



Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club

"Conserving Arizona's Land and Wildlife Since 1936"

December
2007

Monthly Newsletter

The Annual Dinner Banquet is on December 8, 2007. DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND!
Junior Fishing Clinic to be offered at Fortuna Pond on Saturday January 19th - Details on Back

December Events:

Big Deer Contest
Ends December 31, 2007
Annual Dinner Banquet
December 8, 2007

Next Club Meeting:

Date:

December 5, 2007

Location:

American Legion Post #19
2575 South Virginia Drive

Yuma, Arizona 85364

Time:

6:30 pm

The Elk Luck

with Bob Kammann

IT all started with an early morning "grumpy" around 4:30 am. As the temperature outside was slowly creeping around 25 degrees, occupying my warm trailer was a definite plus. An early morning riser, Bob began his routine of the usual "Cowboy Coffee", and shortly after, his wonderful breakfast. It was terrible, I had to do absolutely nothing except sit in a chair next to the fire wondering why the hell I haven't invited Bob to any of my other hunts! Continuing...we ate breakfast and proceeded to warm the truck up, loading it with the necessary items for the hiking and trekking due to be accomplished that day. HA HA!

All loaded up, Bob and I head down the dark road on our way to bag a beauty. Without traveling very far, we soon came upon a large prairie, barely visible without the sun, which wasn't sure if it wanted to rise because it was so damn cold out. Glassing through our Swarovski 10x42's, which are VERY good optics and probably the only item you can confidently associate with the saying "you pay for what you get", we soon came upon 4 elk grazing about 1000 yards away. Waiting for the sun to creep up a little more, we continued to watch them feed until I noticed one elk off by himself having antlers. Very small indeed but much larger than the mule deer that I hunt.

Nothing spectacular, so we continued down the road.

Throughout the day Bob and I periodically stop and glass, which a couple of times have presented elk. We had stopped at another prairie and noticed in the center there was a lone antelope. We both continue to look around the entire area when I decide to turn back to the truck where Bob was. As I turned and looked at him, he was running like one of the little munchkins on the Wizard of Oz would run if they had seen the "ruby slippers". As he was running, Bob was also pointing over my head. I turned around and noticed on the farthest side of the prairie, there were approximately 30 elk coming out from the trees.

~ Finally the holiday season is around the corner. Now we hunters and fishermen have the excuse to shop and purchase those items we need (or want) for the hunting and fishing seasons!

~ Without disappointing too many hunters out there who were drawn for elk and either came away with a "harvest" after miles and miles of walking and scouting, or came away without anything at all, I was successful this year. Much like the deer I shot last year (grossed a little over 178), the elk hunt was as difficult. Without further a due,

Quickly looking them over, I did not see any bulls, just cows. However, right when they were about to begin feeding on the grasses, they noticed the little "munchkin" running and darted back into the trees, a magnificent sight to see. I didn't know they could all get a long with each other, especially being female!

Without any luck, and the temperature hovering around 4 degrees, Bob and I kept moseying around in the truck until we came upon a few

Unit 8 Elk / 300 Weatherby



areas which we wanted to walk. Equipped with our radios, we covered a lot of ground riddled with fresh elk sign (crap included) without seeing anything except for a few crows and squirrels. Of course, don't forget the wood peckers that always sound like an elk walking through the brush. We walked about 5-6 miles throughout the day only seeing animals we couldn't shoot. So, we get back into the trusty truck, loaded with cold ones, and cruised along.

Approximately 4 in the afternoon, Bob begins to yawn a little because he was unable to take his afternoon "nap." This does present a problem as I only have him to help load the elk that I'm going to shoot. I haven't mentioned the amount of hunters that were in the area. Probably in the hundreds, all driving around like the bunch of people who apply to ride the short bus to school. For some reason every hunter was in a 5 square mile area. Well, I continue to upset Bob as I become very demanding on my bathroom and bev-

erage breaks. I get Bob to finally stop and right before I am able to relieve myself, a line of trucks present themselves flying down the road. With this kind of traffic, how do you expect to see any animals?!

Now the afternoon is here, around ten after five and Bob is yawning more than ever, slowly talking about the plan for the next morning. We hadn't been in the truck for 7 minutes, now a big distance from the line of trucks that passed earlier, and over to my right approximately 120 yards I see a very large animal.

As I quickly yell for Bob to stop the truck, frantically hurrying for my gun and a steady place for my beverage, which Bob spilled, the scenario of what I am about to do flies through my mind. Before the truck came to a stop, I was already out the door with the elk in my sites wondering if I should ask Bob whether or not this animal was the one. As the animal was standing there, (after the numerous vehicles that drove by him before us) I squeezed the trigger. Sending the first bullet through his vital chest area, he very slowly turned and walked the other way, and I mean slow. As Bob said all day, put lead in the air. So, I quickly put two more shots in him dropping him about 10 yards from where he was first standing. That was the easy part, if anyone has shot an elk, they know what comes right afterwards, WORK!

~Clint

Not receiving much information from members allowed for some fill-in information, I hope you enjoyed the story of my first elk kill. Thank you Bob for all of your help, next time I'll shoot a smaller one!

Please visit the website for the photos of other members and email any exciting stories of your own to publish in the newsletter.

As always, submit ways in which the newsletter can be improved!

Happy Hunting!

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.

Bring your "Junior" for the fun! Volunteers needed! Contact June Wolfe, President Yuma Women's Reel & Rifle Club 928-210-7770 or Debbie Hovatter at deltadeb@gmail.com. Event cohosted by YWRRC and Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Free Juniors' Fishing Clinic Fortuna Pond



Free fishing rod and reel for the first 100 participants
Free bus ride for the first 56 passengers

Open to children 8-16 years old accompanied by an adult

Saturday morning, January 19, 2008

Bring your own lunch, water, and dress for the outdoors.

Can we expect you?

Pre-register with Debbie Hovatter - deltadeb@gmail.com OR 928-210-7304

6 - 6:45 AM....Registration at Kohl's south parking lot - Free bus ride departs from the south parking lot of Kohl's Department Store at 7 AM and returns at 12 PM.

OR

7:45 - 8:30 AM..Registration at Fortuna Pond

Directions to Fortuna Pond: Hwy 95 E, turn left (N) onto Ave 7E, after 1.5 miles turn right onto the gravel levee road (canal will be on your right), continue 3.3 miles to the Pond on the left

Clinic hours: 8:45am to 12:15pm.

Conducted by: Yuma Women's Reel and Rifle Club & Arizona Game and Fish Department