



NSCOTWRITER21

Consider The Bartlett Lake Marina Boat Club

The Bartlett lake marina boat club is Arizona's low cost, no hassle alternative to boat ownership.

The savings over five years by being a "Gold Member" of the Bartlett Lake Marina Boat Club Vs. Ownership is \$50,385!

Bartlett Lake Marina Boat Club is a membership-based boat club that provides its members with everything needed to enjoy a fantastic day of boating in the Arizona sun. Bartlett Lake Marina Boat Club cuts out all hassles of boat ownership for a fraction of the cost of owning and maintaining a boat. In addition, you have access to 14 boats ranging from pontoons to Searay boats.

Unlike boat dealerships that require a five-year contract and a large down payment, we only require a one year contract, small initial payment and no credit check. Our staff can have you on the water, enjoying beautiful Bartlett Lake in a few hours.

Bartlett Lake Marina Boat Club enables you, your family and friends to **CLUB**, continued on page 7



ON THE COVER

AZGFD Oversees Arizona Boating

Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) requires all motorized watercraft to be registered and mandates that all vessels carry U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets for each person. Key responsibilities include renewing registrations online, taking boater safety courses, and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Key Boating Information

Registration: All motorized watercraft must be registered with AZGFD. Registration can be renewed online, allowing immediate use of the watercraft.

Safety Equipment: Vessels must have a wearable Type I, II, III, or V life jacket (PFD) for each person, plus a type four throwable device and a fire extinguisher, especially for motorboats. Children

12 and under must wear a life jacket.

Safety Education: While not legally required for all, taking an approved boater safety course is highly recommended. AZGFD offers classroom, home study, and online formats.

Invasive Species (AIS): Boaters must follow "Clean, Drain, and Dry" protocols to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, particularly mussels, when leaving listed waterbodies.

Fishing Licenses: A valid fishing license is required for anyone 10 or older fishing in public waters, with options for combo licenses.

Resources

Fish & Boat AZ App: An app for accessing boat ramps, fishing locations, and regulations.

BOATING, continued on page 7



Choose Your Lake Pleasant Boat Rental

Looking for Lake Pleasant boat rentals near Phoenix? Seas The Day offers pontoon rentals, party boats, and captained options for groups up to 25 people. Rentals start at \$399 for 4 hours and include safety equipment and on-site orientation. Seas The Day offers top-rated Lake Pleasant boat rentals for groups of all sizes, just 40 minutes from Phoenix. Whether you're planning a birthday, bachelorette party, or weekend getaway, our pontoon rentals and captained boats provide a safe, easy, and premium experience on the water.

- No Boating License Required
- Alcohol Allowed (21+ Passengers)
- Groups Up to 25 Guests

How To Rent A Boat At Lake Pleasant

• **Step 01: Reserve Your Lake Pleasant Boat Rental Online**

Book your Lake Pleasant boat rental by selecting your preferred boat, date, and rental duration. Add a captain if desired and secure your reservation online in minutes.

• **Step 02: Check In At Lake Pleasant**

Arrive at the designated Lake Pleasant launch ramp 15–20 minutes early. Our team will complete a quick safety orientation and review boat operation before departure.

• **Step 03: Enjoy Your Time On The Water**

RENTAL, continued on page 7

Your New Companion Awaits This Spring: Adopt A Desert Tortoise

Arizona Game and Fish has over 100 non-releasable tortoises ready for adoption

Springtime in Arizona marks the beginning of desert tortoise adoption season at the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). As these beloved reptiles awake from their winter brumation, it's the perfect time to adopt one as a pet and contribute to the conservation of the wild population.

Every year, the Arizona Game and Fish Tortoise Adoption Program helps match dozens of captive Sonoran desert tortoises with their forever homes. These tortoises are often the result of illegal captive breeding and cannot be released into the wild. Captive tortoises can carry respiratory infections that could devastate the wild population, which already faces threats from wildfires, human development and drought.

Over 100 Being Cared For

AZGFD is currently caring for over 100 non-releasable desert tortoises of varying size and age that are now available for adoption.

"Desert tortoises offer longtime companionship without the drama," said Tegan



Wolf, Desert Tortoise Adoption Program coordinator. "Tortoises are affectionate and low maintenance. They enjoy healthy greens, exploring the outdoors and visiting with their companions. With the right preparations, desert tortoises make a great addition to a family home. Our team of biologists will help you find your perfect match and prepare for their arrival."

How To Care For Captive Sonoran Desert Tortoises

Burrow first, then apply: Desert tortoises spend their time outdoors. Given Arizona's extreme temperatures, tortoises require a

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Boats-R-Us

By Carol L. Allen

Boats! Bass Boats. Pontoon Boats. Kayaks. Canoes. Stand-up Paddle Boards. Party Boats. Yachts. Sail Boats. No matter what craft you choose, all provide the means to get out on the water. Now that winter temperatures (?) have warmed and summer temperatures are yet to come, it is the perfect time to enjoy all the lakes the Southwest has to offer.

Whether you go with family and friends to enjoy the camaraderie or by yourself for solitude, peace and quiet, there's nothing quite like a day on the water. However, be sure everyone aboard has on a properly fitting life jacket. Arizona Game and Fish and the Coast Guard remind us of this every chance they get (see page 3 of this issue).

And, along with boats this season, a young man's (and woman's) fancy turns to fishing. You can even enjoy this — without a boat — close to home at one of the 50+ Community Fishing Waters.

We join you in springing into one of our favorite times of the year. Enjoy! ■

DOWNSTREAM

EVENTS CALENDAR

SHOP SPECIALS
PADDLEBOARDS, EDDYLINE KAYAKS,
AND PADDLE GEAR

Kayak Events for 2026

This list is sponsored by RiverBound Sports in Tempe, Arizona.

Kayaking events in Arizona in 2026 feature a mix of competitive fishing tournaments, scenic tours, and specialized night paddles, including the Havasu Heat race, Neon Nights at Saguaro Lake, and multiple Bass Junkyz tournament dates. Key 2026 events are held at Lake Powell, Roosevelt Lake, and the Salt River.

Key 2026 Kayak Events And Tournaments

- Bass Junkyz 2026 Kayak Tour: Multiple dates including April 18 (Apache), May 2 (Roosevelt), and May 30 (Bartlett)
- Neon Nights Kayaking (June 1 - Aug 31): Guided evening tours at Saguaro Lake with LED-lighted kayaks.
- Arizona Adaptive Water Sports: Ride & Row at Watson Lake (Sept 23) and Marble Canyon kayaking (Sept 30).
- Antelope Canyon & Horseshoe Bend Tour (May 2): Guided paddling, often organized for military personnel.

Recurring And Seasonal Activities

- Chasing Waterfalls Tours: Recurring weekly (Mon-Thu) at Canyon Lake, available in early 2026.
- Emerald Cave Tours: Regular guided tours from Willow Beach into the Colorado River's Emerald Cave.
- Salt River Tubing & Kayaking: Seasonal scenic paddling in the Tonto National Forest.

For more specific, up-to-date information, it is recommended to check local Arizona kayak clubs and event platforms like Tripadvisor and GetYourGuide.

Kayak Events In Arizona 2026

Arizona offers a variety of kayaking events in 2026, ranging from competitive races and fishing tournaments to unique community paddles like "Glow Kayaking."

Major Festivals And Competitions

The Castle Creek Triathlon (Kayak/SUP Division) is a multi-sport race scheduled for September 29, 2026, which will serve as the registration and confirmation date. The event will take place at Lake Pleasant Regional Park and includes a specific Sprint Kayak/SUP division featuring a 1,500-meter paddle, a 22-kilometer bike ride, and a 5-kilometer run.

Recreational and Community Events

Glow Kayak at Tempe Town Lake is a community night paddle held on Friday, April 10, 2026, and Friday, May 15, 2026, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The event takes place at the Tempe Town Lake Marina and features a moonlit paddle where participants use provided glow-in-the-dark accessories to navigate the lake.

Kids Kayaking Day & Yavapai Adaptive Recreation Expo is an adaptive community event held on Tuesday,

September 22, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event takes place at Arizona Adaptive Watersports and is designed as an inclusive experience focused on bringing kayaking opportunities to youth and individuals of all abilities.

Kayak Fishing Tournaments

The Arizona Kayak Bass Anglers (AKBA) have scheduled several competitive stops for their 2026 season:

- April 4, 2026: AOY Series #4 at Lake Pleasant.
- May 2-3, 2026: AOY Series #3 / WCC Q#3 at Lake Havasu.
- October 10, 2026: Top Water Open at Roosevelt Lake.

Ongoing Guided Tours And Adventures

For those seeking organized group experiences rather than one-day festivals, several outfitters offer specialized 2026 seasonal tours:

Antelope Canyon & Lake Powell

Combined kayak and hike tours are available daily, often featuring the famous Water Antelope Canyon.

Black Canyon & Emerald Cave

Multiple daily guided tours launch from Willow Beach, including sunset glow tours where kayaks are illuminated with lights.

