



## It's Time To Say Goodbye; Happy New Year!

It's time to say goodbye to 2025, and as we reflect on the changes that we want — or need — to make in the new year, how about adding an outdoors resolution to the list?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) offers some simple resolutions, any one of which should be easy for an outdoors enthusiast to stick to —

- **Fish local.** Make it a point to wet a line this year at one (or more) of the state's 50-plus waters in the Community Fishing Program that are seasonally stocked with channel catfish, bluegill and rainbow trout. This also is a great way to introduce a youngster to a fun, lifelong sport. Buy a general fishing license, or combination hunt and fish license, at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) (youth under age 10 do not need a license).

- **Support wildlife.** Volunteers play a critical role in AZGFD's mission to conserve and protect more than 800 native wildlife species. Learn about volunteer opportunities at [www.azgfd.gov/volunteer](http://www.azgfd.gov/volunteer). Another way to make a difference? Consider making a donation here, or on your

state income tax form (check the "Arizona Wildlife Fund" box on your tax form), to help ensure a wildlife legacy for the future.

- **Take a youngster outdoors.** Look for animal tracks together and identify the critter that made them. Armed with only a bird identification guide, embark on a "hunting" expedition and see how many species you can find. A day in the field will create memories that last a lifetime — for both of you.

- **Be a wildlife viewer.** Arizona provides some of the best wildlife-viewing opportunities in the nation, with more than 800 species of native wildlife. It's a fun, inexpensive activity that the entire family can enjoy.

- **Explore Expo.** Save the dates — March 28-29 — and experience the great outdoors at the department's 2026 Outdoor Expo at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility. This popular event will feature everything from wildlife exhibits and family fishing tanks, to trying out firearms in a safe, controlled environment on the range. Admission and parking are free.

Be a conservationist. It's difficult to

imagine what our wildlife populations might be like today without the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. For a presentation from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, produced by AZGFD, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE4L9KicSeU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE4L9KicSeU).

- **Get hunting.** Don't let the odds of being selected in the big game draws keep you from applying for what could be the hunt of a lifetime. If you've always dreamed of hunting bison, pronghorn or bull elk, then get in the game and submit an application. Also, don't overlook small game or other species that can be hunted year-round. Buy a license online today at [www.azgfd.com/license/](http://www.azgfd.com/license/).

- **Enter AZGFD's portal.** The portal lets you create a secure account where you can view and manage your licenses, draw results and bonus points in your own personal "My AZGFD Dashboard" section. Just click on the "Account Login" button at the bottom of the [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) home page, then select the "Register" option in the upper right corner. ■

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Big Horn Sheep Help Out



## America: 1776 And How It All Began

By Tom Cole, Retired Marine  
Special Features Writer

1776 was a very important turning point for the world and for America in particular. Prior to 1776, the British government was trying to get stricter control of the American colonies. It was further trying to get monetary repayment from the colonies and recoup money for the expenditures it had experienced during the French and Indian War (1688 to 1763) and the protection it had provided to the colonies during that period.

To accomplish this, the British imposed what many in the colonies saw as a number of punitive Acts to gain control and recompense starting with the Sugar Act of



1764, which imposed tax on refined sugar, molasses and other goods imported into the colonies.

This was followed by the Stamp Act of 1765, requiring purchase and use of specially stamped papers for all legal documents,

AMERICA, continued on page 7



## 'Up, Up, And Away'

By Carol L. Allen

'... in my beautiful balloon'. That is truly an "uplifting" song, and it may have many meanings to our readers. The balloons ascending may simply be a celebration of the New Year and a welcome to 2026 and all its coming events.

Or, it may symbolize reminders to you of all your good intentions expressed in your New Year's resolutions (and AZGFD offers some excellent ones!).

Or, it may represent your prayers of gratitude to our Founding Fathers and the sacrifices of those who fought in our Revolution (please see the honoring article by Tom Cole).

Or, it may be the first of many wishes of Happy Birthday #250 to our country.

Whatever the ascending balloon means to you, to many of us at *Western Outdoor Times*, it symbolizes all of those.

We wish you a happy, healthy, and safe New Year! ■



### 15TH ANNUAL ARIZONA BALLOON CLASSIC

## New Location Is Back Where It All Started

**Location:** Wild Horse Pass Festival Grounds – 19593 S 48th St. Chandler, Az 85226 – Gila River Indian Community  
**Dates:** January 16–18, 2026 (Friday–Sunday)

#### Event Schedule

**Event Hours:** Friday, 1/16: 4PM – 9PM, Saturday, 1/17: 7AM – 9PM, Sunday, 7AM – 9PM

**Morning Balloon Ascensions:** 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

**Evening Balloon Glows:** 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

(All ballooning activities are weather-dependent. No refunds.)

#### What to Expect

**Balloons:** Up to 25 hot-air balloons, including eye-catching special shapes

**Attendance:** 1,000s of spectators are expected

**Ascensions:** Each morning, witness a sky filled with vibrant hot-air balloons. Guests are invited onto the field to watch inflations and liftoffs up close—perfect for photos!

**Desert Glows:** Our most popular attraction! Each evening, a field of tethered balloons lights up the night in a stunning "GLOW" display.

BALLOON, continued on page 7

# DOWNSTREAM

## EVENTS CALENDAR



### THE CREW

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### January 14-18

#### Parker 400

Due to permitting timelines impacted by the recent federal government shut-down, the Bureau of Land Management has requested that The Parker 400 operate within the same January window as the previous two years.

As a result, the event will once again take place over the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday weekend, running Wednesday, January 14 through Sunday, January 18. Racing remains on Friday & Saturday.

This adjustment ensures alignment with federal land closures and public notification requirements. A complete event schedule will be posted later this week.

We apologize for any inconvenience this change may cause and appreciate the continued support and professionalism of the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office in helping make The Parker 400 possible.



### January 16 - 17

#### Arizona Balloon Classic

15th Annual Arizona Balloon Classic - New Location Is Back Where It All Started

**Location:** Wild Horse Pass Festival Grounds - 19593 S 48th St. Chandler, AZ 85226 - Gila River Indian Community

**Event Hours:** Friday, 1/16: 4 pm - 9 pm Saturday, 1/17: 7 pm - 9 pm, Sunday, 7 am - 9 pm

**Morning Balloon Ascensions/Task Competitions:** 7:30 am - 8:30 am

**Evening Balloon Glows:** 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

### January 31 - March 29

#### Arizona Renaissance Festival

**Location:** 12601 E. US Highway 60, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

**Hours:** 10 am - 6 pm

Time travel to the greatest party since Camelot! Take a stroll through the colorful Village of Fairhaven where history comes alive with non-stop, day-long, immersive and interactive entertainments like no place else! Shop an abundance of arts and crafts in the village open-air Artisan Market!

Adventure awaits with games and rides, valiant jousting knights on horseback, majestic falconry, beautiful mer-

maids and fairies, friendly dragons, delicious feasting, and so much more! Come one, come all for a non-stop, day-long family adventure!



### February 29

#### Goat Parade

Save the date. Don't miss the annual goat parade on February 29. Bring your kids. Nannies are welcome. For more information, email Billy (billy@baa.com).



### 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.

### Pet's On Parade



#### Animal Defense League of Arizona

Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA) is a statewide animal protection organization that has worked since 1987 on behalf of companion animals, farm animals, wildlife, animals in laboratories, and animals in entertainment.

ADLA's largest program is the Spay Neuter Hotline which is a statewide leader in spaying and neutering companion animals and outdoor cats. It Traps, Neuters, and Returns (TNR) about 15,000 cats per year in Maricopa County and makes statewide referrals to low cost and no cost spay/neuter services.

ADLA has a long history of participation in coalitions, which are able to unify organizations to advocate for a common goal. This strategy is often more effective than single groups working alone. ADLA has successfully worked in diverse coalitions with member groups that have different perspectives than ADLA, but are willing to collaborate on achieving a common goal.

#### Fearless Kitty Rescue

Every pawprint tells a story-and now, yours can too. With a purchase of a Pawprint of Kindness, you'll leave a lasting tribute while helping Fearless Kitty Rescue continue its lifesaving work.

Whether you're honoring a beloved pet, celebrating a special person, or simply sharing your love for animals, your pawprint becomes part of something bigger: a visible legacy of compassion.

For more information go to fearlesskittyrescue.org.

#### Lost Our Home Pet Rescue

Lost Our Home is dedicated to bridging the care gap between people who find themselves in crisis and the pets who often have no place to go during these challenging circumstances. More at www.lostourhome.org/

SCAN FOR MORE EVENTS



### CONTACT US

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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

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# Our waterways are ready, but are you?

To learn more about boating safely in Arizona visit [www.azgfd.gov/boating](http://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.



Arizona Game & Fish Department  
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086  
602-942-3000 | [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)

## 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](http://www.azgfd.gov/boating)



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Lake Havasu

## Yes, Arizona Has Activities On The Water

Pre-conceived notions about Arizona may lead some to believe that this arid state is short on water related recreation activities. Quite the opposite is actually true!

