



Visit With Mother Nature

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

Just now, in this transition season before it gets too hot, is the perfect outdoor time. Hiking, enjoying water activities, or experiencing the grand glory of Arizona's world-famous canyon: All these invitations to visit Mother Nature await you. Please join us with an RSVP that you will be there; you will surely be refreshed and thrilled with the beauty and grandeur of our state. ■



When the Anderson's granddaughters were little, they loved carrying their own little day or fanny pack with their "survival" kit.

HIKING WITH KIDS

It's A Good Time To Teach Safety, Survival, Conservation

Hiking with young ones can be fun for both them and their adults.

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

The American Hiking Society's 30th Annual National Trails Day celebration on June 4 this year made me think that this was the perfect time to share some of the things I've learned that can make hiking with kids a lot more fun – for you *and* them!

We've been taking our granddaughters hiking with us almost since they could

walk, so I have plenty of experience. Also, we used to lead hikes for a trail group in our church, and we had a lot of families, some with really small kids, so I'm familiar with that, too!

Babies

Most of the time, very small babies and toddlers will be in a backpack and carried by a parent. I have to admit that every time I led a group that included a baby in a backpack, it made me nervous. I'm a worry wart, and I was always afraid the person carrying the baby might fall. So my best advice if you're carrying a baby is *be careful*.

Wear good hiking shoes and carry a trek

pole for extra stability. Stay on the trail and watch for trip hazards. Also, don't forget that the baby is probably at least partially wrapped in a blanket and is inside a nylon bag, essentially – and it could get hot in there. Don't forget to give the baby frequent drinks of water and make sure he or she is wearing a hat for shade.

Toddlers

Trinity is three years older than Emily, so when we started taking them on hikes, Trinity was about five, but Emmy was still a toddler. We'd bring a stroller and let her ride as much as she wanted to. That stroller was great for carrying things, too!

You'd be surprised at the number of trails that you can take a stroller on – Kendrick Park Watchable Wildlife Trail northwest of Flagstaff is one. It has a paved trail that is dynamite with great views and lots of shade. Other good trails for strollers include the trail that circles Lynx Lake, the Waterfall Trail in the White Tanks, and the beautiful trails in the Gilbert Riparian Preserve.

Young Kids To Pre-Teens

This is when it gets really fun. By the time the girls were 6 or 7, they wanted their own backpacks and water bottles to carry. I took

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Before summer sizzles, get out on the water in Havasu.

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LAND CRUISING

Tom Cole is serious about scooters and safety.



SCOTWRITER21

'Come To The Fun Side' —

Just Minutes Away At Pleasant

Just forty-five minutes from downtown Phoenix, Pleasant Harbor, located on the southeastern shores of Lake Pleasant, serves as a one-stop recreation spot for lakeside fun. Pleasant Harbor is open 365 days a year and operates 24 hours a day.

Do you want to rent a boat, show-off on water skis, wake board or lake surf? Jet Ski, kayak, paddle board or sail? Did we mention, Pleasant Harbor is home to the World's Largest Floating Waterslide — H2Whoa!?! Another popular activity for all ages at Pleasant Harbor includes a trip aboard *The Phoenix*, a 150-person boat cruise, departing throughout the week, as well hosting sunset and dinner cruise op-

portunities. These activities and much more are all available at Pleasant Harbor and, for most Phoenicians, the closest spot to enjoy lakeside fun.

After a day full of lake activities, enjoy a meal and drinks at Dillon's Bayou. This lakeside restaurant is open for lunch and dinner during the week and breakfast, lunch and dinner on the weekends. And, at the end of the day, there's no reason to drive back home — Pleasant Harbor RV resort offers 254 sites with full hookups and unlimited dry camping, with amazing views of Lake Pleasant. Summer weekends fill up fast, so be sure to call ahead

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North Rim Of Grand Canyon Has Opened For 2022 Season

The North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park opened in mid May to mark the official start of the 2022 season. Grand Canyon Lodge and Grand Canyon Trail Rides will also commence their 2022 seasonal operations on this date.

Visitor services, including the campground, Grand Canyon Conservancy bookstore and the Backcountry Information Office will open at 8 a.m. Information on daily Park Ranger programs will be available at the Roaring Springs Overlook Kiosk through October 15. Grand Canyon Lodge North Rim operations, including lodging, groceries, retail, food and beverage services, shower and laundry and the gas station, will also open May 15. The lodge dining room will be

NORTH RIM, continued on page 18



SONAAL-BANGERA/UNSPASH



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WESTERN WILDLIFE

Be very 'Bear Aware'!



EARLY JUNE THROUGH EARLY DECEMBER: NRA-CERTIFIED FIREARM TRAINING

Spring is finally here and to celebrate we've added more NRA Certified Training Courses to meet increased demand. Whether you're a new gun owner looking for a concealed carry course or an experienced marksman who wants to take their training to the next level, NRA Certified Instructors have a course for you. Don't wait. Courses (pistol, rifle, shotgun, self defense, home firearm safety, are filling up fast. Enroll today at this site:

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/SearchResults.aspx?State=n&zip=85257&radius=100.1&id=57,56,6,51,47,73&bsa=&youth=&women=>



JUNE 14: HUNT-PERMIT TAGS

There's not a better time than right now to apply for 2022 hunt permit-tags issued through the draw process for deer, fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall bison and sandhill crane. Apply now for 2022 fall hunts; don't wait until the last minute June 14.

To apply, visit www.azgfd.com/hunting/draw/. All applications must be received by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) no later than 11:59 p.m. (Arizona time) Tuesday, June 14.

Through June 19: Chihuly In The Desert

Visit <https://dbg.org/media-release/desert-botanical-garden-announces-chihuly-in-the-desert/>

July 9, 10: Summer HAHWG Meeting

We are northbound to Flagstaff to our old stomping grounds at the Arizona Nordic Village. It will be our standard 2-day meeting, Saturday, July 9 thru Sunday, July 10. For those that like to come early, we will be on site, Friday evening. (dispersed camping only, yurts and cabins are booked)

www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills



JULY 10: ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission annually awards the organization Special Big Game Tags for seven species — bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, bison and turkey. Raffle tickets are available for \$5 to \$25 each, depending on the species, and ticket sales go to on-the-ground conservation.