APRIL 17, 18, & 19

Lake Havasu Boat Show

LOCATION: Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 171 London Bridge Road, Lake Havasu City

ADMISSION: Spectators \$10; Children under 10 are FREE with paid ADULT

DOGS: Allowed on a leash - please pick up after them

PARKING: FREE on site

Discount Cards: Available at Cactus Custom Creations, Bob Moses Ceramic Coating, GT Printing, Nordic Boats, Mohave Mortgage, Havasu Riviera Marina, Sunstone Real Estate Group and Anderson Powersports Locations

MAY 1 - 2

UTV RALLY Northland

The UTV Rally: Northland is proud to welcome back Rugged Radios as the official Title Sponsor for the 2026 event at Mormon Lake.

A cornerstone of the off-road industry, Rugged Radios continues to support the community by providing reliable communication solutions that keep riders connected on every trail.

Their return as Title Sponsor reinforces their commitment to safety, innovation, and the off-road lifestyle.

Attendees can visit Rugged Radios onsite to explore the latest gear, meet the team, and experience firsthand why they

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MAY 1 & 2, 2026
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SPRING 2026

Mike Tyson and Floyd Mayweather Exhibition Fight

Mike Tyson and Floyd Mayweather have agreed to an exhibition fight scheduled for Spring 2026.

The specific date and location for the potential bout have not yet been announced.

Mayweather, who will be 49, remains undefeated in his professional career and has participated in several exhibition fights.

ONGOING

Date Night at Ben Avery!

Tired of the same old dinner-and-a-movie routine? Try a Date Night at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility! Enjoy beautiful weather, friendly competition, and safe shooting sports for a fun night out. With our safety-focused facility, welcoming staff, and easy Date Night packages, planning a memorable evening is simple.

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Clay Target Center: Great for first-time shooters. Shotgun rentals included for a fun, approachable experience. Rifle & Pistol Range: Ideal for couples with their own firearms. Enjoy quality range time in a relaxed, safe setting.

Details:

Thursdays & Fridays, 3-7 p.m. (last check-in 5:30 p.m.) Mention "Date Night" at check-in to receive the deal.

Ben Avery hosts over 120,000 shooters annually and is one of the largest publicly operated shooting facilities in the U.S. Located just west of I-17 on Carefree Highway. Questions? Call 623-582-8313.

SCAN FOR MORE EVENTS



THE CREW

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MEMBERSHIPS



AWARDS



2008 & 2013 AZGFD Media of the Year

2009 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit

2016 AZGFD Writer of the Year

THE FINE PRINT

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Our waterways are ready, but are you?

To learn more about boating safely in Arizona visit www.azgfd.gov/boating or call: 623-236-7258

**Wear a life jacket.
Every trip.
Every time.**

Under state law, life jackets are required to be worn by children 12 years old and younger, but it's strongly urged that everyone wear one while on the water. Life jackets save lives.

Before heading out on the water, it's important that boaters check to ensure that their life jackets are in good condition and that they are the right size and fit for passengers. Look for:

- Any rips or tears
- Missing straps
- Broken fasteners
- Ensure that the flotation hasn't shifted.

Life jackets should be inspected each boating season due to the environment's impact on their materials and replaced if necessary.

Register Your Watercraft

Make sure your vessel's registration is current before heading out on the water! Skip the line and renew your watercraft registration online at www.azgfd.gov/boating



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Regatta Marks European Season Opener

More than 40 US sailors will take to the water in Palma de Mallorca, including Olympians, time-tested pairings, and some new debuts from US teams and athletes for the 55th **Trofeo Princesa Sofia Regatta**.

The regatta, which marks the official European season opener with all 10 Olympic classes in attendance, runs March 30 through April 4 in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

“The Princess Sofia regatta is always a great kickoff event for the spring season in Europe,” said Molly Vandemoer, Director of Olympic Sailing. “It is an important stop for our athletes, as the first chance for them to qualify for a higher Performance



Pathway tier, which determines their funding and team status. And with so many US athletes all in one place, it’s a great chance for the US Sailing staff to get facetime with sailors and coaches before the 2026 season really kicks off.” ■



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Submit Your Application For The St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy

Your club could be the 2026 winner of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy! The St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy is awarded by US Sailing each year to a local sailing organization for exceptional race management at a specific event, including evaluation by participating skippers.



Qualifying an event for consideration requires advance planning. The award is presented for events conducted between October 1 and September 30 of each year. Completed applications must be received via email or postmarked no later than October 15, 2026.

Information about the SPYC Trophy application requirements is provided on the US Sailing website. Please contact the Race Administration office RaceAdmin@USSAILING.ORG for more information.

The St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy is awarded to a local sailing organization for exceptional race management at a specific event. Among other factors, the comments of participating sailors weigh heavily in the selection of a winner.

Emblematic of excellence in race man-

TROPHY, continued on page 19

Register for a Small Boat Certification Today

Earning your US Sailing Small Boat Certification is more than just a resume booster - it is a commitment to excellence in coaching, teaching, leadership, and safety. The US Sailing Level 1 Instructor Course is the national standard in instructor training and will you begin your path to a successful career in sailing instruction. The Level 2 and Level 3 certifications signal to parents, sailors, and program leadership that you have the expertise and judgement to develop athletes safely and effectively.

Many of these courses fill to capacity prior to their registration deadlines, so do not hesitate to register for a course that works for you.

All three of these certifications connect you to a national network of top instructors, provide access to best-in-class resources, and elevate the standards of both your program and yourself. Don't miss out on the next step in your professional journey

Small Boat Instructor Programs

US Sailing offers courses for sailing counselors, instructors and coaches at varying levels of expertise. Courses are hosted by boating programs across the nation, year-round. Each level provides a structured progression and offers opportunities for advancement. With the development of two different tracks (management and coaching), it provides opportunities for continuing education and professional development.

An overview of all Small Boat student and Instructor Programs

Sailing Counselor

Who Should take this course: Anyone involved with a Camp Counseling,

Sailing, or Scouting program.

Prerequisites: Basic Sailing experience. Must turn 14 within the calendar year

Course length: 2 days, 20 hours.

Texts used: *Learn Sailing Right! Beginner Sailing, Sailing Smart Program Guide* (includes *Reach Educator Guide-Module 6*) and *Little Red Book*.

Course Overview: The Sailing Counselor course prepares participants to supervise small boat recreational sailing activities typically conducted on sheltered and protected waters. The emphasis is on safety and hands-on practice to familiarize candidates with proper terminology and boating techniques. Sailing Counselor training will also provide a model for how a counselor might structure actual sailing activities. While this course does not offer a certification, it does offer a detailed training to help Counselors teach sailing. *This course is highly recommended for those who intend to seek Level 1 Small Boat Instructor certification.*

Level 1 Instructor

Who should take this course: Anyone interested in teaching beginner level sailors.

Prerequisites: Must turn 16 in the calendar year, successful completion of **Teaching and Coaching Fundamentals Online** and NASBLA Approved Boating Certificate

Course length: 6 hours online, 3 days/30 hours in-person. You **must** complete the online section before attending an in-person one.

Resources used: *Smallboat Instructor manual, Learn Sailing Right-Beginner!, Learn Sailing Right-Intermediate! & Basic Powerboat Safety & Rescue* (Provided digitally with option to purchase print versions during registration)

Course overview: Designed to provide sailing instructors with information on how to teach more safely, effectively, and creatively. Topics covered in the course include: classroom and on-the-water teaching techniques, risk management, safety issues, lesson planning, creative activities, ethical concerns, and sports physiology and psychology.

Important

The in-person session must be completed within 12 months of completing the online session. Ex: Online section completed on 7/1/2024 would need to complete the in-person section by 6/30/2025

US Sailing **recommends** that the in-person section is attended within three (3) months of the online section for maximum retention and successful completion.

The online section must be **completed** prior to **attending** the in-person section.

Level 2 Instructor

Who should take this course: Second year instructors

Prerequisites: Current Level 1 Certification. Must wait 9 months after initial Level 1 certification.

Course Length: 2 days, 16 hours
Texts used: *Smallboat Level 2 Instructor Manual, Safety Rescue and Support Boat Handling, both delivered digitally.*

Course overview: Focuses on developing knowledge and skill in teaching sail theory, sail controls, introductory management skills, spinnaker and trapeze use (and instruction) and powerboat operation for emergency situations. Safety awareness is a major component of this course, with instruction on how to ad-

SMALL BOAT, continued on page 19

Will Your Emergency PLB or EPIRB Work When You Need It?

Be sure to check the battery expiration date located on the case of your Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or EPIRB. Most sets have a 5 years replacement date.

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Welcome To The AZGFD Watercraft Registration Renewal System

Arizona law requires that all motorized watercraft operating on Arizona waters must be registered in the State with the following exceptions:

- Foreign watercraft temporarily using the waterways of the State
- Military or public vessels of the United States except for recreational type public vessels
- Watercraft used solely as lifeboats
- Undocumented watercraft operating under temporary certificate issued pursuant to rules adopted by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (primarily powerboat regattas)
- Non-residents may temporarily operate on Arizona waterways with their home state registration for up to 90 days per year without re-registering the watercraft in Arizona or paying the Arizona Boating Safety Infrastructure Fee.
- A non-resident owner of a recreational watercraft who registers a watercraft in Arizona as the state of principle operation is required by law to pay the Arizona Boat Safety Infrastructure Fee before placing the watercraft on Arizona waterways. The owner of such watercraft must carry and display proof of payment of the Arizona Boat Safety Infrastructure Fee while the watercraft is underway, moored or anchored on Arizona waterways. A.R.S §5-326; 5-327. Proof of payment is shown on the watercraft registration or decal.