There are a vast number of ways that one can enjoy water recreation right here in this desert oasis! From Colorado River country out west to Lyman Lake in the east, (and everything in-between) we have great day trips, camping destinations, and fishin' holes for the whole family!

Swim, boat, hop on your stand-up paddle board, kayak...it doesn't matter! With so many options available statewide, there's always something to explore!

### Lake Havasu State Park

Lake Havasu State Park is a popular year-round destination right on Arizona's west coast! This lake is loaded with ways to enjoy water recreation including, ample boating opportunities, world-renowned bass fishing, wide-open spaces for adrenaline junkies, white sand beaches, and of course, those unforgettable western AZ views! Spend your days catching fish out

on the lake, then if you decide to keep a couple, enjoy a fresh-caught dinner while relaxing on the beach.

Or, you might prefer to rip around the lake in your boat skiing or taking in experience. Lake Havasu has some of the most spectacular sunsets we've seen anywhere! The way the orange glow reflects off of the lake's surface is absolutely breathtaking! Spacious campgrounds and gorgeous lakeshore cabins are available to help you maximize your stay.

### Cattail Cove State Park

Test the water at the Colorado River's best-kept secret, Cattail Cove State Park! Fishing, boating, and camping are all available at this cozy, laid back park, plus a beach just for your dog! Take advantage of paddling the river at Cattail Cove, rent a paddle board or kayak, or try your luck catching the bass, catfish and big redear sunfish lurking below the water's surface.

Take a swim in the designated areas along the shoreline, then head back to shore where you can cool off and kick

**ACTIVITIES**, continued on page 16

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# Maritime Museum President, CEO, Reflects On Her First Year

Dear Friends & Partners,

As I look back on this remarkable first year at the Maritime Museum of San Diego, I'm filled with immense gratitude and pride. With your support, we have accomplished so much in a short time.

We have strengthened our connection to the community, welcoming new partnerships that bring fresh energy to our mission of preserving and sharing maritime skills and history.

## Expanded Educational Reach

We've expanded our educational reach in blue economy and technology, introducing students to new pathways to sustainable maritime industries and providing site testing access for innovators in ocean sustainability. We are making transformative institutional changes to ensure a healthy and resilient financial future for the museum and our historic fleet. We are connecting the past, present and future in a way only maritime museums can.

There were countless moments that remind me why this work matters so much, but two recent ones stand out. The first was last month's on-the-water blue technology demonstration with emerging innovators. We invited a youth group from the Salvation Army to attend, and when I asked them, "Do you like robotics?" one young girl said with a wide, happy smile, "I do now!" In that instant, history, innovation, and her possible future passion connected.

## Powerful Welcome

The second was arriving into port from San Francisco aboard the magnificent tall ship *Statsraad Lehmkuhl*. As we emerged from thick fog, we were greeted by the *Californian*, PCF 816 *Swift*, and *Pilot* escorting us into the bay. Many aboard



*Californian*

shared that it was the most powerful and impressive welcome they had received on their global voyage. It was a breathtaking reminder of the pride and spirit of this fleet, this port, our heritage, and this community.

We have worked hard this year to beautify our site and create a more welcoming and vibrant waterfront presence by removing metal fencing, tackling general deferred maintenance, and adding greenery to our entrances.

## Star To Sail In 2027

I am also thrilled to share that we are preparing to sail the *Star of India* in 2027



*Star of India*



*Swift*



*Pilot*

## Thank You For Believing

Thank you for believing in the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Your support, through attendance, membership, volunteering, donations, partnership, and advocacy, ensures that maritime history is not only preserved, but brought to life every day for generations to come. Your end-of-year donation is essential for our continued success in the coming year, and we are counting on your investment as we forge a strong path towards a magnificent horizon.

Before we step into the next chapter, I invite you to join me in celebrating a few highlights from 2025.

**With gratitude,**  
**Christina Connett Brophy, PhD**  
**President & CEO**  
**Maritime Museum of San Diego**

## How You Can Help

Our work relies on the generosity and partnership of people like you. Here are a few ways you can support us:

- Make a tax-deductible gift to support the Museum's general operating expenses

of the International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM), Dr. Brophy has brought the Museum into the ICMM Global Maritime Refugees Project.

- As the only ICMM member located in Southern CA, we are uniquely placed to foster global collaborations and spotlight regional maritime heritage.

- In July, MMSD signed a Sister Museums MOU with the Galata Museo del Mare in Genoa, Italy, forging a long-term international alliance to promote maritime heritage, education, blue economy, ocean sustainability, and cultural exchange between the two historic port cities.

- In August, MMSD was invited to participate in the Asia-Pacific Maritime Culture Forum, hosted by Hong Kong Maritime Museum, together with the China Maritime Museum.

- Dr. Brophy participated in the Sustainable Ocean Solutions Summit in San Francisco and the following One Ocean Expedition aboard the *Statsraad Lehmkuhl*, deepening our relationship with San Diego House of Norway and international discussion on ocean sustainability.

## Museum Outreach

- In September, *Californian* traveled **MUSEUM**, continued on page 7

## 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.

### WE CAN HELP!

Maritime Communications, Inc. is an authorized ACR Battery Replacement center.

Battery replacement and recertification can usually be done in 24 to 48 hours



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## PORT BOATING

### MUSEUM

Continued from page 5

out of area for the first time since the pandemic. She participated in the Ocean Institute Maritime Festival in Dana Point, sharing history through cannon battle demonstrations and tours.

- Jim Davis, our esteemed Director of Ship Operations, traveled to the Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend, WA, to share his experience caring for the *Star of India*.

#### New Exhibitions

- In July, we opened a free satellite exhibit at Arts District Liberty Station as part of a new long-term partnership: “Memories of the Greatest Generation.” The exhibit features limited-edition photographs by Edward Steichen and colleagues, enhancing accessibility to our collections and broadening partnerships with community organizations.

- In August, the Museum acquired the *Deep Flight I* submersible, a personal submarine designed by Graham Hawkes. This acquisition will be featured in a forthcoming exhibit on blue technology.

#### Major Ship Maintenance

- Replaced port engine in the PCF 816 Swift. Thank you to our Swifties for their generous support with this unexpected project!

- Hauled out both *San Salvador* and *Californian* for regular maintenance

- Rebuilt the transmission on Pilot

#### Blue Technology

- This fall, we welcomed several ROV companies to the Museum, including teams focused on hull inspections and waste collection.

- The IADYS Jellyfishbot was on-site, aiding in bay cleanup around our historic ships.

#### Maritime History & Community

- In March, we hosted the beautifully restored *Western Flyer*—the fishing boat whose 1940 trip to Mexico inspired John Steinbeck’s *Log from the Sea of Cortez*. The crew, alongside our dedicated docents, welcomed hundreds of visitors on board during its 3-day visit, sparking conversations about history, literature, and the sea.

- June brought a unique book launch for *San Diego Seafood: Then & Now; Recipes and Stories from a History of Fishing* (available in our gift shop). This community-created volume traces San Diego’s fishing history through more than 75 recipes, insightful historical passages, and striking images.

#### A Look Ahead: 2026 And Beyond

- Expanded educational programs for learners of all ages, with hands-on, ship-centric, technology-driven curricula.
- Ongoing ship preservation projects to



**San Salvador**

protect and celebrate our fleet.

- Continued waterfront collaborations and community events that make our harbor a hub of activity and learning..
- Refreshed exhibits that deepen our understanding of maritime history, technology, and culture.

- Revitalization of the Gateway Project, our capital campaign to build a permanent Museum building alongside our fleet of ships.

- Sailing the *Star of India* in 2027 to celebrate her 100th year of being in San Diego. ■

### BALOONS

Continued from page 1

#### More Attractions

Hot Air Balloon Rides & Tethered Hot Air Balloon Experiences

Family Fun Zone – FREE inflatables & BMX stunt shows

Live music, DJs, and entertainment all weekend

Retail vendors and commercial exhibits for browsing and shopping

**The HUB** – A VIP Experience with snacks, catered meals, shaded lounge, and more

**NEW** – the “Classic Car Show”

**9th Annual Street FoodFest** /Come hungry! Enjoy a wide selection of festival food favorites, local eats, beer tents, live & DJ music throughout the weekend.

#### 15th Anniversary Special

Tickets are on sale at [www.abcfest.com](http://www.abcfest.com) and At the Gate: \$20 per person

FREE Admission: Active Military, Veterans, and Kids 12 & Under

*(All ballooning activities are weather-dependent. No refunds.)*

Tickets & Admission *(do NOT include a hot air balloon ride)*

#### Experiences

Dive into the magical attractions and experiences that the Arizona Balloon Classic has to offer for all ages. (Note: Event schedule and attractions subject to change.)

**Hot Air Balloon Rides & Tethered Hot Air Balloon Experiences**

Take to the skies and enjoy a breathtaking hot air balloon ride. Experience stunning views of the Arizona landscape from above.

#### Desert Glows

Our most popular attraction! Each evening, a field of tethered balloons lights up the night in a stunning “GLOW” display.