This month, seven lucky winners will receive a pair of binoculars from Vortex Optics. Place multiple orders and receive additional chances to win. The winners will be drawn on or before June 5 and posted to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle website.

The deadline to enter the raffle is Sunday, July 10, at 10 p.m. (Arizona time). There is no limit to the number of raffle tickets you can order. The names of the winners will be drawn July 20.

In the 16-year history of the raffle, more than \$9.2 million have been raised for wildlife and wildlife management in Arizona. Last year's event generated \$765,125.



Every dollar raised for each species through the raffle is returned to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and managed by the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee for that particular species. With input from local habitat partners across the state and sponsoring organizations involved in the fundraising, project priorities are determined that will provide the most benefit to each species.

Follow Arizona Big Game Super Raffle on Instagram and watch its latest video.



THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9: GRAND CANYON SHUTTLE

Shuttle Bus Routes in Operation this Summer

Summer Bus Schedule: (through September 9, 2022)

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm>

THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2023: THE LOST BIRD PROJECT

The Lost Bird Project is an acclaimed sculpture installation by artist and sculptor Todd McGrain, featuring five extinct North American bird species — the passenger pigeon, great auk, Labrador duck, Carolina parakeet and heath hen. The Project uses art to raise awareness of vanished species and inspire a greater connection and stronger relationship with the Earth.

The Lost Bird Project's magnificent bronze sculptures will be displayed throughout the Phoenix Zoo, with prints and photographs featured inside the Savanna Gallery.

<https://www.visitarizona.com/events/the-lost-bird-project/>

REMEMBERING GRAHAM WALKER

It was an honor to work with this man at Cook College and Theological School throughout the '80s and early '90s. He was a mentor and a friend. Graham will be missed, and I send sincere condolences to his beloved wife Barbara and his many friends.



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2008 & 2013 AZGFC Media of the Year

2009 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit

2016 AZGFC Writer Of The Year

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Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events — "Downstream" — to editor@azbw.com. To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the tenth (10th) of the month prior to publication. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but we assume no responsibility for print errors or omissions. We also reserve the right to edit each item. Please include the name of the event, the date and time, the location, the organization, and contact information. You can also submit your event individually at westernoutdoortimes.com/classifieds.

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.



Arizona Game & Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086
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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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BEFORE SUMMER SIZZLES

Enjoy Some Cool Water At Lake Havasu

Even though Lake Havasu City is the U.S. city with the highest recorded temperature (128 degrees in June 1994), summer travelers actually flock to this Colorado River town to cool off. But spring doesn't end until June 21, so visitors to Lake Havasu City still have time to enjoy milder temps before the hot summer weather and crowds set in.

"Late spring is ideal for a cooler-weather getaway before summer's sizzling boating season revs up. It's the final call until late fall brings heat relief," says Terence Concannon, president/CEO of Go Lake Havasu. "Plus, visitors can enjoy great rates at our hotels and resorts when they beat the summer crowds."

Among the attractions Concannon suggests visitors consider in late spring are these:

- **Get Out On The Lake** –The water might be too cold for swimming for some people. But there are always plenty of ways to have fun with topside water activities. Rent a human-powered stand-up paddleboard, canoe or kayak (some rigged for fishing). There are also personal watercraft (PWC) for rent that offer high-octane, wet, and wild fun. Family friendly favorites include pontoons, tritoons (with a third tube beneath a flat deck), and wakeboard boats for the entire family.

View a list of rental companies at: <https://www.golakehasvu.com/Water-Based>

- **Rubber Ducky, You're the One** – Captain your own 2-or 4-person Rubba Duck Safari rubber inflatable to the California



shore and back to the Arizona Coast, or upriver through Topock Gorge, one of the last remaining undeveloped sections of the lower Colorado River. Welcome aboard. You're the pilot. (<https://www.golakehasvu.com/rubba-duck-safari>)

- **Blow Some Bubbles** – Scuba diving at Lake Havasu is accessible from the beach or by boat. Visibility ranges from 10 to 50 feet throughout the year, with water temperatures as high as 85 degrees F. in the peak of summer. Wetsuits help divers stay warmer and more comfortable during cooler weather months. With more than 30 specific dive sites featuring attractions such as shipwrecks, sunken planes, underwater geology, fish habitats, and even a deserted underwater town from the 1800s, Lake Havasu is home to some of the best dive sites in Arizona and the Southwest. (<https://www.golakehasvu.com/scuba-diving/>)

LAKE HAVASU, continued on page 5

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BOATUS CONSUMER ALERT

Be Wary Of This Letter Re: Documentation Renewal

Official-looking vessel documentation renewal notices can lead to confusion and higher costs.

Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) is advising boaters with vessels that have a U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation to be wary of any letter arriving by U.S. mail offering renewal.

BoatUS advises that while the Coast Guard does send official annual renewal notices by U.S. mail, other notices being received by BoatUS members are not from the Coast Guard but rather third-party companies whose name or return addresses may appear similar to that of

the official U.S. Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC).

BoatUS members have complained that these letters direct them to websites that may be mistaken for the actual Coast Guard NVDC located in Falling Waters, West Virginia, and appear to show a significant increase in the annual fee to renew Coast Guard documentation.

A 2017 Coast Guard issued a bulletin says in part:

"The NVDC is aware that there are commercial entities that offer to manage



the certification/renewal process on behalf of vessel owners for a fee. The Coast Guard does not endorse any of these companies, and the companies do not operate on behalf of the Coast Guard in

any way. Any fees charged or agreements offered by such companies are in no way associated with the NVDC certification process. In addition, these companies are not authorized to issue any form of documentation, including travel letters and/or permits that authorize operation of ANY vessel. Customer complaints can be made through the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) website at <https://www.ftc.gov/>."

While third-party companies may legitimately provide services to assist with vessel documentation renewals, the Coast Guard's own renewal process is simple for most vessels and the price

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Whoa, Boaters! Slow Down On The Recent E15 News

It may not be as good as you think.

There's been a lot of pain at the pump lately with gas prices. The Biden administration's April 12 move to give a waiver from the Clean Air Act to allow the sale of gasoline containing 15% ethanol (E15) during the summer months is intended to lower costs and stretch the nation's fuel supply. However, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) says the unintended consequence of the waiver could inadvertently put a harmful fuel prohibited for use in recreational vessels into your boat's gas tank.