Please Note

To access your watercraft records, you will need:
 The Watercraft Number (e.g. AZ####CB...four numbers followed by one or two letters);
AND one of the following
 The BIRTH DATE of the first-named owner or the TRUST DATE for Trusts,
OR
 Your Password (if you have established one; it is STRONGLY SUGGESTED to use this method and save/retain your password in a secure, discoverable location) ■



BOATING

Continued from page 1

Registration Renewal: AZGFD boating portal.

Safety Courses: Boater safety education.

Boaters should also be aware of specific regulations on federally controlled waters, such as the Colorado River, where additional equipment like daytime/night-time distress signals may be required.

In Arizona, the Arizona Game and

Fish Department (AZGFD) oversees all motorized watercraft registration, safety education, and law enforcement on state waterways.

Watercraft Registration

All motorized watercraft operating on Arizona waters must be registered with the AZGFD.

Renewals: You can renew registration online for immediate use of your boat via a 45-day temporary certificate.

Fees: Registration costs for residents vary by boat length, typically ranging

from \$20 to \$66.

Non-residents: You may operate for up to **90 consecutive days** with a valid out-of-state registration before needing to register in Arizona.

Exceptions: Registration is not required for non-motorized vessels (like standard canoes or kayaks) or federally documented vessels.

Boating Safety & Requirements

No Mandatory License: Arizona does **not** require a boating license or man-

datory operator education to drive a boat.

Education Courses: AZGFD strongly recommends taking a Boating Safety Course. These are available as free classroom sessions or for a fee online.

Life Jackets (PFDs): Every person on board must have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket that fits properly. Children under 12 **must wear** one at all times while the vessel is underway.

Boating Sober: The legal blood-alcohol limit is **0.08**, the same as for driving a car. Operators can be cited for being “impaired to the slightest degree” ■

RENTAL

Continued from page 1

After a brief walkthrough, you’re free to cruise, anchor, swim, or enjoy water sports in approved areas of Lake Pleasant.

Do I Need Experience to Rent a Boat?

No boating experience is required for most Lake Pleasant boat rentals. We provide a full safety briefing before departure, and captain options are available for a completely stress-free experience.

Lake Pleasant Boat Rentals With Tow Tubes, Wakeboards & Lily Pads

Upgrade your Lake Pleasant boat rental with towable tubes, wakeboards, and floating lily pads. These optional water sport add-ons are available during booking and can be added to most pontoon and party boat rentals.

Can I Add Water Toys To Any Boat Rental?

Most Lake Pleasant boat rentals can

include tow tubes or lily pads. Availability may vary by boat type and water conditions.

- Towable Tubes (Best for Groups & Parties)
- Wakeboards (Experienced Riders Only)
- Floating Lily Pads (Relax & Swim Zones)

What’s Included In Our Lake Pleasant Boat Rentals?

Every Lake Pleasant boat rental with Seas The Day includes required safety

equipment, life jackets, onboard shade coverage, and a premium Bluetooth sound system. Our boats are fully equipped for comfort, safety, and a stress-free day on the water.

Do I Need To Bring Life Jackets Or Safety Gear?

No. All required safety equipment is included with every Lake Pleasant boat rental.

Book Your Lake Pleasant Boat Rental Now Call 480.573.3269 ■

CLUB

Continued from page 1

experience the boat culture without the hassles, time and expense associated in boat ownership. Your only responsibility is getting out on the water and participate in the enjoyment of boating.

We are offering you a private membership club, providing you with access to a fleet of beautiful, professionally-owned and maintained power boats seven days a week.

Why own a boat when you can use the fleet for less than half the cost!

Our members enjoy the benefits of

their boating time on the water with family, friends, and business partners without the expense and hassle of boat payments, insurance costs, slip fees, maintenance, repairs or storage. What makes Bartlett Lake Marina Boat Club attractive is that we take care of all of these expenses and we take care of you.

Marina boats are only permitted to pull tubes provided by the Marina. No outside tubes are allowed to be pulled behind Marina boats.

- Give us a call today 480-221-0503 and let us answer all your questions.
- Contact us for your Personalized membership
- Call Bartlett Lake Marina Boat Club

at 480-221-0503

Membership Options

Gold Membership

- One time fee: \$1495
- Monthly dues: \$415
- Use of member’s level boats*
- Unlimited member guests**
- Boating safety course for beginners

• Personalized, on-board instruction in boat handling and safety

- Slip rental and boat cleaning
- Boat licensing
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- Water skis, boards, tubes, and ski vests for members and guests

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Passover Begins
April 1st



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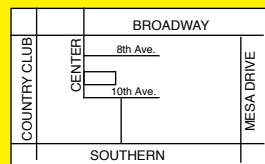


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'Copper State Draw' Opens At 8 A.M. Wednesday, April 1

Includes chance to hunt antlered mule deer on the world-famous "Arizona Strip"

PHOENIX — The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) will once again offer hunters an opportunity to draw an additional permit-tag to hunt mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, and elk, while generating revenue to support wildlife conservation efforts across the state.

Included in this year's Copper State Draw is a single permit-tag to hunt antlered mule deer on the scenic "Arizona Strip," a premier location north of the Grand Canyon. This highly sought-after permit-tag is for Game Management Units 13A and 13B between Aug. 22 and Oct. 2.

The Copper State Draw will open at 8 a.m. (Arizona time) Wednesday, April 1, and will close at 5 p.m. (Arizona time) Tuesday, April 7. To apply, visit <https://copperstatedraw.azgfd.com/>.

Applicants must have a Customer ID to submit an application. There are four ways to locate a Customer ID: 1) Log into your AZGFD portal account, and click on "View Details" under "My AZGFD Dashboard;" 2) Check your hunting or combination hunt and fish license, if it was purchased online; 3) A Customer ID number can be retrieved by visiting <https://customerlookup.azgfd.com/>. If the account is



located, AZGFD will send the Customer ID number to that email address; 4) Call AZGFD at 602-942-3000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Don't Have A Customer ID?

Visit accounts.azgfd.com/Account/Register to sign up for a free AZGFD portal account. For those applicants who believe they have a portal account but are unable to locate their Customer ID by using the Customer ID Retrieval Tool, call the department at 602-942-3000 to avoid creating a duplicate account.

Applicants who are drawn for a permit-tag will be contacted by the department during the week of April 13, at which time payment will be required before the permit-tag can be mailed. It is the responsibility of each applicant to provide accurate contact information to avoid missing an opportunity to receive the permit-tag for which they were drawn.

These opportunities should not be confused with the annual draws that are conducted by the department in February, June and October. A Copper State Draw

permit-tag application does not preclude an applicant from applying for any other hunts throughout the year or impact bonus points. Animals harvested during Copper State Draw seasons are excluded from annual bag limits.

In addition:

- This is discretionary. The objective is to generate revenue in order to maintain current operations, and limit or eliminate the need to increase license and hunt permit-tag fees.

- The issuance of a specific number of Copper State Draw permit-tags will not adversely affect management objectives for a species or area. These hunts will not impact the number of permit-tags made available for the annual draws. The related harvest will have an insignificant impact on wildlife populations.

- A valid Arizona hunting (or combination hunt and fish) license is not needed at the time of application; it is required if an applicant draws a Copper State Draw permit-tag.

- Applicants can select up to six Copper State Draw permit-tag hunts on one application. Multiple applications will not be accepted.

- At the time of application, an applicant shall submit the required application fee (\$13 for Arizona residents, \$15 for nonresidents) for each selected hunt number.

- Each applicant must apply individually. Applicants cannot apply as a group, unlike the annual draws.

- If an applicant enters inaccurate information during the application process, or attempts to enter the draw for a hunt more than once, all applications will be deemed invalid.

- After an application has been saved, an applicant cannot begin a new one. An applicant can return to their application to make changes as long as the draw is open and final payment has not been submitted. Once final payment is accepted, an applicant can no longer make changes or apply for additional hunts.

A total of six permit-tags will be available for the following hunting opportunities:

- Elk (any elk): Aug. 1, 2026 - Oct 15, 2026. Open areas: Units 1, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B.

- Elk (any elk): Aug. 1, 2026 - Oct. 15, 2026. Open areas: Units 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7, 8, 15A, 15B, 16A, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, 19A, 19B, 20A.

- Mule deer (antlered): Aug. 15, 2026 - Sept. 25, 2026. Open areas: Units 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 28, 31, 32, 37A, 37B.

- Mule deer (antlered): Aug. 22, 2026 - Oct. 2, 2026. Open areas: Units 13A, 13B

- White-tailed deer (antlered): Aug. 15, 2026 - Sept. 25, 2026. Open areas: Units 21, 22, 23, 24A, 24B, 29, 30A, 30B, 31, 32, 33, 34A, 34B, 35A, 35B, 36A, 36B, 36C.