#### 9th Annual Street FoodFest

Come hungry! Enjoy a wide selection of festival food favorites, local eats, beer tents, live & DJ music throughout the weekend.

#### BMX Stunt Shows

Get ready for BMX stunt shows happening three times a day on Saturday and Sunday! Come feel the excitement as you watch thrilling jumps and flips!

#### Retail Shopping

Explore and shop the wide variety of retail vendors, each providing an extensive selection of unique products and services.

#### Live Music & DJs

Enjoy a vibrant weekend of live music, DJ performances, and entertainment.

#### Join The Adventure

Don’t miss out on the excitement! Get your tickets today and create joyful memories at the Arizona Balloon Classic.

Event schedule and attractions subject to change.

All ballooning activities are weather-dependent. No refunds.

[Info@azeventsgroup.com](mailto:Info@azeventsgroup.com) ■

### AMERICA

Continued from page 1

newspapers and other printed material.

After a time, the chafing colonies, feeling put upon, rebelled, leading to the Boston Tea Party in 1773. In reaction to that incident, the British enacted the brutal Intolerable Acts of 1774, which aimed at punishing primarily the Massachusetts Colony in an effort to reassert British authority and control (see the first 8 Amendments to the Constitution which address many items stemming from Intolerable Acts).

All of this fomented more anger and rebellious thoughts among all of the colonists leading to the formation of serious consideration of separation from Britain culminating in the meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup> of the First Continental Congress which met to decide how to respond to the

Intolerable Acts.

In 1775, less than a month after the battles of Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress met in May and voted to hold a Counsel of War. It was decided during this time to establish an Army (June 14<sup>th</sup>), Post Office (July 26<sup>th</sup>), Navy (October 13<sup>th</sup>), and Marine Corps (November 10<sup>th</sup>) and to issue currency.

In January 1776, Thomas Paine wrote a very influential pamphlet called “Common Sense”, advocating for American independence from Great Britain, garnering support and stirring revolutionary sentiment among the colonists. Shortly after that on March 17, 1776, American troops fortified Dorchester Heights in South Boston, Massachusetts, causing the British forces to vacate their positions and evacuate Boston as a whole.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Richard Henry Lee proposed a resolution for independence at the Continental Congress, which then pushed

for and received permission to form a committee to draft a declaration for the King. This led to a date which lives in history; the acceptance, formal adoption and signing of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE proclaiming independence of the colonies from British rule and signaling the birth of the United States of America.

On July 8<sup>th</sup> the Declaration was read publicly in Philadelphia and finalized with the ringing of what became known as the Liberty Bell. But it wasn’t over yet. On August 27<sup>th</sup> Continental troops were defeated at the battle of Long Island and New York was occupied by the British. This was followed by another British gain when they occupied many American positions at the Battle of White Plains on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Things were not going well.

A bright spot glimmered when the Dutch Republic officially recognized United States independence, boosting

morale to some extent. But the tide seriously turned for America when on December 25-26, 1776, General George Washington and his army crossed the Delaware River, surprised the British in a significant battle and effectively turned the tide of the war.

There were many more battles to be fought and many more hardships to endure, and we as AMERICANS should never forget the sacrifices that were made by those hearty few who fought for our freedom during that time. The war finally ended on September 3, 1783 when Great Britain recognized the sovereignty of the United States of America.

Now go read the rest of American history and gain an understanding of where we came from! God Bless America, God Bless these United States.

*Editor’s Note: And Happy 250th Birthday, USA! ■*

**Tutoring, Editing, Writing**

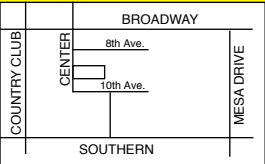
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# Try It; You'll Like It!

By Margie Anderson

If you've ever spent a long, cold winter day on the water without getting a bite, you know how difficult it can be to catch bass in cold water. Even if you aren't a tournament angler, there's nothing more disheartening than trudging up the ramp after an unsuccessful day, only to see other fishermen taking nice bags of bass to the scales.

## Winter Bass Fishing Secrets

Chances are, those successful anglers have learned the secret of fishing structure for winter bass. Western tournament pros have been perfecting the art of doodling for winter bass for years, and anglers around the country are discovering that the technique works no matter where you live.

After all, a bass is a bass no matter what part of the country he calls home, and bass all react the same way to cold water. Since their metabolism slows down with cold, they move to deeper water and feed less often.



Sometimes if the brush is heavy, you can put a stopper on the line just a little ways up from the weight. It helps keep the rig from wrapping around branches and such but still lets you click the bait.

## Doodling Is For Tough Conditions

"Doodling is a technique for tough conditions," says John Murray. "Why would you doodle if the fish are killing crankbaits?" Murray is one of the top professional bass anglers in the West, and is known for bringing in big sacks when others are getting skunked. "Doodling isn't a good way to find fish, but it's the best way to take a lot of fish off a spot once you know they are there," Murray adds. "In winter, once you locate fish, you can usually catch a bunch off the same spot."

Murray says that finesse fishing has gotten an undeserved reputation as a "little fish" technique. "To me," he says,



You don't always catch largemouth bass with a doodle rig — almost any fish will eat a little worm!



This is Don Iovino, the father of doodling. This photo is from a trip to Mexico where we fished together.

"finesse is more the presentation than the lure." A lot of the anglers out west who are entered in the Big Bass World Championship are catching huge bass doodling 12-inch hand-poured worms on light line with a 1/8-ounce sinker.

## The Key To Success

Locating fish is the key to success, and Murray relies on his electronics to find good structure in winter. "I don't look for fish," he emphasizes, "I look for structure at the right depth. I've caught some of my best bass in places where I didn't see any fish on the graph." A good depthfinder will show you the thermocline and bait-fish once you learn to use it, Murray says. Taking the time to become thoroughly familiar with your unit is imperative.

In cold water, bass tend to migrate to more vertical structure. Bluffs and steep banks are worth investigating, and the best points are long ones near a channel so they have a steep drop-off on one side or another. Creek channels themselves are key locations, too, but a drop-off alone isn't enough.

## Understanding A Breakline

"Most fishermen don't really understand the concept of a breakline," says Don Iovino, the father of doodling. "A drop-off alone isn't enough -- it has to have good structure like a rockpile, a tree, or something else on it. You can waste the whole day fishing a drop-off, especially in



Sometimes the best spots for doodling are far from shore.

winter, when the fish are all on one little piece of structure."

Iovino idles over ledges, points, and other likely places looking for isolated structures that are different from the rest of the drop-off. When he spots one on his LCR, he tosses a marker buoy on it, then turns around to investigate it more closely. The structure he's looking for has to be at the right depth. "Use your graph to figure out where the fish are holding," he says, "then stick to that depth, plus or minus about five feet."

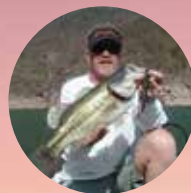
## After Four Or Five Passes

After circling the buoy and watching his graph to get the lay of the land, Iovino backs off about thirty to forty feet and drops his line to the bottom. He doodles



The late Marc Townsend caught this one at Bartlett.

DOODLING, continued on page 10



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f i y t d

# Bighorn Sheep Translocations Reduce Collision Risk, Strengthen Wild Populations

AZGFD and Freeport McMoRan team up to reduce hazards, help herds.

MORENCI, Ariz. — One of the world's most productive copper mines is also one of Arizona's most reliable sources of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. In a win-win for Arizona's sheep populations and the community of Morenci, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) wildlife managers routinely move sheep from dangerous locations amid mining operations and local traffic to areas where they can have a positive impact.

"These translocations are great because AZGFD is able to boost the numbers of wild Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and also lessen the hazard of vehicle collisions in the mine and nearby town," said Justin Winter, AZGFD terrestrial senior wildlife specialist.

## Not Shy

The bighorns are not shy about entering Freeport McMoRan's open-pit copper mining operation, but predators are — meaning there's no natural check on sheep population growth. Extra sheep create increased collision risk for mine workers and other drivers along U.S. Highway 191, but they also represent a healthy source population.

"You could almost consider the sheep living in the mine a nursery herd — it keeps growing sheep and we're able to utilize that population to increase numbers in the wild," Winter said. "The mine appreciates our translocation efforts too because each sheep we move is one less animal to pose a risk to workers and drivers."

## Translocated From Morenci

Two herds — the East Clear Creek



Freeport McMoran helps AZGFD quickly locate and capture sheep.

just outside of Winslow and the South Fork by Greer — were both started with sheep translocated from the Morenci mine.

During the most recent capture at the end of August, eight sheep were taken to the Upper Blue River Area where AZGFD biologists hope they will join the local bighorns.

"The Blue River herd has been slow-growing and survey numbers have been low over the past five years," Winter said. "If these eight sheep from the mine stay in the area, they'll be a great addition."

## Valuable Insights

Some of the sheep were fitted with tracking collars, which will give wildlife managers valuable location and behavior insights.