BoatUS notes recreational vessels are never compatible with E15 (15% ethanol). It is not permitted by federal law to use E15 fuel in boats (as well as motorcycles, off-road vehicles and power equipment), voids the engine warranty, and it has been proven to cause damage to marine engines. It also causes engines to run



NATIONAL MARINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION **WARNING! — Try to find the small, square orange label on this pump warning consumers that the fuel labeled "regular unleaded" is prohibited for use in boats and other power equipment.**

hotter and contains less energy than E10. Recreational vessel engines may only use

gasoline containing no more than 10% ethanol (E10).

"While we understand the need to save money, we are concerned that fuel retailers may market E15 (15% ethanol) fuel, such as 'regular 88' or 'regular unleaded' as a lower cost alternative to E10," said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. "And therein lies the problem — the majority of recreational boats are refueled at roadside gas stations and, with almost no safeguards in place, there is a real chance that boat owners, looking for a bargain will misfuel their boats with E15 fuel."

E15 dispensing pumps have a poor warning regime, sometimes just a single orange label on the pump, which is ineffective at informing consumers. A 2020 Outdoor Power Equipment Institute

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A & A Materials, Inc.

Jim & Carol Allen and VFW 3513 Auxiliary would like to thank **A & A Materials** for all of their help with our Post.

LAKE HAVASU

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More Resources

In addition to this snapshot of highlights, a complete list of scheduled events in Lake Havasu City is on the special events calendar at <https://www.golakehasvu.com/events>. Event dates, times and/or details are subject to change. Contact event organizers to verify event information.

View the current temperature on the Lake Havasu Live Weather Webcam: <https://www.golakehasvu.com/lakehasvu-weather-webcam>

Take a virtual tour, including newly posted 360-degree views of the London Bridge and English Village: <https://www.londonbridgetour.com>

About Lake Havasu City

Lake Havasu City is situated on the eastern shore of Lake Havasu on the Colorado River border of California and Arizona. The city was established in 1963 by Robert P. McCulloch, Sr. as a self-sufficient, planned community. Lake Havasu City is located on what is known as "Arizona's West Coast," three hours' driving time west of Phoenix, 2-1/2 hours south of

Las Vegas and four to five east of the Los Angeles region. As part of the northern and western limits of the Sonoran Desert, Lake Havasu City and the surrounding area feature outstanding biodiversity.

The area attracts 835,000 visitors annually with its historic London Bridge, pristine lake, friendly community, abundant sunshine and annual events, ideal weather and wide range of restaurants and lodging. More than 400 miles of stunning coastline offer exceptional watersports, including fishing, skiing, kayaking and house boating. Visitors can also explore the lake from the beautiful beaches, campsites and hiking trails.

Rated one of the top 100 best bass fishing lakes in America, Lake Havasu is ideal for catching large and small-mouth bass and striper fishing. The region is also host to extensive off-road trails and undeveloped stretches of river.

For more information: GoLakeHavasu.com

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Jim & Carol Allen and VFW 3513 Auxiliary would like to thank **MOON VALLEY NURSERIES** for all of their help with our Post.

BoatUS Spring Commissioning Checklist

Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) offers its Spring Commissioning Checklist to help boaters start the season right. The nation's largest advocacy, service and savings group also of-

fers BoatUS.com/Spring, a one-stop-shop for everything you need to know about the yearly ritual of recreational boat commissioning. A PDF copy of the checklist is available to download, print, and take

to the boat with you. Be sure to follow all manufacturer recommendations for your specific boat, engine and accessories.

CHECKLIST, continued on page 7



**BOATUS
READY, SET,
GO! — The
BoatUS Spring
Commissioning
checklist can
help ensure
your boat is
ready for the
season.**

LETTER

Continued from page 5

ranges from \$26 for one year up to \$130 for a 5-year expiration, which is often much lower than what third-party services may charge.

To renew, go to the Coast Guard National Documentation Center website at <https://www.uscg.mil/nvdc> and click on “instructions and forms,” then “Certificate of Documentation Application for Renewal.”

To be documented, a vessel must measure at least five net tons and, with the exception of certain oil-spill response vessels, owned by a U.S. citizen. Boats about 27 feet in length or longer gener-

ally meet the weight requirement.

Why do boat owners choose to federally document vessels with the U.S. Coast Guard versus the more common practice of state registration? The boat was purchased with a bank loan and the lender required it, or the boat has plans to travel beyond U.S. waters. A Certificate of Documentation is internationally recognized and makes it easier for American vessels to enter and leave foreign ports.

BoatUS also advises boaters who may have received mail that they believe is misleading or deceptive to contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 or through its website <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>. ■

BOATERS

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(OPEI) poll shows that only about one in five consumers know that “regular 88” — or 88 octane fuel — has more ethanol (15%) in it than 87 octane (10% ethanol) fuel.

Kennedy further explains: “To refuel, boaters head to their local gas station with the boat in tow for a fill-up. Newer tow vehicles may be compatible with E15. “Regular 88” is selected and dispensed into tow vehicle’s gas tank. Then the boater pulls the trailer rig forward to refuel the boat. Without a clear understanding, the “Regular 88” fuel dispensing nozzle is put in the boat’s fuel tank fill, and you soon

end up with a tank full of prohibited E15 fuel.”

Without the waiver, E15 fuels are prohibited for sale during the summer months (June 1 – September 15) as a way to address the higher ethanol fuel’s contribution to ground level ozone (smog) on hot days.

The administration’s April 12 “fact sheet” also notes USDA is considering additional action to facilitate the use of E15 year-round and other actions to significantly increase the sale and use of higher blends of ethanol fuels.

It is also notes EPA is considering modifications to pump labeling. “That is something BoatUS fully supports,” added Kennedy. ■

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CHECKLIST

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Before You Launch

1. Inspect all around the hose clamps for rust and replace as necessary. Double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless steel hose clamps. While not technically required, it's wise to double clamp whenever possible on all hoses — especially those below the waterline.

2. Inspect all hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking, and replace any that are faulty. Make sure they fit snugly.

3. Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure.

4. Grip the prop (on inboard drive systems) and try moving the shaft up and down and side to side. If it's loose and can be wiggled, the cutless bearing may need to be replaced.

5. Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn't been bent. Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly. Check the rudder bearing and steering cable for unusual play or movement.

6. Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.

7. Make sure your engine intake sea strainer (if equipped) is not cracked or bent from ice and is free of corrosion, clean and properly secured.

8. With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for correct adjustment. A stuffing box should leak no more than two or three drops each minute when the prop shaft is turning. Check the shaft log hose for deterioration and rusty hose clamps.

9. Inspect, lubricate and exercise thru-hull valves. It's a good idea to tie a right-sized wooden bung to the valve in case of failure.

10. Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.

11. Inspect and test the bilge pump and float switch to ensure they're both working properly. Also inspect the pump's hose.

12. Check stove and remote LPG tanks for loose fittings, leaking hoses and properly functioning shutoff systems. Use the pressure gauge to conduct a leak down test to check for system leaks.

13. Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafe and wear.

14. If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.

15. After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.

Engines And Fuel Systems

1. Inspect fuel lines, including fuel tank fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.

2. Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Ensure portable tanks and lines are completely drained of stale fuel before filling with fresh fuel. Clean or replace fuel filters and/or fuel-water separators if not done before winterization.

3. Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifolds and risers for corrosion (for inboard-powered and inboard/outboard boats).

4. Charge battery.

5. Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Use a wire brush to clean battery terminals, and top off cells with distilled water (if applicable).

6. Inspect the bilge ventilation intake and blower ducting for damage or leaks and run the blower to confirm correct operation.

7. Test engine warnings and alarms.

Engine Outdrives And Outboards

1. Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots

(look especially in the folds) and replace if suspect.

2. Check power steering and power trim oil levels.

3. Replace anodes/zincs that are more than half wasted.

4. Inspect the outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable must be replaced.

5. Inspect lower unit oil level and top off as necessary.

Sailboat Rigging

1. Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust (some discoloration is acceptable). Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for "fishhooks" and rust.

2. Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape, and ensure that water is able to freely drain from it.

3. If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.

4. Inspect masthead sheaves and all blocks to make sure they're running freely.

Trailers

1. Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure; don't forget the spare.

2. Inspect wheel bearings and repack as necessary.

3. Test all lights and replace any broken bulbs or lenses.

4. Inspect winch to make sure it's working properly. Inspect hitch chains.

5. Inspect trailer frame and axel(s) for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.

6. Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.

Safety

1. A new law that went into effect in 2021 requires a vessel operator to use either a helm or outboard lanyard or wireless engine cutoff switch on certain vessels less than 26 feet when traveling on plane or above displacement speed, so be sure your switch is working properly and the lanyard is in serviceable condition. If you use a wireless cutoff switch, ensure batteries in the fobs and wrist worn devices are refreshed.

2. Flares expire after 42 months so check expiration dates.

3. Inspect fire extinguishers. A new regulation that goes into effect April 20, 2022, requires a 12-year expiration for disposables and has different carriage requirements for older and newer model year vessels.

4. Ensure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders and dissolvable "pill" bobbins in auto-inflating models.

5. Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.

6. Check running lights for operation and spare bulb inventory.

7. Update chartplotter software.

8. Replenish first-aid kit items that may have been used last season or are expired.

9. Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in. (BoatUS members can obtain a free MMSI number at BoatUS.com/MMSI.)

10. Get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. Find out more at cgaux.org/vsc.

For The Dock

1. In addition to checking its entire length for wear or abrasions, check both ends of the shore power cable connections as well as the shore power receptacle on the boat for burns, which indicate the cable and/or boat's shore power inlet or the dock's receptacle must be

replaced.

2. Test ground-fault protection on your boat and private dock, and know how to prevent Electric Shock Drowning.

The Paperwork

1. Make sure your boat registration is up to date — and dinghy if you have one. Don't forget your boat trailer tags

2. Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. BoatUS provides free quotes at BoatUS.com/Insurance. Provide a copy to your marina or club.

3. Ensure your BoatUS membership is in good standing, and check your Tow-BoatUS coverage by logging into BoatUS.com/Account, or join at BoatUS.com/Membership.

4. Download the free BoatUS App (BoatUS.com/App) to make it easy to summon on-water assistance and speed response times as well to check tide tables, weather, and partner discounts. ■



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While collapsible bimini tops offer boaters a welcome escape from direct sun, deployment and storage can sometimes prove a real chore. Accon Marine 400-Series Quick Release Bimini Top Hinges make it easy for even novice boaters to set up or take down shade structures in minutes. For information, contact local dealers or Accon Marine, 13665 Automobile Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33762. 727-572-9202; Fax: 727-572-7621. www.acconmarine.com.



PFDS FOR KIDS

Children and water are a natural combination, but getting them to wear a personal flotation device is almost always a challenge. The solution is the Kid Vest from Bombora. Designed for their pint-sized comfort and offered in bright colors they'll enjoy, the USGC-approved Type III PFD is sure to keep them safe and happy. Contact local dealers or Bombora, 243 Oak St., Pembroke, MA 02359. 781-709-3225. sales@bomboragear.com; www.bomboragear.com; [instagram: bomboragear](https://www.instagram.com/bomboragear).



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AZ LAKES, AZ PROS: JOHN MURRAY

This Is The Best Way To Catch Summer Bass On Lake Pleasant

One of the best ways to catch summer bass on Lake Pleasant is with a Carolina rig. I remember back in the day when VanderKooi and his partner came to the scales with a 42-pound limit they caught on Carolina rigs! That's a 7-pound average!

John Murray has some great tips for fishing Carolina rigs. He says Carolina rig fishing is simple. A large weight and a glass or plastic bead are strung onto the main line. The bead protects the knot from the heavy weight. A swivel is then tied to the end of the line, and a leader, usually of slightly lighter line, is attached to the swivel. Tie on a hook and you're rigged, Carolina style.

Choosing The Right Weight

To click or not to click, that is the question. When the water is really dirty, or you're fishing really deep, you may want your rig to make some noise. The noise may alert the bass to the presence of your lure, and let him get close enough to see it.

There are several different ways to get your Carolina rig to make some noise. Brass or stainless steel weights, combined with glass beads or flat brass or steel clickers is one way. John Murray sometimes rigs two brass weights on his line, facing opposite ways, with a bead between them.