- Pronghorn (buck): Aug. 1, 2026 - Oct 15, 2026. Open areas: Units 1, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 17A, 17B, 18A, 19A, 19B. ■

Shed Antler Hunting From An OHV? Stay On Roads And Trails

Minimizing impact on habitat is key to successful wildlife conservation.

As shed antler hunters begin to scour the backcountry for dropped deer and elk antlers, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) reminds those utilizing an off-highway vehicle (OHV) in their search to stay on roads and trails.

Just like during hunting seasons, it's important for those using an OHV to ride safely and responsibly. This includes always wearing a helmet while operating the machine (a requirement for those under 18), wearing seatbelts if the vehicle is equipped with them, and safeguarding against habitat damage by riding on established trails. All sheds should be packed out by foot to keep habitats intact.

Many animals shed their antlers in the spring and spend the summer and fall



seasons growing a new set. Shed hunters tend to begin their search in early spring and utilize OHVs to easily cover more ground. The resulting habitat damage caused by those driving off-trail can take more than 100 years to recover, especially if the area traveled is covered with snow or is muddy from snowmelt. Vehicle tracks can be seen by other users as an open invitation to unknowingly ruin habitat or a pristine recreational area.

Additionally, excessive noise can cause animals to leave their normal habitat or could startle an animal into defend-

ing its territory. Minimizing impact on habitat is key to successful wildlife conservation.

For more information about the department's OHV program and safety course options, visit www.azgfd.gov/ohv. ■

Review Proposed Hunt Recommendations Now For 2026-2027 Seasons

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's proposed recommendations for the 2026 deer, javelina, bighorn sheep, black bear, mountain lion, predatory and fur-bearing mammals, small game, migratory birds, trapping, and population management seasons, the 2027 spring javelina and black bear seasons, as well as an amendment to 2026-2030 reptiles notes are available for review at www.azgfd.gov/huntguidelines.

The hunt structures and recommendations were formulated based on the hunt guidelines approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

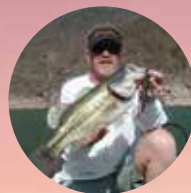
All questions or comments about a particular game management unit or hunt can be emailed to AZHuntGuidelines@azgfd.gov. The public also is invited to call any of the department's regional offices statewide and ask to speak with a



game management biologist. No formal presentations are planned.

The proposed hunt recommendations will be presented to the commission for its consideration during a public meeting April 10 at department headquarters in Phoenix. The agenda will be posted at www.azgfd.gov/commission.

To learn more about the hunt recommendations and hunt guidelines processes, visit www.azgfd.gov/huntguidelines. ■



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NEWS

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CRAPPIE FISHING GONE WRONG

Something Different This Month: Crappie Pros Rambo And Chamberlin Tell Us What NOT To Do!

By Margie Anderson

Most anglers are familiar with bass pros, but Arizona anglers might not be aware that there are a lot of crappie pros out there, too. Crappie tournaments are starting to mean big money and slab hunters have learned a few tricks to help them target the big fish. Closer to home, guys like the late crappie gurus Curt Rambo and Art Chamberlin were known for their abilities to catch the big slabs. What did these guys think the biggest crappie fishing mistakes are?

Todd Huckabee, a well-known Oklahoma crappie pro, fishes and wins tournaments all over the country. "Without a doubt, the biggest mistake crappie fishermen make is to stay in one place for too long," Todd said without hesitation. "There's a saying that the guy who hits the most trees wins," Todd explains, "and I don't stay in a spot more than two minutes most of the time." The active fish will bite right away, he asserts, so there's no point hanging around once you've caught those aggressive few.

They Were Biting

"You'll hear guys say 'they were really biting when I got here', and they'll sit there wasting the day waiting for them to start biting again. That's just crazy!" Huckabee says. "I'll hit 50 trees and catch 200 fish while they're sitting on that spot waiting for some aggressive fish to show up."

Another big mistake crappie anglers make is downsizing instead of going bigger, Huckabee says. "More often than not, a bigger lure will get more bites," he says.



We caught these giant slabs at Bartlett up the river.

"It's just nature. You're causing more aggression. If they aren't biting a little lure, and you go to a bigger one, they'll have to hit it harder to get it in their mouth."

Inactive fish, says Todd, will go up to a little jig and suck it in and spit it out. But with a bigger one they can't spit it out as easily, giving you a better chance at a hookset. So when the fish are really finicky, he switches to a bigger bait rather than a smaller one.

The Wrong Line

Todd says that crappie fishermen also tend to use line that is too light and has too much stretch. When you're fishing



My granddaughter Emily loved Curt - and so did our dog Rosie!

deep or your lure is far from the boat, all that stretch makes it difficult, if not impossible, to get a good hookset.

Even at ten feet deep, he says, 6-pound-test line stretches a LOT before you feel it. Huckabee swears by 10-pound-test Silver Thread AN40. He says it has the knot strength of mono and the sensitivity of fluorocarbon, and it doesn't cut into itself or burn. Arizona experts Curt Rambo and Art Chamberlin have both switched to braided line.

Move On Or Stay Put?

While Todd Huckabee says that sitting still is a cardinal sin, crappie guru Curt Rambo of Arizona always told me that the biggest mistake crappie anglers make is moving on too quickly.

They're both right. Todd fishes lakes that boast plenty of submerged trees and brush, while Rambo plied his craft on Roosevelt Lake. Todd is after big slabs, because in his trade, pounds equal dollars. Curt, on the other hand, just wanted to have a good time and put some dinner in the livewell, especially after he had given up guiding.

On Roosevelt, Curt fished an occasional submerged bush, and a few brush piles installed by dedicated crappie anglers. His technique was to sit directly over the fish and vertical jig for them, using a 2-inch root beer/chartreuse Power Grub. Curt dropped the lure to the bottom, then tightened the line and gave the reel four or five cranks. He would raise and lower the rod slowly, watching the line for signs of a bite.

He Kept On Trying

If he didn't get bit right away, Curt would raise the lure a little and keep on trying. He'd stay half an hour in a spot he knew held fish, even if he wasn't getting bit. He knew he just needed to figure them out. "You should stay right there and try to figure out why the fish are there," Curt said. He said trollers should go back over spots where they hooked up, too. Also, if you're fishing down the bank and get a bite or two, you should

stay there at least half an hour and try to catch more.

Besides moving too quickly, Rambo said that using the wrong jig and line can be a big mistake. "The weight of the bait and the line controls the depth and speed of the lure," he explained, "especially if you're trolling. The difference between a 1/32-, a 1/16-, and a 1/8-ounce jig may be only two or three feet, but it makes a big difference."

Those two or three feet can be crucial to a vertical jig presentation, he added. When you're jigging for crappie and not getting bit, it's not the bait, it's the depth. "You need to be right there."

Trolling For Crappie

Art Chamberlin fished for crappie on the same lake that Curt Rambo fished, but Art was a troller. Art told me once that beginning trollers often don't realize how crucial the proper depth and speed are. "You need to use a GPS or mark the lines or SOMETHING to determine your speed," Art emphasized. To control depth he did calculations by length of line you have out (use a line counter), or the use of downriggers.

Change Your Speed

If you're not getting bit, Art recommended that you first change your speed. It's the easiest change to make, he said. Once he wanted to fish an area that was about 150 yards away, so he cranked up to the "ridiculous" speed of 2 miles per hour and all of his crankbait rods got hit immediately.

Since Art always kept his lures at 12 to 16 feet, no matter what time of year or how deep the water, all he had to do is shorten the lines if he sped up. Art ran half crankbaits and half jigs on his rods.

Perfect Time

There are crappie in almost all of our desert reservoirs - John and I especially like to fish for crappie at Roosevelt and Bartlett. Just grab a spinning rod and some light line and tie on some little grubs and you're ready to go! ■



Here's a big Roosevelt crappie.

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Arizona State Parks & Trails Share Camping Logistics

Photos by John & Margie Anderson

How To Plan A Camping Trip

If you're relatively new to the outdoors, planning a camping trip may seem like a daunting task when you think about everything involved. Even experienced camping veterans make mistakes that could have been avoided with proper gear and trip prep. By taking the time to plan a camping trip before loading up and hitting the road, you have an opportunity to stop potential problems before they ever happen!

Your goal is a worry-free camping experience that leaves you plenty of time to enjoy Arizona's beautiful places without the hassle of forgotten items or discomfort! Check out this awesome resource that will help you plan a great camping



Our camping gear is compact and easy to pack, but keeps us comfortable and well fed.

trip with ease...then reserve your spot, and enjoy!

Elements Of A Great Camping Trip

When you head out, you and your camping crew want to be comfortable and safe while enjoying the outdoors. It really is possible to be comfortable while camping and your comfort level has a direct effect on how much fun you will have! Think about it...If you're not comfortable, you'll spend time thinking about the comforts of home and your trip may be

cut short because you were inadequately prepared. A lack of preparation may create unsafe conditions as well! It's best to take care of the details before your trip so you can relax and enjoy the adventure with less stress. After learning how to plan below, check out this comprehensive camping checklist for inspiration and ideas about exactly what to bring on your trip!