"These sheep will provide really good movement data," said Winter. "We'll be able to see which areas of the Upper Blue River they occupy and that'll help us refine our surveys and get a better un-

derstanding of what the population looks like."

Four of the collars were funded by donations from members of the public who support AZGFD's science-based wildlife conservation efforts. The collars will last about three years and utilize satellite-based GPS technology, giving biologists highly accurate and real-time data.

Along with deploying the tracking collars, AZGFD's assistant state wildlife veterinarian joined the capture to provide health checks.

## Healthy Population

"They are a pretty healthy population," said Dr. Ann Fan, DVM. "The one disease we worry the most about is bighorn sheep pneumonia (*Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*). This population has been closely monitored and we've never detected it — and thankfully, all eight of these sheep tested negative as well."

Of the eight sheep captured, seven were rams and just one was a ewe. Ideally, at least two more females would have



Big Horn Sheep gets tracking collar and health check.

been translocated, but AZGFD biologists do not capture ewes that are nursing or are still raising lambs. Fortunately, having the help of Freeport-McMoRan's security team and environmental division makes planning a return trip easy.

## Know Where They Are

"It's nice having people who already know where the sheep are and can help us navigate the mine and its operations," Winter said. "We can just drive down and start our capture without spending hours looking for sheep."

The newest members of the Blue River herd are settling in well and the partnership between AZGFD and Freeport McMoRan is a great example of how Arizona's industry and wildlife conservation efforts can work together. That's something Winter hopes will continue for years to come.

"It's such a great mutual benefit," Winter said. "Not only does AZGFD get to help wild bighorn sheep boost their numbers and establish new populations, we're also helping solve safety issues for the mine and the town of Morenci. It's truly a win-win." ■

## DOODLING

Continued from page 9

his way past the buoy about twenty feet, then takes a different angle back over the structure. If he hasn't gotten a bite after four or five passes at different angles, he leaves.

Basic doodling consists of fishing a small worm on light line with a small (5/32- to 3/16 oz.) brass weight and an 8mm glass bead. Shaking the line makes the brass and glass click, and this sound, combined with the vibrations from the shaking worm, attracts the bass.

## Stimulates Senses

Successful doodling stimulates all of a bass's senses. The clicking and shaking

create vibration, but both Iovino and Murray take further steps to ensure success. Don Iovino puts his worms in a plastic bag and covers them with scent. Murray relies on salty, hand-poured Double D worms or Berkley Power Worms to get the fish to hang on. Both agree that a good doodle worm has lots of salt or flavor.

Since doodling is a light-line technique, the equipment you use can mean the difference between success and failure. A good doodle rod should have enough power to set the hook even with a lot of line out, and a fast, somewhat limber tip so the lure can be shaken easily. It doesn't matter whether you use spinning or baitcasting gear, as long as the action is right and the rod is long enough to take up line quickly when you sweep to set the hook.

## Hook Must Be Strong, Sharp

Murray and Iovino both use 8-pound-test line, and both prefer to use a straight-shank hook. "When you have a lot of light line out, it's hard to get power in a hookset," says Iovino. A hook with no offset delivers more power to the point, and the hook must be strong and sharp. When a fish takes a doodle rig, the bite is simply a mushy feeling when you move the worm. The hookset needs to be immediate and the hook has to penetrate easily.

The soft worms that are most effective for doodling have a tendency to slip down the hook shank, so Iovino pegs the worm to the hook by slipping a length of heavy monofilament line through the worm and the eye of the hook. He also pegs the glass bead onto the line with a few strands of rubber skirt material to keep it about half an inch away from the worm. This lets the brass sinker click against the bead without putting pressure on the worm, as well as giving the worm more action when the rig is shaken.

## Which Works Best?

The type of structure you are fishing, and the position of the fish on or around that structure dictates the type of doodling that will work best. "Doodling is excellent for vertical structure," says John Murray. "My favorite way to doodle a bluff is to stay right over it and move the boat instead of the worm." He looks for a good piece of structure on the bluffs, like rocks or brush on a ledge at the right depth, then gets right over it and drops the worm down.

"Doodling is shaking, not hopping or lifting," he emphasizes, "you want to make as much noise and vibration as you



John caught this nice bass at Bartlett on a purple worm.

can without moving the worm from the spot." Murray has found that doodling works even better when you work uphill, so he will position his boat right over the structure, then drop his worm straight down. "You just shake the worm, then let it sit," he says, "then you move it uphill a tiny bit and shake it some more." He prefers to keep the line vertical so he can watch his graph—he gets a better feel for the lure that way.

## Give It A Try

If you're having trouble catching bass in cold water, give this old-school technique a try. You'll be glad you did! ■

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# Celebrate The New Year With Mother Nature

There are so many chances to learn, enjoy, and share.

Bring in the New Year with fresh perspectives from new and exciting outdoor experiences! If you're looking for a resolution you'll actually stick with, getting outdoors is one of the most gratifying, healthiest, and most fun ways to start 2026 happy, healthy, and with purpose. Your state parks are loaded with good times and great rangers who want to help you to realize your full outdoor potential.

Arizona's state parks are shining this time of year, especially across the Sonoran Desert where cooler temps ensure birds and wildlife are active amid some of the best hiking weather you'll find anywhere. Whether you want to try something new like birding, fishing, stargazing, or mountain biking, or simply looking to explore a region of the state you haven't visited yet...January is the perfect time to give it a go.

From red rock canyons to rolling grasslands to sun-soaked desert trails, early winter is when nearly every corner of Arizona feels just right. So lace up, layer up, and let this be the year you discover (or rediscover) the outdoor adventures that keep you healthy, curious, and inspired.

Your next favorite memory is waiting outside. Start 2026 with your old friend Mother Nature.

## Outdoors250 Celebrate Outside!

Outdoors250 is more than a celebration of the nation's 250th birthday...it's an invitation to get outside, try something new, and reconnect with Mother Nature through outdoor recreation.

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We've made it easy to join the fun. Just choose your adventure path below and sign up to potentially win prizes for enjoying the outdoor fun.

We have a ton of great options available, from guided trail excursions to immersive birding experiences and more, plus, Outdoors250 offers a wide range of outdoor events happening across Arizona. Explore Birding250 and Trails250 to find activities that spark your interest and match your sense of adventure.

## Something For Everyone

Whether you're interested in discovering a new pastime or returning to a favorite outdoor activity, there's something for everyone here.

Events begin January 1, with new and exciting opportunities added regularly... so check back often! Outdoors250 runs through July 4, 2026, and signing up makes you eligible for prize packs and outdoor-themed events. Start the new year on the right foot and step outside with Outdoors250!

## Event Options

Explore the event options below to find the experiences that best match your interests and sense of adventure, then sign up to participate and become eligible for exciting prizes. Events are offered throughout the state, making it easy to discover something fun close to home or plan a memorable outdoor escape farther afield.

With opportunities designed for a range of skill levels and interests, there's something for everyone to enjoy. New events are added regularly, so check back often to see what's coming next.

## About The America250 Celebration

Outdoors250 is proud to be part of America250, a nationwide initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States and reflecting on our shared history, values, and future. In Arizona, these efforts come together under Arizona250, led by the [Arizona Secretary of State's Office](#), which is coordinating a wide range of programs, events, and educational opportunities across the state.

Outdoors250 supports this vision by encouraging Arizonans to connect with the land, celebrate our natural heritage,

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and participate in meaningful outdoor experiences. Learn more about Arizona250 and explore additional initiatives taking place statewide by visiting the [Arizona250 website](#).

## Where the Colorado River Meets Arizona History

This month, we're spotlighting two incredible parks in Yuma that showcase the region's history, beauty, and unique sense of place.

[Colorado River State Park](#) offers a peaceful waterfront experience with rich interpretive displays that highlight the river's importance to Arizona's past and present. It's an ideal stop for travelers looking to explore the natural and cultural heartbeat of Southwestern Arizona. Just down the road is [Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park](#), one of Arizona's most iconic historic sites. Step inside the original cell blocks, wander through the museum, and experience the stories of the people who once lived within its walls. These parks bring history to life in a way you have to see to believe.

Whether you're planning a winter getaway or want a new destination to explore, Yuma's state parks offer unforgettable experiences you won't find anywhere else.

## Arizona's OHV Ambassadors

New to OHV or just want to learn the best places to ride? Join us for exciting FREE rides on trails throughout the state! The Arizona State Parks and Trails Off-Highway Vehicle volunteers, known as "Ambassadors" love sharing their favorite places to ride with new and novice riders.

The Show Me Ride program provides riders a statewide opportunity to experience new and exciting areas to ride while in a friendly group setting. These rides can range anywhere from 30 to 100 miles and provide a great resource for new and inexperienced riders to be exposed to new riding areas.

Each year 15 to 20 rides are held between October and May. Be sure to check back often for information on where we've been and how you can go out and enjoy the ride with your friends and family.