If you have ever suspected that fish are hitting your sinker, you're probably right. Murray once boated a fish that had hit his sinker. The bass had sucked it in and the sinker was wedged on the outside of the fish's body, right next to the gill. The line was through the mouth. If you think you're getting a lot of "sinker bites", you may want to switch to putting rattles in the bait itself.

Structure Is A Factor

The type of structure you are fishing is another factor in your choice of weights. Egg sinkers are ideal for sandy or muddy bottoms--they pull smoothly and kick up dirt that resembles a crawfish scuttling across the bottom. For thick weeds, a pointed weight is better--the point pulls through the weeds or grass more easily than a blunt egg sinker.

For fishing submerged trees or rocks, the big blunt Ultra Steel bullet weights are hard to beat. The shape of the nose allows the sinker to slide over small crevices that a pointed sinker may lodge in, while the hardness of the weight prevents it from being nicked and bent while dragging over rocks. Dragging soft lead weights over rocks and limbs can damage the weight so badly that the hole gets sharp edges that can slice your line.



Carolina Rig Tackle

You are apt to have a lot of line out when you're fishing a Carolina rig, so the hook is important. An extra-wide gap hook is best, and the hook has to be very sharp, fine, and strong. The more easily the hook penetrates, the better. Don't scrimp on your swivels, either. The last thing you want is to finally get a hawg on, only to have your swivel snap in two.

Most anglers agree that a longer rod makes casting a Carolina rig much easier. A longer rod not only makes it easier to cast a Carolina rig, it helps you on the hookset by taking up a lot of line when you swing it, so you get the hook moving faster. Since the weight is not on the very end of the line, it can be difficult to cast. Don't even try to use an overhand cast -- instead, hold the rod out to the side like a baseball bat and sling it forward parallel to the surface of the water.

Line And Reel Are Important

Your line and reel are important. You'll be dragging the Carolina rig in fairly deep water sometimes, so having a fast reel helps you get control of the fish. Some anglers like braid for the main line and mono or fluorocarbon for the leader, but you can use fluorocarbon for the main line, too.

Mono tends to have so much stretch that it's difficult to set the hook on a big fish, especially in deep water or when the line is going through a lot of weeds. If you like braid and the water you're fishing is stained or weedy, by all means use braid for both the main line and the leader. In clear water, fluorocarbon is better.

How And Where To Fish The Rig For Big Bass

A Carolina rig is one of the best ways to cover water quickly but still keep your presentation subtle. Long points, flats, channels, and even submerged trees and islands are good targets for a Carolina rig. With the heavy weights you can sling them way out, and even a fast retrieve will attract bites. A Carolina rig should never just be dragged behind the boat. If you just let the movement of the boat drag the lure, you will miss the majority of the bites.

The Easiest Way

The easiest way to fish a Carolina rig is to use the rod to move it. After you make your cast, let the weight free-spool to the bottom. When the line goes slack, reel it up taut then pull the rod sideways and back to drag the weight across the bottom. When you reach the limit of your



backswing, reel the line taut as you bring the rod back to the front, then start over again. Keeping the line taut throughout the retrieve and re-wind is essential, because if the line is slack you won't feel the bite.

While you are pulling the weight with the rod, the lure itself is pulled down and forward through the water. It gets closer to the bottom as it goes, but when you pause and begin to wind up the slack, it allows the lure to pause, then drift upwards until you start to drag the rig again. A lot of times a fish will grab it just as it pauses, and when you start to drag the rig again you will simply feel extra weight. When the rig feels heavy, set the hook!

Don't Be Shy

Once you catch a fish, don't be shy about slinging the rig right back out to the same spot. Look for long points, creek channels, ledges, etc. Cruise slowly over these areas and watch your depthfinder carefully for any rock piles, weed beds, trees, or any other cover near the drop-off that would hold fish. Fishing these pieces of cover is the only way to discover if they are holding good fish. And don't be in too big a hurry to dismiss a spot. You may fish a spot for an hour without a bite, then suddenly get a bunch of big fish right in a row.

Finding a honey hole can be serendipitous, too. When the wind blows you off course, or you are tying on and drifting, keep an eye on the depthfinder. More than one honey hole has been discovered totally by accident. A GPS unit will help you find the place again in the future. It can be difficult to locate a single tree that is far from shore, especially if the water level in the lake fluctuates a lot. Your GPS will take you right back, time after time.

Leader Length, Lures, And Other Subtleties

Leader length has a great effect on the number of bites you get on a Carolina rig. There are several rules of thumb for de-

termining the length of the leader. The slower the bite, the longer the leader is a basic tenet. Leaders of up to six or even seven feet in length are not uncommon when the bite is really slow. Under the toughest conditions, like cold fronts or for suspended fish, a longer leader usually means more bites.

In very dirty water a shorter leader makes it easier for bass to locate the lure once they've homed in on the sound of the sinker. Also, if you're using a very large lure like a 14-inch lizard or worm, a shorter leader gives you more control over the lure, as well as a better feel for the bite.

Creature Baits

By far the most popular Carolina rig baits among big-bass fishermen are lizards, worms, and creature baits. The whole purpose of a Carolina rig is to have the bait float up off the bottom --otherwise you'd Texas-rig it. Lizards and other lures with more surface area float up really well, and sink more slowly.

Inactive, suspended fish can sometimes be tempted by a floating bait that stays at their level. Use a floating lure like one of the "super plastics". Some pros tie on a tube lure stuffed with a Styrofoam "peanut" to make it float. Senkos can also be killer on sluggish fish.

Carolina Rig: One Of The Most Effective

The key to fishing this rig is to remember where the lure is. When you feel the sinker hitting a tree or a rock, keep in mind that the actual lure may be four to six feet behind it. Don't ever jerk the sinker out of a tree or a hang-up--pull it loose slowly, and let it fall. That way, the lure will follow along behind and stay in the cover where the fish are.

A Carolina rig is an excellent way to get a soft plastic down to those deep-water mid-summer bass. Fast or slow, deep or shallow, the Carolina rig is one of the most versatile and effective techniques available. ■

This Is A Great Time To Thank Our Outdoorsy Dads

BY JOHN AND MARGIE ANDERSON

Chances are, you owe your love of the outdoors to your mom, dad, uncle, or someone else who took you out fishing, hiking, camping, or hunting when you were a kid. Whoever that may be, Father's Day is a great time to tell him thanks! We gave you lots of ideas for the mom figures in your life last month, so this month it's dad's turn!

