



# Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club

"Conserving Arizona's Land and Wildlife Since 1936"

# July 2007

## Monthly Newsletter

**DON'T FORGET!** Phil Seward's "Fun Auction" will be held at this month's meeting. Bring items to auction off!

### July Events:

**Fun Auction**  
July 11, 2007

### Next Club Meeting:

*Date:*

July 11, 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)



~ I received a few pictures from the prairie dog hunt held on June 23-24. Above are a few successful hunters proudly displaying their "harvested" dogs. It is always great to see such young hunters. We need more of them!

### Fun Auction:

~ The club meeting on Wednesday will include the "Fun Auction" hosted by Phil Seward. Bring your items that sit around wasting space to the club meeting on Wednesday to donate.

~ In the past few months, it has been a very sad time for the YVRGC. We have lost four life-time members. Mike Mitchell, N.E. Red Bathrick, John Howell, and Bill Kerekes. These four gentlemen's dedication to our organization has in many ways made the club what it is today. From the Dove Hunter's Bar-B-Cue, the Handicapped Children's River Cruise, the Fair Booth, to building perfect dams at waterhole projects, Mike, Red, John and Bill will always be remembered for their loyalty, ensuring the YVRGC to success.

Just as important as remembering these outstanding members for their dedication and loyalty to the Club, we must also recognize their families. The core of our organization and our ability to be recognized as a leading conservation organization comes not only from members, but from the families of our membership. Our thoughts and prayers goes out not only to the families of these lost members, but to each and every family who has sons and fathers holding membership with the YVRGC. May we all continue to support each other so that our children and their children can enjoy the outdoors as we have.

### Dove Hunters BBQ:

~ As fast as time goes by now days, start preparing for the annual Mike Mitchell Dove Hunters Barbecue. Please find on page 4 a flier which contains all of the information on this years event. There will be a lot of great prizes including 2007 Suzuki 400 4x4 ATV! Now were talking!! I can definitely see myself on that fine rig. Start buying tickets early and get \$100 worth of tickets for only \$75!! You can't beat it!

### KOFA Lion / Wilderness Update:

~ I didn't receive any information on the latest lion news for this month. However, for those of you who are involved with the KOFAS, you should have heard about the latest lawsuit which frankly, pisses me off.

**U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona (Phoenix Division)**

Case # 2:07-cv-01185-MHM

Filed: 6/15/2007

**Wilderness Watch, Inc. and Arizona Wilderness Coalition Plaintiffs**

**Vs.**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, H. Dale Hall, in his official capacity as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Paul Cornes, in his official capacity as the Kofa Wildlife Refuge Manager, and Chris Pease, in his official capacity as Regional Refuge Manager Defendants**

**Nature of Case:** Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief for violations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Wilderness Act. Plaintiffs oppose a water development that has been constructed inside a federally designated wilderness area in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge near Yuma, Arizona. Plaintiffs seek injunctive and declaratory relief that requires the FWS to stop further construction of artificial water sources inside the Wilderness Area; and to remove any artificial water sources that have thus far been constructed.

~ For those who are also familiar with the Sonoran Pronghorn, please see page 3 and the picture (with caption) below about the significant impact necessary management has done with the "highly endangered" species.



~Federal wildlife biologist Mike Coffeen, right, helping carry a captured Sonoran pronghorn into captivity in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Ariz. Coffeen is ecstatic these days. His efforts to save North America's fastest mammal \_ the endangered Sonoran pronghorn \_ are succeeding beyond expectations. (AP Photo/US Fish and Wildlife Service)

### Website:

~ In an attempt to get more members involved with the website, I will give the individual who goes online, browses through the website and finds a secret link. That link, when clicked, will open up your email browser. Type in the subject line "Jimmy the Twenty" and the first email I receive will be the winner. In order to claim the prize, you must appear in person at the July meeting. If you don't know me, I'm Clint Underhill and the treasurer for the club. Just ask "where is the guy that's mis-managing the club's funds?" They'll point you in the right direction.....

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.

# SONORAN PRONGHORN MONTHLY UPDATE

June 12, 2007

## ***Captive Breeding:***

**North Half:** On May 3, one of the pen monitors noticed that there were only 10 fawns in the north half, instead of the 11 that should have been there. Subsequent investigations found one fawn dead in a wash. We were led to the general area by vultures, and the body was well scavenged by vultures. Cause of death is unknown. There were no signs of predation, and there was plenty of food in the form of both native forage and alfalfa hay.

The pen monitors noticed a family of Harris hawk's harassing several fawns in the beginning of April. Some of the fawns were still about jackrabbit size, the main prey of Harris hawks, so we were naturally concerned. A falconer volunteered to come out to the pen that same day and assist the pen monitors. An adult Harris hawk was trapped and removed from the pen, and several eggs were taken from a nest in the pen. The hawk and eggs were taken to Liberty Wildlife, where they were held and then released in another location. Once the adult hawk was removed, we didn't have any more problems with the hawks harassing the pronghorn.