*(NOTE\* A valid [State Trust Land Permit](#) is required to stage your tow vehicle on State Trust Land or if you stop to enjoy other recreation opportunities on their properties.)*

## Interested In Becoming An OHV Ambassador?

- Increased outreach presence
- Increased information sharing between Arizona State Parks and its constituents
- Engage more riders
- Promote safe and responsible riding
- Provide new and accurate OHV information
- Distribute education and marketing materials

The following trails are previously completed Show Me Rides that the Ambassadors have mapped out just for you! These rides offer exciting off-road experiences within a variety of scenic locations throughout the state. Looking for a high country adventure filled with wildlife viewing, trout fishing opportuni-

ties, and expansive views from high in the White Mountains?

## Are You A Desert Rat?

Take a look at the Region 1 rides in Eastern Arizona. Maybe you're more of a desert rat that's right at home on the saguaro studded Sonoran Desert trails of regions 4 and 6? We've mapped out plenty of experiences like that too...and everything in-between!

Check back often to find upcoming Show Me Ride events or to access additional Show Me Rides as they're completed and added below. Click the explore button to find your next off-road experience and access maps, land manager contact info, and helpful tips to ensure you get the most out of your ride!

## What Is The Ambassador Program?

The Arizona OHV Ambassador program is a volunteer program that provides a means for private citizens to work with a variety of federal, state, local land managers, and public safety officials in Arizona to promote responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation throughout our beautiful state. These volunteers contribute their time, experience, and local knowledge of OHV areas through partnership with local, state, and federal agencies providing the following services:

## Community Outreach Events

Agency staff coordinate with private, local, state, and federal organizations to establish booth space for the Ambassador program to distribute Arizona Game and Fish, State Land Department, Arizona State Parks and Trails and some land manager's education and promotional materials to Arizona riders. Each year the Ambassador programs attends five (5) to 10 outreach events at numerous locations statewide.

## Trailside Meet And Greets

Agency staff coordinate with Ambassadors and land managers statewide to conduct trailside outreach and education events. Meet and Greets will be held at high-use areas and based on land manager needs. They are used to educate the public on riding safety, responsible use, and where users can legally ride.

## Special Work Projects

Agency staff coordinates with Ambassadors and land managers statewide to conduct trail maintenance, sign installation, clean-ups, trail brushing, and kiosk installation at various federal, state, and local riding/staging areas. Each year the Ambassador program coordinates 6-8 of these special work projects based on land manager needs.

## Take A Hike With Your New Best Friend

We're excited to highlight our partners at Pinal County Animal Care and Control, who are doing incredible work to support animals and communities across central Arizona. One of their standout collaborations takes place in our beloved Sonoran Desert at Picacho Peak State Park, where visitors can participate in the [shelter dog walking program](#) that gives adoptable dogs much-needed exercise, enrichment, socialization, and hopefully a new best friend. It's a heartwarming way to help animals while enjoying one of Arizona's most iconic southern Arizona parks.

Be sure to check out the [Pinal County Animal Care and Control website](#) to learn more about their programs and then join us at Picacho Peak to meet some amazing outdoor loving pups looking for their forever home! ■

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## Limited Engagement Performers: A First in Festival History!

This year, the Village of Fairhaven welcomes something entirely NEW to our merriment - **Limited Engagement Performers: Blades and Bravery, Jacques Ze Whipper, Dungeons and Shakespeare, Tiny Girl Big Show... and 2 MORE COMING SOON!**

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### Blades And Bravery

~ Limited Engagement Appearance on January 31 and February 1 ONLY ~

Skill, Danger, and some would say... Complete Lunatics! All wound up in a circle of trust! Blades and Bravery pushes the limits on knife throwing stunts, truly giving proof to their name! Balloon Targets, the Mannequin Challenge, Fire Knives, and the fabled Spinning Wheel of Destiny! Thrill meets Skill in this Daring Duo Demonstration. You paid for the whole seat, but you're only going to use the edge! Don't attempt these stunts at home, but the Knife-Throwing booth will be glad to see you! You can find them at Fairhaven Theatre!

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pushing boundaries, he's mastered the art of sword swallowing, knife throwing, and fire juggling—all while delivering laughs with his quick wit. From Renaissance Faires to corporate events, Cyrus brings skill, danger, and humor to every stage. His performances are a thrilling mix of daring stunts and storytelling, designed to leave audiences in awe.

### Sharper Than Ever

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### Gasp and Giggle

Every stunt is packed with humor and charm, keeping audiences laughing and gasping from start to finish.

### Danger with a Safety Net

Even the sharpest blades come with professional skill. Cyrus' shows are as safe as they are spectacular, leaving a lasting impression. ■

## 38th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival Features 200+ Artisans In A Unique Open-Air Marketplace

Mix foolish pleasures with artisan treasures!

The Arizona Renaissance Festival opens its gates on January 31st for its 38th annual season. Every Saturday, Sunday, and Presidents' Day Monday through March 29, visitors to the festival can browse the 16th-century elaborately adorned shops of the most unique open-air market in Arizona. Featuring hand-made products including jewelry, pottery, footwear, and home décor items, it's a shopper's paradise of over 200 incredibly talented artisans.

The festival artisan marketplace also features demonstrating artisans. Experience time-honored crafts such as glassblowing, blacksmithing, forging, woodcarving, leather tooling, candlemaking, coin stamping, jewelry making, boot making, and pottery. Watch artisans work as they create a masterpiece right before your eyes!

Then, take a one-of-a-kind piece home with you. There are more than enough items to fit any castle and budget. Don't forget baubles to adorn the Queen in your life! Here are just a few of the world-class artisans in the marketplace:

- Osborne Leather offers a variety of handmade leather items: hand-tooled,

hand-stained leather belts and barrettes.

- A Roguish Highlander features kilts, sporrans, clan tartan blankets, and all things Scottish.

- Manage your mane with a unique hair braid design with one of many complex and beautiful braiding designs from Twisted Sisters or Fantasy Hair Weaving.

- Beautiful gemstones at Schwartz Fine Minerals, a purveyor of unique, amazing gem and mineral specimens from around the globe.

- Peruse delicate, hand-painted porcelain jewelry at Indigo Turtle.

- Windwalker Moccasins and Catskill Mountain Moccasins both offer custom, handmade leather boots.

- Dreamstress brings you hand-sewn tapestries and pillows to enhance your abode.

- Indulge the whims of your inner pirate at one of three pirate shops: Amsbury, Treasures of the High Seas, and/or Pyrate's Plunder.

The 38th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival is held in Pinal County, east of Gold Canyon on U.S. Hwy 60. This major renaissance festival showcases a 16th-century European village over 50 acres and runs for nine weekends, attracting around 285,000 visitors annually.

For tickets and more information, visit [Arizona.RenFestInfo.com](http://Arizona.RenFestInfo.com). ■

## Village Marketplace And Artisans Come Together

Mix foolish pleasures with artisan treasures! The village marketplace has over 200 elaborately adorned shops offering an array of goods. Find unique hand made items such as blown glass, premium leather goods, and jewelry. Watch artisans work as they create a masterpiece right before your eyes!

Our Marketplace features over 200 artisans displaying a variety of unique, hand-made wares. Watch as the ancient skills of glassblowing, leatherwork, weaving, woodcarving, blacksmithing, candlemaking and pottery are displayed... IT IS A SHOPPER'S PARADISE!

There are more than enough items to fit any castle and budget. Don't forget baubles to adorn the Queen in your life!

### Listing of Artisans at the Festival

Wooden (and real!) swords and shields, pewter goblets, scented candles, hand-made soaps, exotic oils, carved furniture, copper fountains and sculptures, pillows and tapestries, a wide variety of clothing...the list is endless!

The Festival abounds with shopping where you will find one-of-a-kind gifts for any occasion and for those of the most discerning of taste.

The information on this page may not be completely up-to-date while we finalize details for the 2026 season. It will be fully updated in January.