For The Fishing Dad

No bass fisherman has ever said "I have too many baits". Seriously. So whatever kind of fishing dad loves, a handful of baits is a dynamite Father's Day Gift. **Gamakatsu** has a bunch of cool new bass fishing baits that any bassin' dad would love. They've got a new Under Spin Head

Gamakatsu UnderSpin



that combines a small swimming jig with a flashy blade that spins underneath the hook to draw attention to the bait. It's a Heavy Cover 60-degree hook and the spring lock holds soft plastic baits firmly. They're just \$4.79 for a pack of 10 at TackleWarehouse.com.

Also new from Gamakatsu is the Gika Rig, which combines finesse fishing with the speed of power fishing. A weight dangles from the hook eye to help you work it over rocks while letting the bait float side to side freely. Super cool! At Tackle Warehouse they are \$6.29 for a 2-pack of the larger ones and \$3.49 for a 4-pack of the smaller ones.

Gamakatsu also has a new line of util-



Jetboil

ity tackle boxes that have a lid on both sides, drainage so wet baits don't stay wet, and V-shaped dividers to keep all dad's baits organized and ready to go. No matter what kind of fish he likes to go after, one of the boxes will be perfect. They start at \$18.04 and you can check them out at www.gamakatsu.com – just look for G-Box Utility Box.

For The Backpacker And/Or Camping Dad

I've been raving about my **JetBoil** for over a decade, and even though I've got one of the original models, it is still going strong. I love it because it boils a big pot of water in around 90 seconds, so I can make coffee FAST. Their new JetBoil Stash has a smaller pot but it's super lightweight so it's perfect for backpackers. It costs around \$135 at Sportsman's Warehouse.

The bigger JetBoil Java Kit 1-Burner stove is \$129.95 at Sportsman's. It comes with a French Press attachment and has a 10-second boil! I also have a French Press attachment for my JetBoil, but I prefer to boil the water and pour it into a big metal Stanley French Press or over our Stanley Perfect-Brew Pour Over Sets.



Stanley Stay Hot French Press — holds a lot and keeps it hot!



The **Stanley Pour-Overs** are \$40 and they are seriously indestructible. You spoon the ground coffee into the big filter on top and then pour the hot water over and it brews delicious coffee – and those filters work really well! The metal cups mean no trash to toss, too. We also have a Stanley Stay Hot French Press which is fabulous for camp. I can make pour-overs to enjoy while we wait for our Backpackers Pantry meals to hydrate, then make a couple pots of French Press and fill the thermoses for the next day. The Classic Stay Hot French Press is \$70. Again, indestructible! Comes in five colors, too! You can see all the Stanley products at www.stanley1913.com or on Amazon.



Swagger Bipods Hunter29

out a video! With Swagger bipods you can swing your gun around side to side and up and down and all over while still keeping it steady – it's ideal for hunting our muley's and Coues and javelina.

They were at the Sig Freedom Days and I was talking to the guy in their booth and he said they may be coming out with Swagger bipods for binoculars soon! That would be so awesome for glassing! Anyway, any dad who hunts would LOVE Swagger bipods. The Hunter Series I is \$169 and comes in 42 or 29 inch. The 29 will range from 6-3/4" to 29", and the 42 will range from 9-3/4 – 41-1/4", so whether dad likes to lie down, sit, or stand for his shot, they've got you covered.

Tailgater And/Or Camper Dad

Does your dad like coffee drinks? Protein shakes? Margaritas? Get him a **BlendJet 2** rechargeable portable blender! He can make seriously good stuff no mat-



BlendJet In Camo

ter where he is. They come in an amazing variety of colors and they're only around \$50. They also have delicious coffee drink mixes and smoothie mixes, and right now you can get a BlendJet 2, a carrying sleeve, and 6 JetPack mix pouches for \$88.84. They are AMAZING.

I have a gorgeous mint BlendJet and I absolutely love it for camp – I can have a delicious smoothie for breakfast even in the middle of nowhere. They hardly take up any room, and a charge lasts for 15+ blends. Go to www.blendjet.com to see them and buy one for dad.



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Hiking/Backpacking/Prepper Dad

The **Grayl UltraPress Purifier** is a seriously good water purifying cup. Comes in two sizes: 16.9 oz and 24 oz, and all you have to do to use it is fill, press, and drink. Instantly purified water. They are \$89.95 and \$99.95, and right now you get a free Grayl Camp Cup when you buy an UltraPress. So two gifts in one! The Camp Cup has a great Silicone LoopD Handle and an S-biner clip so it's easy to hold and transport. I think you'll really be impressed with Grayl's products, and dad will be, too. Check them out at www.grayl.com.

Hunter Dad

Swagger bipods have been around for a while, and now they have even more offerings – the Hunter Series Bipod I is specifically designed for hunters with an extensive range of maneuverability. If you've never seen Swaggers in action, you need to go to their website and check



Maglite Flashlights: Made In The U.S.A.

Any Dad!

I remember the first **Maglite** I gave my dad – years ago. He took that big metal flashlight in his hand and said, "Now,

DADS, continued on page 11

DADS

Continued from page 10

“THAT’S a flashlight! This bad boy is a weapon, too!” He absolutely *loved* it and he had it next to his bed from then on. Brought it on every campout and hunting trip, too. Today, Maglite still has that big club of a flashlight that lasts forever and lights up the night, but they have so much more! Roadside kits, truck and auto collections, rechargeables – and every single thing is made right here in the United States! We love that! www.maglite.com

Backyard, Tailgate, And/Or Camp Dad

Helinox, the brand that created the category of lightweight, portable furniture, today introduces the Blue Bandana Collection, a range of the brand’s most popular outdoor furniture styles draped with a custom bandana print developed exclusively for Helinox by artist and advisor,

Tae-Hun Kim.

To develop the print, Kim analyzed numerous patterns from the original vintage FAST Color bandanas and ultimately created a new bandana pattern integrating cross-section designs of geometric shapes and natural objects like flowers.