The other 10 fawns and all adults are healthy. The sex ratio of the remaining fawns is 6 males and 4 females (it was a buck that died).

**Southwest Quarter:** At the same time as the fawn death in the north half, one of the 7 fawns in the southwest quarter also disappeared. We have not been able to find his body. We don't know what happened to him either. All the other animals in that quarter are also healthy. The sex ratio of the remaining fawns in the southwest quarter is 3 males and 3 females.

**Southeast Quarter:** The 5 yearling males in this quarter are doing well.

We now have 16 fawns in the pen, 9 males and 7 females. The total number of pronghorn in the pen is 39. We are irrigating in all sections of the pen. We have experienced little rainfall this year; consequently, forage production outside of the irrigated areas has been minimal.

***Water Projects:*** We filled the trough at the Devil's Hills water, but did not see any pronghorn tracks near it. Later, on the June 10<sup>th</sup> telemetry flight, we found the group of pronghorn that had been near Devil's Hills near the new Point of the Pintas water on the Marine Range. About a week before that when we checked Point of the Pintas, which was about 80% full still, we noticed pronghorn tracks, including fawns, at the water.

***Forage Enhancements:*** With the help of personnel from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we constructed most of the expansion at the Granite Mountains forage enhancement. We irrigated the old section while we were working on the new sections. We also watered most of the new section. We still have some work left on a sprinkler array and poly-pipe array. Most of the older section is green where we have irrigated earlier, but the surrounding desert is very dry.

As far as we know, most of the pronghorn are many miles to the south. The USFWS has been watering at Lower Well and Adobe Well.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, one of the pen monitors noticed 2 of the yearling bucks we released from the pen at the water at the Charlie Bell forage enhancement as he was in the process of irrigating there. On June 10, during the telemetry flight, both those bucks were back over the pass towards South Tac, but an adult buck from South Tac was near the forage plot. Then on June 12, the yearling bucks had returned to Charlie Bell. Hopefully these animals will lead all the pronghorn using South Tac to the water and forage at Charlie Bell this summer, as South Tac dries out.

***Other Projects:*** Nothing new to report.

***Wild Pronghorn:*** We conducted telemetry flights on May 6 and June 10. The group that were near Devil's Hill water were now near Point of the Pintas water, but may have lost 1 of the 2 fawns that were in the group. Another group was near the Fawn Hills water on both flights. Another group was near the south end of the Pintas in May, and moved to join another pronghorn on the west side of the Granites, near the Granite Mountains water on the June flight. All the other collared pronghorn were on or near South Tac in the burned area. On May 6, there were at least 18 pronghorn in this area, on June 10, 22 pronghorn were seen in the burn. The adult buck collared on South Tac was near the Charlie Bell forage enhancement. Forage conditions have dried out considerably throughout pronghorn range, but are still good in the burned area on South Tac. We could really use some rain soon.



One of the new sprinkler arrays at Granite Mountains forage enhancement.

Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club  
and  
Southwest Wildlife Foundation  
**FUNDRAISER**

Tickets  
\$10.00 each

Or 6 for  
\$50.00



2007 Suzuki EIGER 400 4X4  
Automatic - Camouflage

Displayed at Fencemasters (928-317-8106)

Drawing to be held at Mike Mitchell Dove Hunter Barbecue

Winner need not be present to win.

Winner responsible for tax and registration fees.



# Mike Mitchell Dove Hunters Barbecue

Sponsored by: Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club / Southwest Wildlife Foundation

September 1st • American Legion Post #19 • 2575 South Virginia Drive  
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm • Dinner from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

**Purchase \$100.00 of WHITE RAFFLE tickets By August 15th for \$75.00**

**Some of the Prizes you can win with the WHITE tickets**

GUN SAFE • CUSTOM GUN CABINET • 4 OFF-ROAD TIRES  
ARCHERY EQUIPMENT • GUNS AND MUCH MORE... . . .

Also available at the BBQ will be

- Tickets for general door prizes •
- Tickets for \$500.00 cash •
- Card Tricks •

Any questions  
please contact  
any of these  
event chairmen.

Jim Ammons: (928) 920-9091  
 Brian Ammons: (928) 920-1149  
 Steve Martinez: (928) 920-0198  
 Jeff Miller: (928) 941-1000

**ALL PRE-SALE TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Tickets @ \$10.00 each

Chance to win a Arizona lifetime hunting and fishing license @ \$10.00 each

2007 Suzuki 400 4x4 ATV camo @ \$10.00 each or 6 for \$50.00

\$100.00 worth **WHITE RAFFLE** tickets **BY AUGUST 15th** @ \$75.00

Please make checks payable to: Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club  
Mail to : Ticket Chairman c/o Jim Ammons P.O. Box 863 Yuma, Arizona 85366