### Adornments

- Aeris Dea
- Brooke Barboza Jewelry
- Buxom Pearls by Lady Castellana
- Coin Strike
- Crystal Underground
- Dancing Glass Beadworks
- Draecstone Glassworks
- Fairytale Fynery
- Gentry Jewelry
- Glass Robin
- Honorable Company of Metalsmiths
- Indigo Turtle
- Knotty Lady
- Lizard King Designs



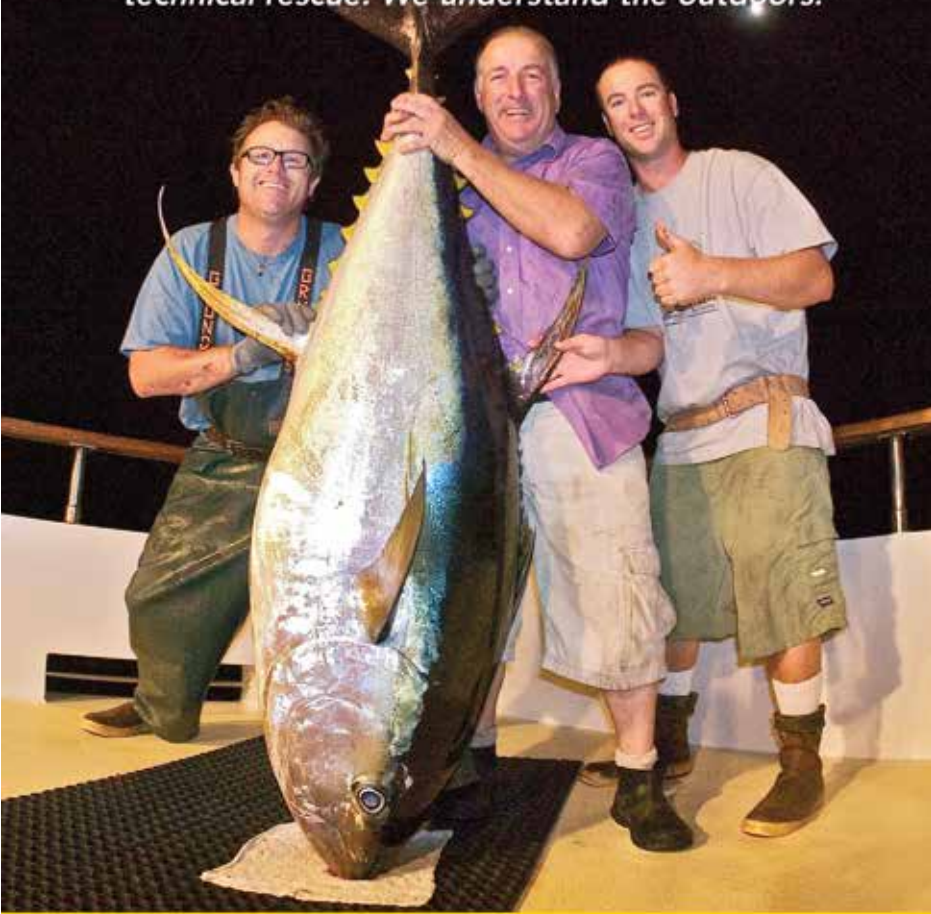
- Majestic Hair Flower
- Medieval Metal
- Morgan's Mane
- Muses of Da'Oud
- My Bella Luna
- Opinions In Bone
- Ravensburg Chain Maille
- Real Rose Jewelry
- Regal Amber
- Ren's Nest Gems
- Shack of Antler and Bone
- Shuck It Pearls
- Single Tree
- Sozra Jewelry and Art
- Starlit Skies
- Sterling Toe Rings
- Telluride Gold
- The Gilded Plume
- Uncommon Adornments
- We're Knot Working Witch Hazel

**ARTISANS**, continued on page 15

# 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."*





## Enjoy Camping At Maricopa County Parks

### Camping And Recreational Vehicles

The Family Campground includes **55 developed campsites** for both tent and RV camping. The average site length is 40 feet. Pull-through sites can accommodate RVs up to 60 feet and include water and electrical hookups, a picnic table, and a barbecue fire ring.

The campground provides clean restrooms with flush toilets and hot showers. A dump station is available at no additional charge for registered campers.

All campsites can be reserved online at: [www.exploremaricopacountyparks.org/](http://www.exploremaricopacountyparks.org/).

A virtual tour of the Family Campground is also available. Please note that the virtual tour is hosted on a website not managed by Maricopa County Parks. - [www.campground-views.com/listing/cave-creek-regional-park/](http://www.campground-views.com/listing/cave-creek-regional-park/)

Cave Creek Regional Park no longer offers a group campground.

#### Campsite Features

- Campsites include the following:
- Electrical and water hookups
  - Picnic table and fire pit
  - Access to restrooms with hot showers
  - Access to the campground dump station
- Primitive camping is not available at Cave Creek Regional Park.
- To view current camping fees, please visit the **Fees** page on the park website. ■

## ARTISANS

Continued from page 14)

### At Your Service

- Ancient Art of Massage
- Belrose Costume Rental Shop (Wheelchair, stroller, wagon & scooter rental)
- Caricatures by Stevie D
- Elf Ears
- Enchanted Images
- Face and Body Painting
- Family History of Surname
- Fantasy Hairweaving
- Folklore Face Painting
- French Braids by Twisted Sisters
- Greyhound Guild
- Gypsy Eyes
- Gypsy Fortunetelling
- Illuminations Handwriting Analysis
- Lofton's Creations Caricature
- Madame Onae
- Mahalakshmi Henn
- Mahamudra Body Art
- Palm Readings
- Phoenix Henna Body Art

### Candles

- Candle Dipping Myth & Moonstone
- Irie Lights
- Royal Candlemaker
- Wax Hands

### Children's Fare

- Adventure Armoury
- Arizona Birds of Play
- Burnt Mountain Crafts
- Dragon Pets
- Elf Ears
- Enchanted Hat
- Fairy Haven
- House of Bubbles
- Imaginarium Galleries
- Magical Butterflies
- Pixie Point
- Pirate's Plunder
- Scarlett's Whimsies Traditional Toys
- Young at Heart

### Clothing and Textiles

- A Roguish Highlander
- Blonde Swan Hats
- Boss Wench
- DoMBA
- Dreamstress Tapestry
- Fairy Flare
- Feather Tree Silk
- Greentree Weaving
- Jiva Silk Originals
- New Pterodactyl Leather
- Nomadic Dreams
- Ophelias
- Pendragon Costumes
- Pandora's Kloset
- Sheepskin Shoppe
- Squire's Attire
- That Sandal Shoppe
- Unicorn Clothing
- Wandering Witch

### Glasswork

- Clear Creations
- Draecstone Glassworks
- Glass Robin
- Old Castle Glass
- Raven's Glass
- Red Wolf Glass

### Hearth and Home

- Apothacoffee
- Bad Badger Horns
- Broomhilde
- Caina Tea
- Crysalis Hammocks
- Gargoyles Inc.
- Garlic Festival Shop
- Iron Ladle Kitchen
- Oh My Gourd!
- Saga of Antler and Bone
- Sky Chairs
- Sol Prisms TreeHaven by TallFellow
- The Clove & Hive
- The Horn Shoppe
- The Saucy Wench
- Where the Gods Live

### Leatherwork

- Artsmyths
- Boar's Head Leather
- Catskill Mountain Moccasins
- Celtic Leather Works
- D & U Leather Mugs
- Grichels
- K & R Armory
- New Pterodactyl Leather
- Osborne Leather
- Rose and Thorn Armory
- Satori Masks
- Windwalker Moccasins
- Wylde Phoenix Leather

### Lotions and Potions

- Badger Creek Soaps
- Belle Star Oyles & Incense
- Global Scent Company
- Mountain Song Herbals
- The Silk Road Traders

### Metalwork

- Ancient Arts
- Copper Garden
- Dragon Forge Experience
- Honorable Company of Metalsmiths
- Iron Grip Blacksmith
- Moonbeams
- The Celtic Dragon Blacksmith Shoppe
- Valkyrie's Armourer
- Wild Steel Roses
- WildSteel Kingscraft
- WyredWorks

### Musical Instruments

- Bard's Musik Shoppe
- Spice Traders Music

### Pewter

- Ballena Bay Pewter
- Fellowship Foundry Pewtersmiths
- K. Dopita Studios
- Lady Artisan

### Pottery and Ceramic Art

- Ash Pottery
- Chime-a-Lot
- Clay Maiden
- Cricket Hill Pottery
- Indigo Turtle
- Traveler's Treasures

### Print and Books

- Anise Designs
- Anwyn ilo Art
- Ann Chamberlin Books
- Art of Mys
- Bashful Beasts
- Light Fantastic
- Medieval Mapmaker
- The Page and Pen
- Sozra Jewelry and Art
- Ruth Thompson Fantasy Art
- The Butterfrog
- The Rabbit Hero

### Unique Specialties

- Amsbury's Beads
- Brom's Bug Box
- Crow Nouveau
- Danny Boy Pipes
- Elf Ears
- Joker Press
- Lake Fairy Creations
- Little Empire
- Medieval Mapmaker
- Mythologicae
- Oakshire Magical Menagerie
- Oakshire Oddities
- Pirates Plunder
- Schwartz Fine Minerals
- Treasures of the High Seas
- Twiggs and Berries
- Twisted Spiders
- Valkyrie's Armourer
- Where the Gods Live
- Whirlwood Magic Wands

### Weaponry

- Legacy Forge
- Sabersmith
- Starfire Swords
- StickBow Archery

### Whimsies

- Crow Nouveau
- Den of Odd
- Gilded Parasol
- Imaginarium Galleries
- Twisted Spiders
- Warts, Scales and Dragon Tales
- Whimsy Winks

### Woodwork

- Black Dragon
- Broomhilde
- Goodly Woods
- Staffs by Gust
- Whirlwood Magic Wands
- Wild Vines Woodworking

# Arizona State Parks Urges You To Visit All Of Them In 2026!

## ALAMO LAKE STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Cabins, Campsites, Biking Trails, Swimming, Fishing, Boating