If your camping gear has been stowed away over the winter, it's time to break it out and make necessary repairs before you load up for your next adventure. You



John has the tent set up and the sleeping bags and pillows in place just in time for sunset.

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ping, and cooking campsite meals.

• Ryanne Crary with The Hike Shack and the Town of Prescott Valley Parks and Recreation spoke about the gear you'll need for a camping trip.

• Our own Louis Juers with AZ Family Campout Program told us all about basics of setting up your campsite, getting your family comfortable outdoors, and being prepared.

Check The Weather

Know what you're getting into (or want to avoid) before your trip! By understanding what the weather conditions will be like during your stay, you will be able to effectively plan your clothes, sleeping arrangements, and even the timing. If it looks like rain or snow, you can always pick a different park or reschedule your spot for another time.

There are a variety of weather apps available to download for weather updates at your fingertips. Searching the park name + weather in Google will also give you a great reliable weather forecast in the park you will be visiting. Each park has a weather page on our website complete with average temperatures too!

If there is rain or snow in the forecast...

- Decide if you want to potentially camp in rain or snow
- Pack appropriate clothing and rain gear
- Plan easy-to-prepare meals
- Bring dry firewood and have a plan to keep it dry
- Place a doormat in front of your tent to wipe your feet
- Check the windshield wipers on your vehicle
- Pack an extra tarp, waterproof boots, gloves, and snow bibs
- Bring tire chains and a shovel (just in case)
- Add an extra lighter or waterproof matches to your pack

If the weather calls for especially hot or cold conditions during your trip, adjust clothing choices and outdoor activities accordingly. Please always keep safety in the forefront of your mind.

Download Maps

Maps not only give you a lay of the land, but they can clue you into awesome recreation opportunities as well! Know before you go what's available in and

CAMPING, continued on page 13



You don't even need a paper star chart any more - you can download an app that will tell you all about the star you're looking at. This one is called Stellarium and it's my favorite.



Nothing beats watching the sunrise through the trees from your nice warm sleeping bag.

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HUALAPAI MOUNTAINS AND KINGMAN

Come During Route 66 Centennial!

By Margie Anderson

Every year on the way to the SHOT Show in Vegas, we pass through Kingman, Arizona, and see the sign for the Hualapai Mountain Park turnoff. For years we've been saying that we would love to go there, and this year we finally did it. Now we wish we hadn't waited so long! Kingman itself has great restaurants, lots of history, and fun things to do outside and in. The mountains are awesome, with pine forests, fantastic rock formations, and ten miles of hiking trails, plus lots more.

Hualapai Mountains Backcountry Byway

We wanted this trip to be an adventure, so after some research and looking at maps, we decided we would take the back way to the park, from near Yucca. This road is a Back Country Byway and we've been on many of those. Finding the road wasn't difficult from the highway, and we had to stop at Area 66 because it was so kitschy looking, but it was closed and there was a for sale sign. Still, it was a great photo opp. The road quickly turns to dirt, and isn't very well signed, and once we passed a ranch and went through a gate, things got dicey.

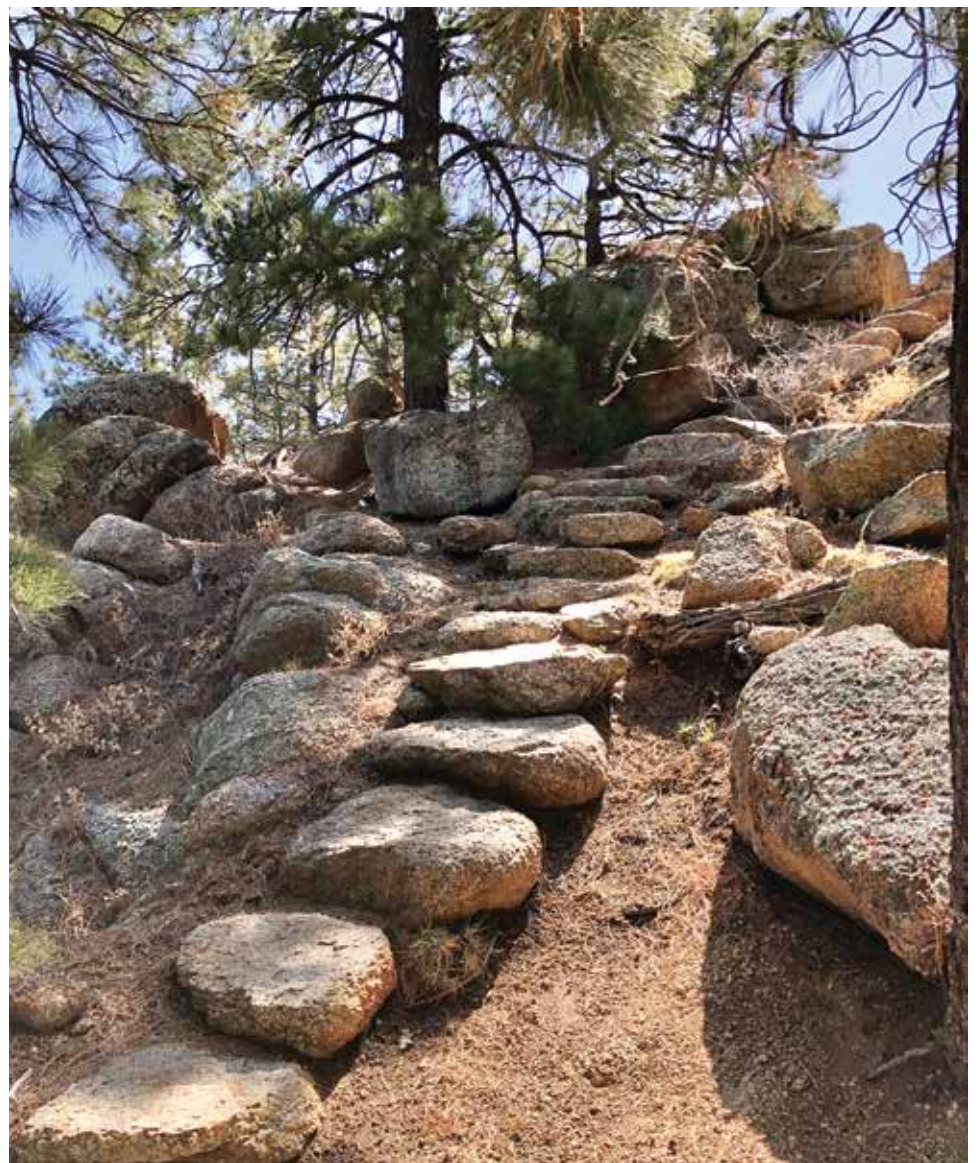
The road began to follow a wash full of BIG rocks, and the going was extremely rough and bumpy. Our pace slowed to a literal crawl. To top it off, because of the lack of signage, we weren't completely sure we were on the right road.

We could have made it, because we have a 4WD Tacoma, but it would have taken most of the day at that pace, so we decided to go back and take the short way through Kingman. The Byway is something we will do another time. Turns out it was the right choice. Later on we spoke to a Ranger in the park about the Byway and she told us a friend of hers went *down* from the park that way on a quad and it took him 5 hours! We did see some great stuff on the small part we traveled. I was looking at the map and saw a mountain named Cactus Mountain, and wondered about the name until we passed it. It was literally covered with cholla – the thickest bunch of cactus I've ever seen.

Hualapai Mountain Park

The road to the park from Kingman is only 16 miles long and it's paved all the way. The park is in the pines and covers 2300 acres with elevations ranging from just under 5000 feet to over 8400 feet. There are ten miles of trails, so we only

HUALAPAI, continued on page 14



Old Stone Step Lookout - Hualapai Mountain Park near Kingman.



The JetBoil boils water in 90 seconds so I can have the coffee going FAST. I also use it to rehydrate our backpacking meals and heat water for dishes.

CAMPING

Continued from page 12

around the park to increase your time actually doing the fun stuff when you're out there, instead of taking precious vacation time to research river access, trails, and other points of interest.

Besides the mapping apps that come with your smartphone, our visitors use [What3Words](#) and [OnX Maps](#) with ease and success. OnX has downloadable maps that can be used with location display in airplane mode so you can have digital maps at your fingertips even with no service or spotty reception.

Each park on our website has a mapping page. Just go to the main page for whichever park you will be visiting, click on the "Explore" tab, then the map link will be available. Download the appropriate map and either mark it digitally or print it out, to include points of interest you discover before you even leave on your trip!

It's always a good idea to let someone know where you'll be camping and when you plan to return. Text them a link to the park or coordinates of your destination with additional information that pertains specifically to your trip.



John and I have been using Flexware for camping forever, and none of it has worn out. They even have sinks and buckets that collapse - perfect for doing dishes!

Meal Prep

Prepping your meals will allow you the freedom to eat great food in camp with half the effort! Sure, hamburgers and hot dogs are a mainstay campground meal because they're easy, and the kids love them, but camp often enough and you'll be looking for options like the ones found below.

