



Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club

"Conserving Arizona's Land and Wildlife Since 1936"

June
2007



Monthly Newsletter

2007 Fall Hunt Application No Longer Available Online, Deadline for Mail Applications is Extended until Tuesday, June 26th!

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:

June 6, 2007

Location:

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

Time:

6:30 pm

VISIT US ONLINE:
YVRGC.COM



~ No Hunting? Well go fishing. This 6.3 was big enough for 3rd place in the Big Bass Derby last week. With hard work, you can catch one yourself. Some words of wisdom from Steve Martinez.

~ My appologies to John Hervert and club members for not getting this newsletter out until it was too late. However, with the late notice, it would have been near impossible to get the letter printed, copied, mailed, and received in time to notify members of attending June 2nds waterhole projects.

KOFA Lion Update:

~ We have received funding for more GPS lion collars and will be making a sustained trapping effort starting in late May with hopes to collar 1-3 more lions in the next several weeks. We are still tracking our collared lion. He has been spending more time off of the refuge than on and covers an amazing amount of territory. We did document a yearling ram killed by this lion off of the refuge in April. There were no lions captured on camera in April, likely because the weather was so cool. We did receive a report of fresh lion tracks near the Red Raven well. These reports are always useful in our capture attempts, so please continue to inform us of any tracks, scat, or carcasses found.

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

Fun Auction:

~ Phil Seward wanted me to remind everyone that the "Fun Auction" will be held on July 11, 2007. Although many will forget by then, just remember to bring all of your "treasures" you don't need or use anymore and help raise funds for the club! Phil says this auction will be big, lets make him work extra hard.....



Website:

~Do to the lack of support and interest with respect to the Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club newsletter, unfortunately, for those who looked forward to receiving an actual newsletter in the mail will be dissapointed to hear that I will only be offering the award winning newsletter electronically. This means, either the publication is received via email, or ANYONE can view it ANYTIME on the internet. Just visit yvrgc.com. With the ever changing technology available, this will save the club over \$4,000 a year.

Waterhole Pictures:

~ In light of a late newsletter, I have included many pictures that John Hervert had sent me regarding waterhold projects which were recently completed. For anyone who has not been able to attend a project should take a weekend out of your busy schedule will impact wildlife in the surrounding areas more than you can imagine. Besides, keeping the desert big game alive, allows us men much needed time away form the wife!

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.

The Reverend John Fluff was the pastor in a small town in Ireland.

One day he was walking down the high street when he noticed a young lady of his congregation sitting in a pub drinking beer.

The Reverend wasn't happy!

He walked through the open door of the pub and sat down next to the woman. "Miss Fitzgerald," he said sternly. "This is no place for a member of my congregation. Why don't you let me take you home?" "Sure," she said with a slur, obviously very drunk. When Miss Fitzgerald stood up from the bar, she began to weave back and forth. The Reverend realized that she'd had far too much to drink and grabbed her arms to steady her. When he did, they both lost their balance and tumbled to the floor.

After rolling around for a few moments, the Reverend wound up on top of Miss Fitzgerald, her skirt hiked up to her waist.

The pub landlord looked over and said, "Oy mate, we won't have any of that carrying on in this pub."

The Reverend looked up at the landlord and said, "But you don't understand, I'm Pastor Fluff." The landlord nodded and said, "Ah well, if you're that far in, ye might as well finish."

**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, Jean Wilson (726-0953) for information on this historic and FUN club. **59th Year is here!**

Next meeting – Thursday June 28th – American Legion Post #19 2575 Virginia Dr Auxiliary Room 6:30pm

Join - - - HALF PRICE DUES - Annual dues \$10 (adults), \$5 (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!

Results from Annual Raffle will be announced in the July newsletter! Special thanks to Paul Williams and Doug Edwards for selling tickets and to everyone who purchased their chance! Hope some of you were the lucky winners! This funding is used to support Club related community activities and scholarships.

Contests Underway & Derby Coming:

January 1st brought the beginning of the Bass, Catfish & Striped Bass Contests that are progressive throughout the year. Catfish Board has Julie Foster with a 4 lb 13 oz, Monica Robb 4 lb 13 oz, Judy Prosch 3 lbs 14 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** was held May 11th – 13th – Elaine Yates and Gale Edwards tried, however the fish won! Better luck next time ladies. **ALL MEMBER CATFISH DERBY** will be June 1st – 3rd and those results will be out in July!

Hunting Tournaments & Shooting Events

2007 Tournaments will run during legal seasons. Target shooting events held each month; contact Jean Wilson for more information.

Interested in support of habitat and wildlife locally? Consider your individual or group involvement in the Southwest Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC). Next meeting – June 12th – plan to attend, open to the public. For more information, contact June or Jean.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Daniel R. Patterson](mailto:Daniel.R.Patterson@yvrqc.com)

To: emailus@yvrqc.com

Sent: Monday, June 04, 2007 12:02 PM

Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Army Looking at Big Expansion of Arizona Training Grounds

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

For Immediate Release: Monday, June 4, 2007

Contact: Daniel Patterson 520.906.2159; Carol Goldberg (202) 265-7337

ARMY LOOKING AT BIG EXPANSION OF ARIZONA TRAINING GROUNDS Half Million Acres of Public Land May Be Put Off-Limits

TUCSON -- The U.S. Army is considering a large expansion of Yuma Proving Ground firing range, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). The action would remove as many as 500,000 acres of U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land from public access.

The Army is considering proposing converting between 100,000 and 500,000 acres of BLM public lands in Yuma, La Paz and Maricopa Counties into an expanded firing range for the Yuma Proving Ground. According to Val Morill of the Army's Range Sustainability program: "We'd like to take everything from I-8 to I-10 all the way to Gila Bend and Highway 85."

The BLM lands in the area west of Phoenix being reviewed by the Army include parts of the New Water Mountains Wilderness, Eagletail Wilderness, Signal Mountain Wilderness and Woolsey Peak Wilderness. In addition, the Army is looking at proposed takeover of buffers on the west, north and east sides of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in the La Posa and Palomas Plains.

"The Army says this is still only at a conceptual stage, but it is clear they are looking hard at a massive expansion of weapons testing and firing ranges," stated PEER Southwest Director Daniel R. Patterson, an ecologist formerly with BLM. "If it proceeds, the public will be shut out of a huge area of public lands."

Removal of BLM lands for military use would require an act of Congress. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), a high-ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee has been supportive of expanding Yuma Proving Ground, which now covers nearly 1,400 square miles and offers opportunity for desert training and testing of medium and long range artillery, armored and wheeled vehicles and a variety of munitions. The area is also within the district of Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), who chairs the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, which has jurisdiction over any such transfer.

Although the lands in question are under the jurisdiction of the BLM, that agency has yet to be consulted by the Army about expansion plans, according to a top BLM-Arizona official contacted by PEER.

"The Army says it needs more space to shoot bigger weapons that fire farther than ever," Patterson added, noting the Army's Ft. Irwin in southern California was also recently enlarged for tank training activities. "The dilemma is how much American soil will have to be sacrificed for refining weapons designed to defend it."

Apart from the recreational and scientific values of the lands, these scenic and fragile stretches of the Sonoran Desert are studded with mountains, springs, saguaro cacti and ironwood trees that harbor rare wildlife such as the Desert Tortoise and Desert Bighorn Sheep.

Daniel R. Patterson
Ecologist & Southwest Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER.org)

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PEER protects employees who protect our environment.

Washington DC (HQ); Alaska; California; Florida; Maine; New England; New Jersey; Refuge Keeper; Rocky Mountain; Southwest; Tennessee; Texas; Washington