## BUCKSKIN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Campsites, Hiking Trails, Swimming, Fishing, Boating



## CATALINA STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Campsites, Trails, Biking Trails, Horse Trails, Historical/Archaeological

## CATTAIL COVE STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Campsites, Hiking Trails, Swimming, Fishing, Boating

## COLORADO RIVER STATE HISTORIC PARK

**Park Features:** Historical/Archaeological

## DANKWORTH POND STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Historical/Archaeological, Swimming, Fishing, Boating



MURDER BIKE

## DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Cabins, Campsites, Hiking Trails, Biking Trails, Horse Trails, Fishing, Boating

## FOOL HOLLOW LAKE RECREATION AREA

**Park Features:** Campsites, Hiking Trails, Biking Trails, Fishing, Boating

## FORT VERDE STATE HISTORIC PARK

**Park Features:** Historical/Archaeological



WIWAD

## GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails

## HOMOLOVI STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Campsites, Hiking Trails, Historical/Archaeological

## JEROME STATE HISTORIC PARK

**Park Features:** Historical/Archaeological



MIKE LEWIS

## KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Cabins, Campsites, Hiking Trails, Historical/Archaeological

## LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Cabins, Campsites, Hiking Trails, Swimming, Fishing, Boating

## LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Cabins, Campsites, Hiking Trails, Biking Trails

## LYMAN LAKE STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Cabins, Campsites, Hiking Trails, Biking Trails, Historical/Archaeological, Swimming, Fishing, Boating

## MCFARLAND STATE HISTORIC PARK

**Park Features:** Historical/Archaeological

## ORACLE STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Biking Trails, Horse Trails, Historical/Archaeological

## PATAGONIA LAKE STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Cabins, Campsites, Hiking Trails, Horse Trails, Swimming, Fishing, Boating

## PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Campsites, Hiking Trails

## RED ROCK STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Biking Trails, Horse Trails, Historical/Archaeological

## RIORDAN MANSION STATE HISTORIC PARK

**Park Features:** Historical/Archaeological

## RIVER ISLAND STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Campsites, Hiking Trails, Swimming, Boating

## ROCKIN' RIVER RANCH STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Swimming, Fishing

## ROPER LAKE STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Cabins, Campsites, Hiking Trails, Swimming, Fishing, Boating

## SAN RAFAEL STATE NATURAL AREA

**Park Features:** Historical/Archaeological



DON GRAHAM

## SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Historical/Archaeological, Swimming, Fishing

## SONOITA CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Biking Trails, Horse Trails, Swimming, Fishing

## TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK

**Park Features:** Historical/Archaeological

## TONTO NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Historical/Archaeological, Swimming

## TUBAC PRESIDIO STATE HISTORIC PARK

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Historical/Archaeological, Swimming

## VERDE RIVER GREENWAY STATE NATURAL AREA

**Park Features:** Hiking Trails, Swimming, Fishing, Boating

## YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON STATE HISTORIC PARK

**Park Features:** Historical/Archaeological ■

## ACTIVITIES

Continued from page 4

back when you're done being active on the lake. It's so easy to relax by the water and experience the simple joy of a nice day with a gorgeous view.

### Buckskin Mountain State Park

Buckskin Mountain State Park is just north of Parker, and is well-known for expansive views and river-front campsites! Set up a tent right on the water to enjoy the ambiance of the cool Colorado River and let the water's steady flow take your cares downstream. There are so many incredible things to discover at this laid back park, so set up your RV or pitch a campsite...Then start having fun!

After camp is set up, you'll have plenty of time for fishing, floating down the river, or boating along the amazing shoreline. Or, if you're into hiking, check out the expansive trail network at the park,

then take a quick dip in the river to cool off before heading back to camp.

### River Island State Park

Just one mile outside of Buckskin Mountain lies River Island State Park, a low profile campsite with quick access to the Colorado River. Keep your vacation laid back with the quality fishing and boating found here, or float an inner tube down the lazy Colorado.

Dogs are welcome at River Island for both tent and RV camping, plus there's a fenced dog run so your pup can explore off-leash! Beachfront campsites are great for scenic views and easy access to the water for all your day's activities!

### Alamo Lake State Park

Alamo Lake State Park is one of the best places to fish for bass in Arizona, and it comes with a crystal clear lake surrounded by mountainous terrain. Launch your boat from the park and spend the day enjoying the water - whether or not you



### River Island

plan to fish.

This quiet park is nestled in the Bill Williams River Valley, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The dark skies are the perfect canopy to your lakeside adventure, and with campsites and cool camping cabins, you'll want to unplug and stay for awhile.

### SOUTHERN ARIZONA LAKES Patagonia Lake State Park

Patagonia Lake State Park is the gem of southern Arizona, and people love to swim, boat, canoe, kayak and play at this



### Patagonia Lake

beautiful water destination. The campground overlooks the lake where anglers catch crappie, bass, bluegill, catfish, and trout. The park is popular for stand-up paddle boarding, fishing, camping, boating, and hiking.

With camping cabins that overlook the water and feature the amazing sunsets, boat-in campsites, a white sand beach, and scenic desert views, the family will

**ACTIVITIES**, continued on page 19

# What Does Sacrifice Look Like?

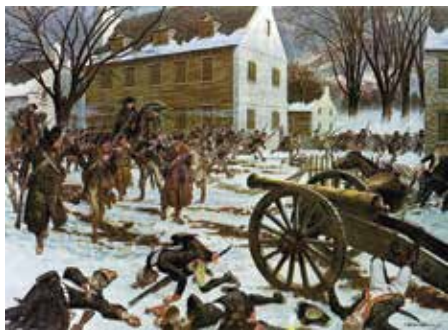
By Tom Cole, Retired Marine  
Special Features Writer

As we move towards the 250th anniversary of our Independence, it might be a good idea to give a thought to where we came from and who provided our freedom to us.

They were farmers, cobblers, black smiths, shop keepers, tailors, teachers, preachers, landowners, businessmen, hunters, sailors, boat builders, fishermen, tinkers, inn keepers, sheep herders, and many other men from other occupations of that time. They were grandfathers, fathers, sons, uncles and brothers and in many cases moms, sisters, aunts, daughters and grandmothers. All had a dream; all came to fight or to help to make the dream of independence a reality. To help and forge a nation, a nation of freedom. To enact laws of equality and freedom for all. Fairness under the law. But first they had to suffer. To endure the pain of loss, of hunger, of watching the things and people they loved suffer, be destroyed or die.

These were the people who fought in the Revolutionary War. Many were uneducated and unrefined, especially to the British sensibilities. They were treated poorly and unfairly by the Brits and so it came to war.

They fought with rags on their bodies and on their feet. Through the heat of summer and the freezing temperatures of winter. They fought without food or lodging in many cases. Their families were left alone when they were away fighting. The families were harassed and in some cases tortured while their homes and crops were destroyed.



Many of the gentlemen who signed the Declaration of Independence left wealthy men, only to return home impoverished. But they fought anyway; “better to die standing than to submit on my knees.” They realized that dream and they were proud, as we should be.

Throughout our history there have always been those few who have answered the call. Those who suffer the slings and arrows of unkind remarks from those who have no understanding of what those who sacrifice do or have done for this nation. Many have paid the ultimate price, while others have been maimed or crippled both mentally or physically. There are still those people who complain when they should be grateful. A simple “thank you” would be nice.

Today there are still those who sacrifice for this nation. People in our armed forces, our police of all kinds, fire fighters, immigration and border patrol officers who put themselves in harm’s way for the good of all who reside in this great nation. God bless them all and keep them safe.

And for those of you who find them objectionable . . . you’re free to leave any time. ■

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vfwazdist4@gmail.com

VFW Post 3513

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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# Horses Offer Healing, Empowerment To Veterans And First Responders

## Learn More About Reigning Grace Ranch

Reigning Grace Ranch is a non-profit organization that offers a unique combination of mentorship and equine-assisted experiential learning programs to help children, families and first-responders heal, strengthen and empower their future with our horse companions at their side every step of the way. For more information about the Ranch and the life-changing work we perform in our communities, contact us at [information@azrgr.org](mailto:information@azrgr.org).



**Equine-assisted therapy (EAT) encompasses a range of treatments that involve activities with horses and other equines to promote human physical and mental health.**

Reigning Grace Ranch, allowing us to continue making a positive impact on the lives of both people and horses. By donating to the ranch or sponsoring a horse, you become a vital part of our mission, helping us provide rescue, care, and meaningful programs for those in need. Click here to learn more about how you can make a difference today!

If you're looking to surrender a horse to Reigning Grace Ranch, please complete our Owner Surrender Application.



## Volunteer

Volunteering at Reigning Grace Ranch is a life-changing experience. Volunteers perform almost every task at this home for rescued horses. As ranch members they can learn the skills of horsemanship. They experience firsthand the un-

matched reward of equine therapy in their own lives and in those served by the ranch. Learn more about volunteering and becoming a member.

