community or their land without the due diligence they have exercised!

On the other hand, let's look at the claims of the Quechans and their dedication to preserve their "sacred sites" that they actually do own.

To understand this better, one just needs to take a journey to downtown Yuma. Take a tour of the Territorial Prison, stroll the historic Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge and the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area and gaze at the mission on the Quechan Reservation.

While viewing this pristine area, gaze down and observe the Quechans' idea of preservation of this historic and most sacred of sites. Words may truly elude you as you view the casino area.

So, Mike Jackson, tell us again about your plans for protecting that land 40 miles away that is so sacred and vital to your tribe. But before you do, maybe you should think of how Forrest Gump might sum up the merits of your lawsuit. "Sacred is as sacred does."

### **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!**

#### **Next meeting – Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> – American Legion Post #19 2575 Virginia Dr Auxiliary Room 6:30pm**

**Join** - - - 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. Send dues to PO Box 1621, Yuma AZ 85366 or come to the meeting!

#### **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. Catfish Board has Monica Robb and Julie Foster both with a 4 lb 13 oz, Monica Robb 4 lb 5 oz, Sheryl Meins 2 lb 13 oz and Elaine Yates 1 lb 10 oz. Christina Peabody (junior) has a 1 lb 2 oz catfish on the board. No regular or striped bass yet. **ALL MEMBER BASS DERBY** May 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

#### **Hunting Tournaments & Shooting Events**

2007 Tournaments will run during legal seasons. Target shooting events held each month; contact Jean Wilson (928-726-0953) for more information.

**Women's Expo** – May 12<sup>th</sup> – Yuma Civic & Convention Center 10am-3pm – Great event for ladies. YWRRC will have a booth & raffling off a free concealed weapons class!

**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 June or Jean.

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