Cook foods like pasta, rice, and chopped vegetables at home, let them cool, then place them in a large Ziplock bag. In camp, heat up a pot of water on your camp stove, or on a rock near the fire, then place the bag in the water. When the food has reached the desired temperature, open and serve right from the bag.

Foil meals are another easy, fun option for a delicious campground feast! Try one of these options to bring a home-cooked vibe to mealtime during your next camping trip. Foil meals are anything you can wrap in foil to heat up easily in camp either on a grill, near the fire, or on a camp stove.

Almost any one of your favorite casseroles can be easily transitioned into an easy camp meal by double wrapping in foil after cooking them at home. Remem-

ber to leave yourself top access to your meal while wrapping. After your foil meal is heated to the desired temperature, remove your foil pack from the heat source with gloves or tongs, place on a plate, open the top, and enjoy!

Pro tip: After double-wrapping the foil meals, place them in a Ziplock bag or Tupperware container so it doesn't leak in your cooler.

Pack For Success

Through your pre-trip research, you will have determined what the weather is likely to be, how many nights you plan to camp, what outdoor activities are available, and how to find your destination.

Pack weather-appropriate clothes, and always bring extra! An extra layer won't hurt during cold weather camping, and if caught during a summer monsoon it's nice to change out into something dry back at camp.

Since you've pre-determined which activities you will be enjoying on your trip, make sure to include everything you need for a successful experience before leaving home. It helps to keep activity items separate from other camping gear

for easy inventory before packing up and hitting the road.

Vehicle Check

Ensure your vehicle is in good running order before leaving on your trip. Mechanical problems can put a damper on any trip, and many times these camping pitfalls can be avoided with a pre-trip check. If the oil changes are up to date, there are no warning lights on your dash, no existing problems, and the tires are inflated to the correct psi, you should be good to go.



A benchmarker: I find them everywhere!

Start Exploring!

There's no better time than the present to get out there with your newfound knowledge and explore Arizona's beautiful places! Whether you've already been to a park, or want to try something new, there's plenty of options throughout the state. Check out this short list of great camping parks and hit the road. Print out the [free camping checklist](#) and start making memories...It's that easy!

Final Thoughts...

Even the most prepared campers can be hit with bad luck. If this happens to you it doesn't have to ruin your trip! If a problem arises, take a step back and look at it critically without falling victim to downward spiraling confidence.

After you've identified the problem, contact a park ranger to help. Our rangers are happy to help you negotiate anything you encounter while camping in one of our parks and have salvaged a number of trips thanks to their outdoor ingenuity.

We hope you've been instilled with enough confidence to plan a trip to one of Arizona's amazing parks. Click below to learn more about the parks and reserve your spot...Start making tomorrow's memories, today! ■

HUALAPAI

Continued from page 13

had time for a couple, but we thoroughly enjoyed them. Trails are well marked, clean, and well signed. They are also very well maintained. The first one we tried was a very short trail called Potato Patch. It went uphill to a gorgeous lookout, passing the biggest boulder I've ever seen on the way. At the lookout there are stone steps leading you to the view.

I'm a sucker for stone steps on a trail. The whole trail was shady and beautiful, and there were other great viewpoints along the way. The other trail we took was a short Nature Loop near the Visitor Center. It meandered a bit and had several side trails, and there were no signs telling about the plants, so it wasn't like any other Nature Trail I've been on, but we saw squirrels, tons of birds, and lots of deer sign. It was a fun little hike and we didn't see any other people. This was in April and it was on a Friday.

The Visitor Center has maps and info, as well as water bottles, shirts, hoodies, and stuff like that for sale. I highly recommend stopping here to chat with the rangers about the park and the best places to go. When we talked to her she told us that all the cabins and sites were already reserved for the weekend. This place is big, so it gets a lot of use. They have cabins that will accommodate anywhere from 2 to 14 people, plus teepees, and lots of tent camping and an RV park with full hookups. They also have areas for large groups. Day use is \$10 per car. You can check out the various cabins and things at the website: www.mcparcs.com.

The day use areas are great – we stopped and used a table in the pines and there were a pit toilet and trash cans available. This was in April, at that elevation it was chilly in the shade, but it was still really nice to be in the pines eating a picnic



Hualapai Mountains General Store

lunch. After that we drove every single road in the park, stopping for the views and to take photos of flowers.

The cabins are lovely, and there are tons of campsites. There is even a lodge at the top with a general store and restaurant. Their website is www.hmresort.org. Our map showed a small lake at the top, but we couldn't find it. There is a lot of private property up there and many of the roads are marked "no trespassing" and have locked gates. We went back and asked the ranger about it, and she said the lake was more of a cattle tank and it was on private property. So much for my dreams of trout fishing!

Sites In Kingman

One of the fun places we went to in Kingman is the White Cliffs Wagon Trail Historic Park. It's part of an old wagon



White Cliffs Wagon Trail - look at how the wagon wheels dug into the stone!

trail that was used in the late 1800's to bring ore from the Stockton Hill Mines to the railroad. The wagon wheels cut deep ruts into the rock that are still there, along with divots along both sides that were used for posts and ropes to help the wagons up and down the slope. There was absolutely no one there when we went. It's next to a big cliff that is apparently a favorite hangout – lots of graffiti. You cross over a little bridge and there are arrows on the rocks to show you the way. Once you get to it, you can't miss it – the rock is white and the ruts are very deep. We loved it there.

To get there, just follow Grandview Avenue north from Beale Street, turn right onto Lead Street, then go left on Darby Lane which is also White Cliff Road. The



Route 66 has always been important to Kingman.

parking is off to the right side of the road. You really can't miss it.

A place we wanted to see but didn't get a chance to was Camp Beale Springs. The spring was used by Native Americans for centuries, then a guy named Beale set up a stop on the wagon road and it was called Beale's Spring. Then it was used as a temporary Army outpost. So there is a lot of history there. There is a great little half-mile trail there, and you can find all kinds of information about local trails at cityofkingman.gov.

We did a lot more stuff in Kingman and took the northern part of Route 66 on the way home, but I don't have time to tell you about that stuff this month. Another time! Meanwhile, if you're looking for a beautiful, cool getaway this summer, consider Hualapai Mountain Park. It's gorgeous.

Route 66 Centennial 2026

The "Main Street of America" is and always has been important to Kingman. Since this year is the Centennial, there are plenty of fun events to check out. Go to explorekingman.com to find a listing and information about all the fun stuff.

But you don't have to wait for an event to enjoy Route 66! On our way home from Kingman, we took Route 66 north and east to Seligman instead of using I-40. Let me tell you, Route 66 is way more fun than the interstate! It's about an 87 mile loop that takes you through Walapai, Antares, Hackberry, Valentine, and Peach Springs.

We didn't have time, but we'd have loved to stop and tour Grand Canyon Caverns! You hop back on I-40 at Seligman, and the loop only takes about 20 more minutes than staying on the boring interstate. I've included a couple photos of the loop so you can see how much fun it is! ■

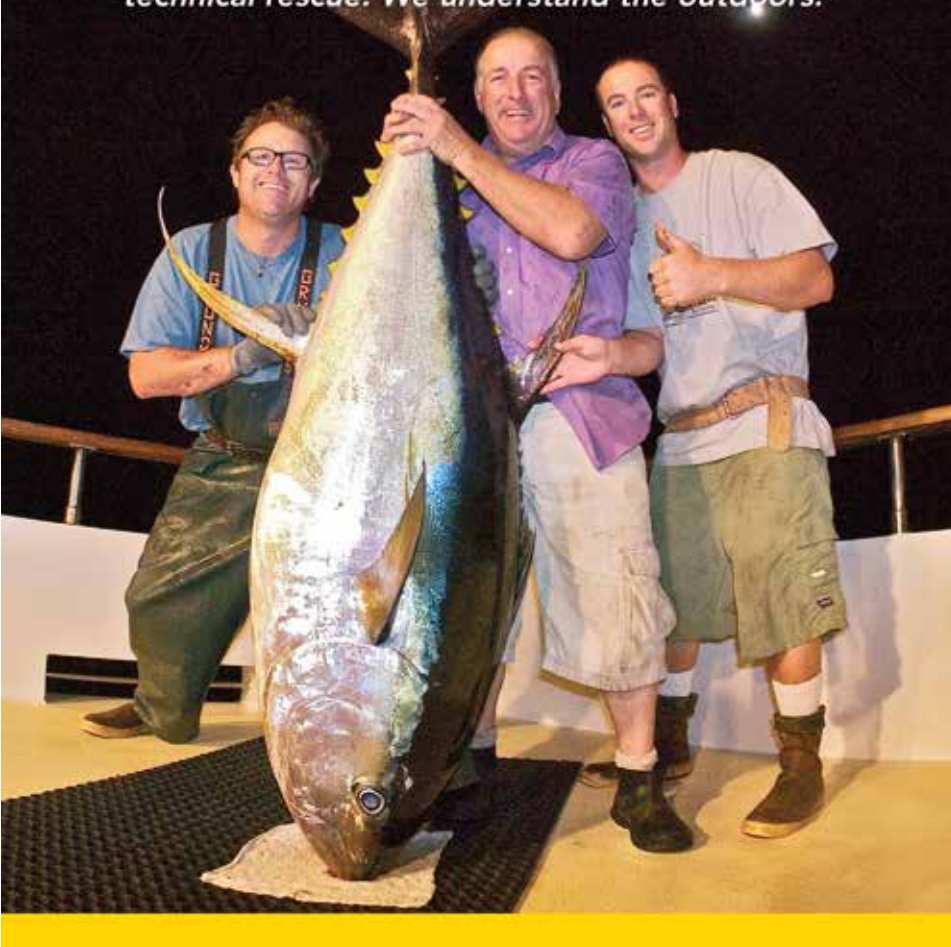


Just one of the crazy things you'll see along Route 66. If I remember correctly, this is in Antares.