## Mailing Address

28150 N. Alma School Pkwy.  
Ste. 103-481  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85262

## Ranch Address

28614 N. 172nd. St.  
Rio Verde, Arizona 85263  
Telephone (480) 442-8934

**Join us January 23 for the 'Old Fashioned Hoe Down' at VFW Post 3513,7220 E Wilshire Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85257, (480) 941-9849 to celebrate our support of this program. ■**

## Take A Tour

Warning: If you take a tour of Reigning Grace Ranch, the odds are that you'll be hooked. For a close-up look at how a real horse ranch operates, visit our Event Calendar for available Tour dates and times; find a date and time that fits your schedule.

Our tour and volunteer coordinator will introduce you to the herd, describe the transformative work being carried out, and answer all your questions—including how to join our team of dedicated volunteers who passionately give their time, energy, and enthusiasm to serving our communities.

## Donate Or Sponsor A Horse

Your generosity fuels the heart of

# Business Directory

## BOAT TRANSPORT

**Hale's Marine Service**  
(623) 879-7236  
[halesmarineservice@aol.com](mailto:halesmarineservice@aol.com)  
[halesmarineservices.com](http://halesmarineservices.com)  
22241 North 24 Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85027 U.S.A

## FIBERGLASS REPAIR

**Sun Valley Fiber-Glas, Inc.**  
480-833-6561  
925 South Center  
Mesa, AZ, U.S.A

## MARINAS

**Bartlett Lake Marina**  
NE of Carefree, AZ U.S.A.  
602/316-3378  
[bartlettlake.com/index.html](http://bartlettlake.com/index.html)  
[info@bartlettlake.com](mailto:info@bartlettlake.com)

**Pleasant Harbor RV Resort & Marina**  
Peoria, AZ  
(928) 501-5263  
(602) 269-0077  
[pleasantharbor.com](http://pleasantharbor.com)

## PUBLICATIONS

**Arizona Boating & Watersports**  
480/947-6219  
[jim@azbw.com](mailto:jim@azbw.com)  
[azbw.com](http://azbw.com)  
[westernoutdoortimes.com](http://westernoutdoortimes.com)

**Florida Boating & Watersports**  
480/947-6219  
[jim@azbw.com](mailto:jim@azbw.com)  
[floridaboatingandwatersports.com](http://floridaboatingandwatersports.com)

**Western Outdoor Times**  
480/947-6219  
[jim@azbw.com](mailto:jim@azbw.com)  
[azbw.com](http://azbw.com)  
[westernoutdoortimes.com](http://westernoutdoortimes.com)

**Rocky Point Times Newspaper**  
(52) 6383836325  
[rptimes@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:rptimes@prodigy.net.mx)  
[rockypointcollectibles.com](http://rockypointcollectibles.com)  
P.O. Box 887  
Lukeville, AZ 85341 U.S.A.

## RADIO SHOWS

**Don McDowell Outdoors**  
(623) 221-7655  
[don@shakerattleandtroll.com](mailto:don@shakerattleandtroll.com)  
[huntingfishing.com](http://huntingfishing.com)  
Glendale, AZ

## REPAIR

**Hale's Marine Service**  
(623) 879-7236  
[halesmarineservice@aol.com](mailto:halesmarineservice@aol.com)  
[halesmarineservices.com](http://halesmarineservices.com)  
22241 North 24 Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85027 U.S.A.

## SWIM PLATFORMS

**Swim Platforms**  
[Swimplatforms.com](http://Swimplatforms.com)  
602/431-8225  
[swimplatforms.com](http://swimplatforms.com)  
3220 S. 38th St  
Phoenix, AZ 85040 U.S.A.

## TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

**Arizona Trade Exchange**  
<https://itradePAY.com>  
iTrade Pay  
<https://itradePAY.com>

## TRAILERS

**Kokopelli Trailers**  
[kokopellitrailers.com](http://kokopellitrailers.com)

## WEB SITES

**Arizona Boating & Watersports/**

**Western Outdoor Times**  
(480) 947-6219  
[jim@azbw.com](mailto:jim@azbw.com)  
[azbw.com](http://azbw.com)  
[westernoutdoortimes.com](http://westernoutdoortimes.com)  
7620 East McKellips Road, Ste 490  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

List your business in our Western Outdoor Business Directory.

[westernoutdoortimes.com/directory](http://westernoutdoortimes.com/directory)



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[fearlesskittyrescue.org](http://fearlesskittyrescue.org)

## ACTIVITIES

Continued from page 16

want to stay the whole summer.

### Roper Lake/Dankworth Pond State Parks

Near Safford, these two lake parks offer summertime fun with plenty of choices. Cool off by boating or paddle-boarding, then bait your hook and catch your dinner. Roper Lake is home to outsized largemouth bass, eager schools of crappie, tons of bluegill, sunfish, and channel catfish.

If fishing isn't your speed, kayak through the water, enjoying the view and the water fun. Though at 32 acres this lake is smaller than others in the state park system, much of the lake provides great habitat and ample opportunity to catch some nice fish during your visit. At Dankworth Pond, you can enjoy the fishing dock, and you can kayak or boat.

### NORTHERN ARIZONA LAKES AND RIVERS

#### Lyman Lake State Park

Lyman Lake is one of the few bodies of water in northeastern Arizona with no size restrictions on boats. The west end of the lake is buoyed off and restricted as a no wake area (5 mph). This allows the angler a chance at a variety of fish without the proximity of speedboats and water-skiers. The fishery consists of walleye, channel catfish and largemouth bass.

The large remainder of the lake is open for all other types of water sports. Lyman Lake really comes into its own during the spring, summer, and fall. Summer days, with temperature highs in the 80s to low 90s, are perfect for fishing, swimming, leisure boating, water-skiing, hiking or just relaxing.

#### Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area

Show Low Creek flows into Fool

Hollow Lake, providing a natural feeding ground for a variety of wildlife and a very diverse fishery. The cool northern lake is at 6,300 feet in elevation, and comfortably nestled within Arizona's White Mountains. Large and smallmouth bass, walleye, pike, and trout are all swim the depths of this Arizona high-country gem.

Visitors can also rent canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards from J&T's Wild-Life Outdoors, our concessionaire located near the east boat launch ramp. Get a whole new view of Fool Hollow Lake by renting a canoe or kayak and spending your summer days out on the water!

#### Slide Rock State Park

Just in time for summer, Slide Rock State Park has made the Travel Channel's list of "10 Top Swimming Holes in the United States." Sedona's red rocks form the «ultimate water slide.» Slide Rock includes a 1/2 mile of Oak Creek that is open for swimming, wading and sliding.

The world-famous slide that our park is named for is an 80 foot-long slippery chute that is worn into sandstone. Pack a picnic and explore the apple orchard and beautiful scenery after your swim, then head back in for seconds.

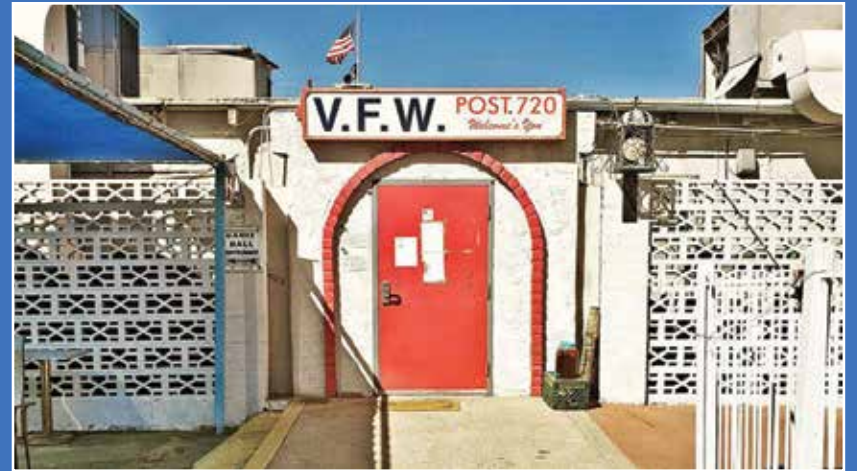
#### Dead Horse Ranch State Park And Verde River Greenway State Natural Area

Within north central Arizona's Verde River Valley, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, and the associated section of the Verde River, give anglers a chance to catch a variety of sportfish. Largemouth bass, rainbow trout, channel catfish, bluegill, green sunfish, and an occasional crappie live within the cattail lined lagoons at the park.

Plus, the lagoons are great for canoeing or kayaking, and access to the Verde River gives you even more chances to get out on the water to explore. You might even catch sight of birds or wildlife as you float down the river. ■



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



#### VFW POST 720

- Barry Goldwater was a lifelong member.
- The food is amazing and the outdoor gathering space is comfortable and relaxing
- Hall Rental Available (Capacity 300+)



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# OUTDOOR TIMES

A PUBLICATION OF ARIZONA BOATING & WATERSPORTS

## Celebrate 2026 & 250!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
2026 Begins U.S. Celebrations

**SACRIFICE**  
Freedom Has Never Been Free

**RAUCOUS MERRIMENT**  
Huzzah At The Ren Faire

## 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



PADDLE BOARD

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