The new blue bandana print is available across a core range of Helinox’s lightweight, packable furniture and accessories including Chair One, Sunset Chair, Incline Festival Chair, Table One Hard Top, Cot One Convertible, Origami Tote, Bloncho, Toasty, and Chair One Seat Warmer, with prices ranging from \$59.95 for the Seat Warmer to \$349.95 for the Cot One Convertible.

The new Bandana Collection is available at select retailers and online at: <https://helinox.com/collections/blue-bandana>

Anybody who loves the outdoors would be pleased as punch to get one of these for Father’s Day, and you can order any of them online. Hop to it! ■



Helinox Blue Bandana Collection

Did You Receive A Call Or Text About An Angler Survey?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has contracted with the survey research firm Responsive Management to conduct a study of licensed anglers in the state. You may receive a phone call, text, or email from Responsive Management asking you to participate in a survey about your fishing participation and experiences. The phone calls will be from a Phoenix area phone number.

Selection for participation in the study among licensed anglers is random to maintain a scientifically valid study. If you receive a call, text, or email, please consider participating in the study to assist the Department in better understanding anglers’ participation in and opinions on fishing, as well as spending on fishing,



which will help the Department determine the economic contribution of anglers in the state.

If you have questions or comments, please email them to us at FisheriesMgmt@azgfd.gov. ■

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AZGFD Accepting Applications For 2022 fall hunts

Now is perfect time to review portal account information.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is accepting applications for 2022 hunt permit-tags issued through the draw process for deer, fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall bison and sandhill crane.

To apply, visit www.azgfd.gov and click on "Apply For The Draw." For an overview of the application service, including license requirements, applying for bonus points and payment information, see Page 26 of the "2022-2023 Arizona Hunting Regulations." Printed versions soon will be available at all license dealers statewide.

The deadline for the department to receive all applications is 11:59 p.m. (Arizona time) Tuesday, June 14, 2022. Applicants must possess a valid Arizona hunting license to apply for a hunt permit-tag. That license must be valid on the last day of the application period (June 14).



In The Meantime —

- **Check your AZGFD portal account.**

This is the perfect time to review your personal data, including your application history and total bonus points (bonus,

loyalty, hunter education). If something seems amiss, call AZGFD at 602-942-3000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- **Know your Customer ID.** This is a

must 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 www.azgfd.com/Hunting/Draw/. 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.

- **Plan to purchase a PointGuard product.** Choosing PointGuard Plus, or the standard PointGuard, ensures that applicants can surrender their hunt permit-tag for any reason, and the accumulated bonus points that were expended to draw that hunt permit-tag will be reinstated. A portal account is no longer required to purchase a PointGuard product. Information: www.azgfd.gov/pointguard.

For more information, check out "What You Need to Know," a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs), at <https://www.azgfd.com/Hunting/Draw/>. ■

AZGFD Offers Auto-Renewal For Fishing, Hunting Licenses

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has introduced a new option that allows fishing and hunting license holders to have their licenses automatically renewed upon expiration. The feature is currently only available for the following licenses: Resident Hunt, Resident Fish, Resident Hunt/Fish Combo, Nonresident Fish, Nonresident Hunt/Fish Combo.

To opt-in for license auto-renewal,

customers must have an AZGFD portal account. Customers who have an existing portal account should use that account. Do not create a new portal account if one already exists. If assistance is needed to fix an existing portal account, email customer service at customer@azgfd.gov.

Selecting license auto-renewal is a three-step process: (1) Purchase a license, or use a valid license; (2) Add a credit card to be used to auto-renew a license; (3) Select the license(s) to be auto-renewed. Click [HERE](#) for step-by-step instructions.

Update On Golden Algae Situation At Salt River Lakes

AZGFD personnel have been taking water quality samples twice a month on Saguaro, Canyon and Apache Lakes to monitor golden algae densities. Since the first reports of a fish kill in March, water quality samples have indicated a decrease in golden algae densities in all of the lake samples. Blue green algae has become the dominant species, with many samples containing less than 1% golden algae.

From what biologists are seeing, it appears the fish kills are over. Throughout the last two months it appeared a majority of the fish killed were threadfin shad, with a handful of other species including largemouth bass. As of right now, the outlook is good for Saguaro, Canyon and Apache lakes with minimal effects to the largemouth bass population. Fish surveys will



be conducted in spring 2023 to evaluate the largemouth bass populations.

White Mountain Lakes

The Arizona Game and Fish Department advises anglers that it will discontinue fish stockings in a number of White Mountains lakes in 2022 due to low water levels or poor water quality that will limit the survival of stocked trout.

The following waters will be affected:

- Black Canyon Lake - Stockings discontinued after April 2022
- Carnero Lake - No stockings in 2022
- Concho Lake - No stockings in 2022
- Crescent Lake - No stockings in 2022
- Lee Valley Reservoir - No stockings in 2022
- Pratt Lake - Stockings discontinued after April 2022

- Scotts Reservoir - No stockings in 2022

For more information on stockings, please check out the spring stocking schedule.

Update On Boat Launch Situation At Big Lake

Due to current low water levels at Big Lake, the South Cove ramp is the only ramp out of three where launching a boat is even possible. Unfortunately, due to low water and ice damage (pictured above), launching boats at the South Cove ramp will be very difficult, if not impossible, for larger boats this spring. AZGFD is working on a solution, but anyone planning to use the ramp should be aware of the situation before making the long trip to Big Lake. ■

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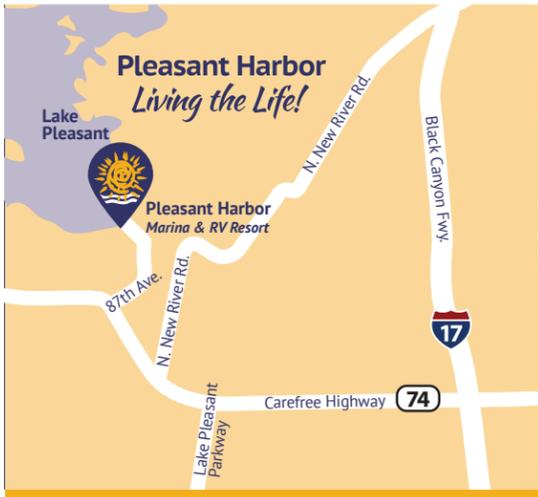
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It's nice to let the kids get a bit ahead of you — everyone appreciates a little alone time in the wild.