TripleWall Productions

TripleWall Productions specialize in outdoor video production as well as all your video-production needs.

"We pride ourselves in the quality of our videography and editing. We are all avid outdoor enthusiasts with backgrounds in fishing, hunting, mountain and technical rescue. We understand the outdoors."





Launch Your Kayaks

Kayaking events in Arizona in 2026 feature a mix of competitive fishing tournaments, scenic tours, and specialized night paddles, including the Havasu Heat race, Neon Nights at Saguaro Lake, and multiple Bass Junkyz tournament dates. Key 2026 events are held at Lake Powell, Roosevelt Lake, and the Salt River.

Key 2026 Kayak Events And Tournaments

- **Bass Junkyz 2026 Kayak Tour:** Multiple dates including April 18 (Apache), May 2 (Roosevelt), and May 30 (Bartlet)
- **Neon Nights Kayaking (June 1 - Aug 31):** Guided evening tours at Saguaro Lake with LED-lighted kayaks.
- **Arizona Adaptive Water Sports:** Ride & Row at Watson Lake (Sept 23) and Marble Canyon kayaking (Sept 30).
- **Antelope Canyon & Horseshoe Bend Tour (May 2):** Guided paddling, often organized for military personnel

Recurring And Seasonal Activities

- **Chasing Waterfalls Tours:** Recurring weekly (Mon-Thu) at Canyon Lake, available in early 2026.
- **Emerald Cave Tours:** Regular guided tours from Willow Beach into the Colorado River's Emerald Cave.
- **Salt River Tubing & Kayaking:** Seasonal scenic paddling in the Tonto National Forest.

For more specific, up-to-date information, it is recommended to check local Arizona kayak clubs and event platforms like [Tripadvisor](#) and [GetYourGuide](#).

Kayak Events In Arizona 2026

Arizona offers a variety of kayaking events in 2026, ranging from competitive races and fishing tournaments to unique community paddles like "Glow Kayaking."

Major Festivals And Competitions

Castle Creek Triathlon (Kayak/SUP)



Division(s):

- **Date(s) & Time(s):** September 29, 2026 (Registration/Confirmation date).
- **Event Location:** [Lake Pleasant Regional Park](#).
- **Type:** Multi-sport Race.
- **Description:** Includes a specific Sprint Kayak/SUP division featuring a 1,500m paddle, 22km bike, and 5km run. Tempe Tourism +5

Recreational and Community Events

Glow Kayak at Tempe Town Lake:

- **Date(s) & Time(s):** Friday, April 10, 2026 and Friday, May 15, 2026; 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.
- **Event Location:** [Tempe Town Lake Marina](#).
- **Type:** Community Night Paddle.
- **Description:** A moonlit paddle where participants use provided glow-in-the-dark accessories to navigate the lake.

Kids Kayaking Day & Yavapai Adaptive Recreation Expo:

- **Date(s) & Time(s):** Tuesday, September 22, 2026; 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
- **Event Location:** [Arizona Adaptive](#)



Watersports:

- **Type:** Adaptive Community Event.
- **Description:** An inclusive event focused on bringing kayaking to youth and individuals with different abilities.

Kayak Fishing Tournaments

The [Arizona Kayak Bass Anglers \(AKBA\)](#) have scheduled several competitive stops for their 2026 season:

- **April 4, 2026:** AOY Series #4 at [Lake Pleasant](#).
- **May 2-3, 2026:** AOY Series #3 / WCC Q#3 at [Lake Havasu](#).
- **October 10, 2026:** Top Water Open at [Roosevelt Lake](#).

Ongoing Guided Tours And Adventures

For those seeking organized group experiences rather than one-day festivals, several outfitters offer specialized 2026 seasonal tours:

- **Antelope Canyon & Lake Powell** Combined kayak and hike tours are



THOMAS & DIANNE JONES

available daily, often featuring the famous Water Antelope Canyon.

Black Canyon & Emerald Cave

Multiple daily guided tours launch from [Willow Beach](#), including [sunset glow tours](#) where kayaks are illuminated with lights.

Verde River

"Water to Wine" tours in [Cottonwood](#) combine a river paddle with local wine tasting. ■

TORTOISE

Continued from page 1

burrow to protect them from the heat in the summer. AZGFD has videos and instructions on creating a burrow. Individuals who want to adopt a tortoise must show that they have a burrow ready for their new tortoise prior to submitting an application.

Lifelong companions: Desert tortoises can live for 80 to 100 years. Often, families will enjoy a single tortoise companion for multiple generations. Loyal and true, tortoises are often included in estate planning and wills.

Plant-powered diet: Desert tortoises are completely herbivorous, eating a wide variety of plants in the wild. Ideally, a captive tortoise should be allowed to

graze throughout the day on grasses, leafy plants and flowers.

Uniquely Arizona: Remember, these Sonoran desert tortoises are a state-protected species and cannot be taken out of Arizona. While not currently listed as endangered, the species faces threats like habitat loss and development.

Next Steps On Helping Care For A Desert Tortoise —

This spring is the perfect time to build your burrow and submit an adoption application!

Everything you need to know about the adoption process, burrow-building and tortoise-care can be found at [azgfd.gov/tortoise](#).

Can't adopt? You can still help! Donate to the Tortoise Program to support their care until they find forever homes. ■



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HELPING WITH THE WAR

Iran! War! Suffering!

By Tom Cole, US Marine, Retired
Special Features Writer

Okay maybe I'm just a rube or something, but thus far this has been one of the easiest wars on record for the people of the United States. Oh sure, gas prices went up, then they came down again and will, in short order, go lower still. Food prices have been impacted, but again I foresee their going down in the near future.

And what do we get for this minimal sacrifice we are making? We are effectively pounding a murderous, torturing, dictatorial state which is and would continue to be a threat to the entire world. Does anyone out there believe for even a second that if Iran had nuclear weapons at their disposal that they would not use them? Really?! We should have taken care of this business back in 1980 during Operation Eagle Claw (You may have to look it up; I won't because I was there).

Personally, if we have to tighten our belts a bit for a little while in order to get rid of a terrible world threat, so be it. People during World War II sacrificed immensely and went through rationing that was exceedingly prohibitive. The patriots of the Revolutionary War went through a lot more (See my previous article). And while you're strolling around, having a beer or two, and watching the game on TV, there are thousands of uniformed volunteers out there putting their lives on the line so that you don't have to.

It seems that every time we engage in an action against an enemy, most people think it's okay to whine and moan about what they don't have or the prices of items, not thinking about what people sacrificed in our history or in the current

situation to get our country through.

Also it seems that no one seems to think about what they DO have. Like how about freedoms provided by the Bill of Rights? Have you read it lately? Or how about the Constitution so you can understand what we're all about. Most people talk about the Constitution, but have never read it or understand the words of the Articles and Amendments therein. I'll be glad to loan you a copy from my desk and help explain it all to you.

The point is, we're invested in this war with Iran for the good of the world and that's a fact. And in this story, WE ARE THE GUYS IN THE WHITE HATS!!! Oh and if you want to support that regime and their disgusting ways, I'll be more than glad to help you take your bags to the airport for your trip to Tehran.

World War II - Numerous Items

Side story - I had an aunt who owned a Ford dealership in Wayne, Nebraska. She had access to extra gas stamps. She found soldiers and their families who needed gas stamps. She made sure they had them. Of course, she also managed to mail the soldiers some liquid entertainment occasionally.

The list goes on of sacrifices endured when our country was trying to help others. ■



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We are the largest VFW Post in Scottsdale and the only Scottsdale VFW Post with its own building for events. We are located one mile south of downtown Scottsdale.

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Tell Congress: Fix The Injustice

I'm sure it's no surprise to you that some brave combat-injured service members were forced to leave the military early because of their injuries.

But what you probably don't know is that they do *not* receive the full military retirement they earned ... even though they served honorably. And sacrificed life and limb to protect our freedom.

Under current law, their retirement is reduced because they also receive VA disability benefits.

Carol, can you imagine being seriously injured while serving your country and losing part of your hard-earned retirement because of it? *It's wrong!*

The Major Richard Star Act would fix this unfair treatment, which is why I'm asking for your help today.

Right now, this bill can't move forward in Congress unless more legislators work to advance it. In fact, just last week, [a vote to pass this vital legislation was blocked for the second time!](#)

Let your legislators know you support this bill — and you expect them to as well.

If enough VFW supporters speak up, this bill will get a hearing where veterans and witnesses can testify about why it's so important. Please help ensure our service members' voices are heard in Congress — [contact your legislator today.](#)

Thank you for demanding justice FOR VETERANS.

Dan West, VFW Adjutant General



Thanvi Voruganti

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

Arizona Teen In The Running To Win A \$35,000 VFW Scholarship!

It's incredibly inspiring to hear high school students take pride in America.

Young people all across the nation recorded audio essays on the theme "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?" for the Voice of Democracy competition. One winner from each state has been chosen and now qualifies for the grand prize — a \$35,000 scholarship!

The grand prize winner will be announced in April during the winners' trip to the Founding Forward Spirit of America in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Help us celebrate the next generation of proud Americans as they compete for more than \$1.4 million total in scholarships and incentives. Please share the audio clips with your family and friends.

Thank you for supporting these patriotic teens!

Dan West, VFW Adjutant General

Use The Full (Tax-Free!) Power Of Your IRA

From Veterans Of Foreign Wars

Individual retirement accounts offer valuable benefits beyond providing income. You get tax deductions on contributions as well as tax-free account growth.

The downside: having to pay taxes when you make withdrawals from your IRA. You feel that sting once you reach age 73 and must take required minimum distributions (RMDs). Leaving the rest of your IRA to loved ones won't keep the taxman away: Beneficiaries have to pay taxes on the distributions they receive.

But there's good news: You can use your IRA to make an impact at the VFW without losing any of your money to tax-

es. (You can leave other assets to heirs that won't have the same tax burden, such as investment accounts, real estate or life insurance.) Consider these options:

1. NOW: You Can Use Your IRA to Make a Gift to the VFW

If you're 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift (up to \$111,000) to us. Benefits include:

You see the difference you're making today.

You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer doesn't generate taxable income or a tax deduction.

Because we are a nonprofit, we also won't have to pay taxes on your donation. Every cent of your donation will go to the VFW.

BONUS: If you are 73 or older and must take RMDs from your IRA, your gift can satisfy all or part of your obligation.

2. LATER: You Can Magnify Your Impact After Your Lifetime

Naming the VFW as a beneficiary of your IRA is a great way to extend your support beyond your lifetime. It costs you nothing today.

Here's how:

Contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form or download a form from your provider's website.

Name us and the gift percentage on the form.

Let us know about your plans so we can thank you.

3. NEWEST OPTION: You Can Create a Gift That Pays You

If you are 70½ or older, you can now use your IRA to create a charitable gift annuity. Get fixed, reliable income for life by making a one-time election of up to \$55,000 (without being taxed on the distribution). Because this option has special rules, we'd be happy to discuss whether this gift is right for you. ■

Business Directory

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Arizona Boating & Watersports/

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TROPHY

Continued from page 5

agement, the St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy was originally awarded by the St. Petersburg Yacht Club in the late 1960s to recognize the club that ran the best regatta. The trophy was retired for a number of years, then was donated to US

SMALL BOAT

Continued from page 5

dress capsizing recovery, or prevent entrapment while operating a powerboat. [Learn More.](#)

Level 3 Coach

Who should take this course: New and Intermediate level coaches

Prerequisites: Small boat Level 2 Instructor Certification

Course Length: 2 days, 16 hours

Texts used: *Level 3 Coach Course Workbook and the Racing Rules of Sailing*

Course overview: The foundation course of US Sailing's coach training program, the Level 3 course provides coaches with information on how to effectively develop performance boat handling and racing skills and instill in athletes the importance of ethical behavior and sportsmanship in the sport of sailing. Topics include race management procedures, team management and logistics and drills. [Learn More.](#)

Level 3 Head Instructor

Who should take this course: Designed to support sailing instructors and program managers that are either making the transition to a leadership role in their programs or growing their management skills in their current role. This course is also available for parents and volunteers that want to better manage their sailing programs but do not want to receive a certification.

Prerequisite: Smallboat Level 2 In-

Sailing in 1977. The winner is selected on the basis of race management excellence, including evaluation by participating skippers.

Please Note: Qualifying an event for consideration requires advance planning. Information about the application requirements is provided below. Please contact the Race Administration office for more information. ■

structor Certification. This course can also be audited by those seeing education but not certification.

Course Length: 10 days online.

Texts used: *Sailing Program Management for Head Instructors*

Course overview: This course is designed for sailing instructors that are making the transition to a leadership or management role in their programs but is also available for parents and volunteers that want to better manage their sailing programs but do not want to receive a certification. It focuses on the management side of sailing programming. [Learn More.](#)

Instructor Trainer & Coach Trainer

US Sailing Instructor and Coach Trainers represent the highest level of experience in the field of sail training and coaching. Acceptance into a Trainer Level courses is done through a resume and application process only.

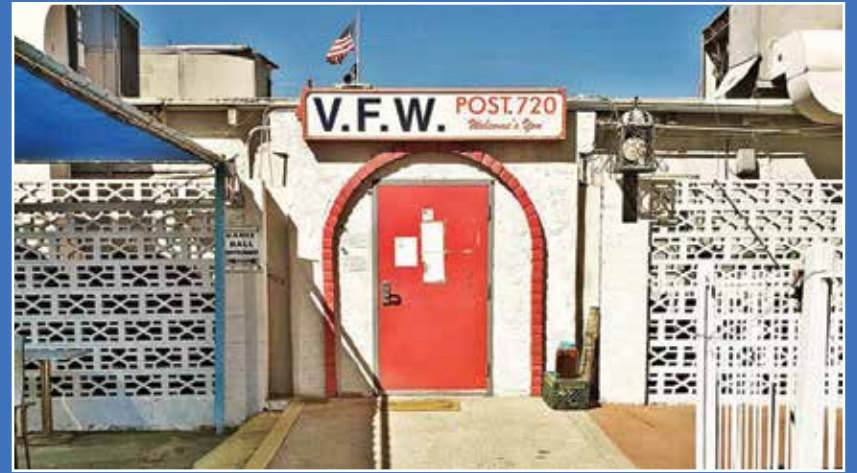
Level 1 Instructor Trainer Courses are usually scheduled once per year, while higher level courses may be held more infrequently, and based on need.

*****Candidates must be a minimum of 24 years old and hold a current instructor certification for the level they're seeking to be a Trainer.*****

They must also hold the corresponding Instructor level certification and, if they are seeking a higher level Instructor/Coach Trainer certification, they must hold the prior level Instructor Trainer certification as well. ■



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



VFW POST 720

- Barry Goldwater was a lifelong member.
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- Hall Rental Available (Capacity 300+)

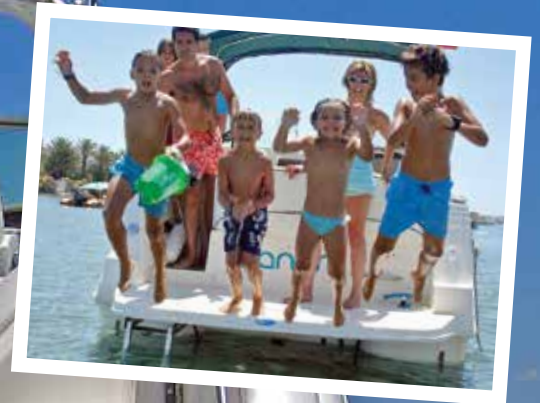


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OUTDOOR TIMES

A PUBLICATION OF ARIZONA BOATING & WATERSPORTS

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It's time to try your luck at crappie catching.

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The Andersons make it easy and fun.



ARIZONA'S BEST KEPT SECRET



Located just 55 minutes from Tempe Town Lake on beautiful Bartlett Lake in the heart of the Tonto National Forest, Bartlett Lake Marina's family atmosphere and beautiful surroundings make it a wonderful location for your friends and family to enjoy an unforgettable Arizona day on the water.

2,815 ACRES OF FUN!

Bartlett Lake Marina has a boatable surface area of 2,815 acres - more than Canyon Lake and Saguaro Lake, combined. Fed by the pristine waters of the Verde River, Indians of this valley spoke descriptively in their legends of the river's "sweet waters".

Outdoor enthusiasts frequent Bartlett Lake for a variety of recreational opportunities, including shoreline camping in Arizona's natural desert terrain. While in this part of the Tonto National Forest, visitors may see mule deer, bald eagles, javelina, coyotes, and many indigenous desert plants, including the majestic saguaro, mesquite trees, and blooming ocotillo.



BOAT RENTALS

Bartlett Lake Marina we are ideally located 17 miles northeast of Carefree and only one hour from Phoenix. Our marina offers a range of well equipped comfortable pontoon rental boats. All safety gear and full instruction are included. We welcome novices! You can trust our rental boats to keep you and your family safe while exploring the surrounding bays. We have a number of different pontoon boats for your party needs. We also offer a variety of packages from full day rentals, and weekend rental packages.



PONTOON BOAT



SKI BOAT



PERSONAL WATERCRAFT



PARTY YACHT



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www.BartlettLake.com