HIKING

Continued from page 1

time at home to teach them some basics about safety and survival, and had them help me pack their supplies into their fanny packs or small day packs. Before starting the hike, we insisted on sunscreen and hats, a habit that has persisted with them.

At this age they want to explore — and let's face it — they're faster than we are! So just in case they ever wandered off and got confused, I put some things in their packs to help. Here's a list of the things I put in their packs. They absolutely loved having their own "survival kit"!

1. Bright orange vest, knitted hat, or bandana. They knew to put this on so they'd be easier to see.
2. Plastic garbage bag or poncho. In

case of rain.

3. Emergency blanket.

4. Very loud whistle. They knew that yelling would tire them out, and a whistle could be heard farther.

5. Granola bar or hard candies or trail mix.

6. Water bottle — full.

As they got older, I taught them things like how to make a fire without matches and how to use a map, then added a fire-striking kit and compass to their bags. Thank goodness they never needed the bag, but I think just having it on reminded them not to get out of sight!

Their Favorite Hikes

Their favorite hikes at this age (and actually still!) were the beautiful trails around Flagstaff, especially the ones on the mountains: Alfa Fia Trail, Aspen Na-



Emily in particular always wanted to carry her own backpack.

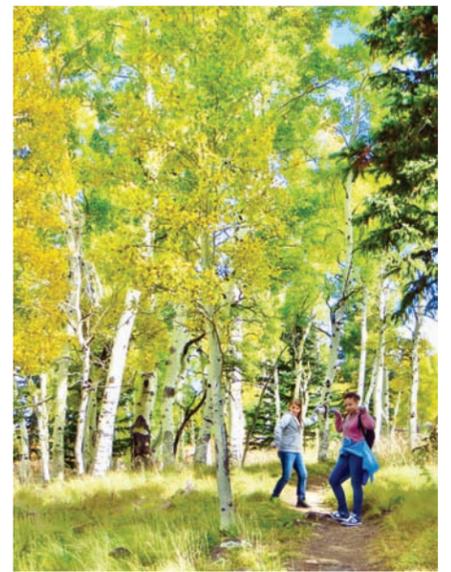
ture Loop, and Kachina Trail. We hiked the Kachina every year, and each year we got a little further along it. Alfa Fia is not an "official" trail.

On the way up to the Snowbowl, watch for the sign on the right that says "Aspen Corner". Across the street from that is a split-rail fence and the trail to Alfa Fia Tank starts there. It's a very gentle slope and the tank looks like a pond. The views are amazing.

Take Your Time

At this age, it's really important not to be in a hurry. When the girls were little, they were always finding boulders to climb and things to explore, so getting a mile under your belt could take all morning. But for us, a hike is all about being outside together enjoying the beauty of the outdoors — it was never important to us to reach the end.

Sometimes we did, sometimes we didn't, but we always had a good time. We taught them to leave the trail better than they found it, and they'd pick up any



Letting the kids bring a friend on a hike is fun for them, too. This is Emily and her cousin Ericka at Lockwood Meadow.

trash they found and stash it in their bag until they got back to a trash can.

Grandma Is The 'Pack Mule'

We always made sure we bought them good hiking shoes and cushy socks, too. There's nothing worse than painful feet on a hike! Also, I was the designated pack mule. I'd carry most of the water and all of the food and first aid supplies. Water is always the most weight — I carry as much as I can.

Lunch break was a big deal and for some reason it always had to include fresh cherries. They'd plant the pits and then watch to see if any had grown the next time we hiked the trail.

HIKING, continued on page 15



Even when they got to be teens, they'd still spend a lot of time examining things along the trail. It isn't that important to reach the end of the trail — let them enjoy the hike!



Take time to have fun. This is Emily on the trail to Alfa Fia Tank.

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PORT LAND CRUISING

HIKING

Continued from page 14

Photos By Little Camera/Cell Phone

This is also the perfect age to give them a camera. At first I'd buy each of them one of those disposable cameras, preferably a waterproof one. Later on, our little artist, Emily (who BTW just graduated cum laude from NAU with a B.A. in Studio Art!) would use my camera and get the most amazing photos. Kids have a different point of view and they often see things we don't. They loved taking their own photos.

Once they get their own cell phone, they take even more photos. We'd try to find trails that had spectacular views or cool ruins, or red rocks – anything to make the photos more fun for them. Picture Canyon has amazing waterfalls, Griffith Spring has little cliffs and meadows, and a small stream, West Fork of Oak Creek has an amazing cliff, red rocks, ruins, a creek – it's pretty perfect! Horseshoe Bend is amazing, and Trinity took her college friends there a couple of years ago.

A Few Other Places

A few other places that have amazingly beautiful trails that are ideal for this age and even younger are the various Nature Conservancy Sites in Arizona, such as the Sonoita Creek Preserve near Patagonia, Ramsey Canyon near Fort Huachuca, Madera Canyon near Tucson, and the Hassayampa Preserve near Wickensburg. These all feature creeks and easy trails that kids will love. To this day, Trinity says that the Hassayampa Preserve is her favorite – we went after a rain and the river was flowing really well, plus the fall foliage was amazing.



As they get older and have their own phones, selfies become a thing.

Teens

By now the girls were seasoned hikers and we had worked out a system. Trinity and John would always be in the lead because they are both faster. Emily and I would mosey along behind, stopping to take photos and catch our breath, especially at high altitudes (we both have



Alfa Fia Tank: This dog, Emma, decided she wanted to hike with us instead of her owners. She stayed with us the whole hike!



Is it any wonder our girls love the outdoors so much? Arizona is gorgeous! This is along the Aspen Nature Loop on the San Francisco Peaks right across the road from the Snowbowl.

asthma). John and Trinity always stop somewhere nice and wait for us, and then we all have a drink of water and a bit of a rest until heading out again.

Some of our favorite hikes at this point are the Chiricahuas, along the Little Colorado near Springerville, and tons of trails around Greer.

A Life-Long Love Of Nature

At this age, they can actually hike more serious trails than we can! This is when they started going hiking with friends, showing them the prettiest trails and sending me Snapchats all day. It really gives me a lot of joy to realize that while we were having fun in the woods we were fueling a life-long love of nature in them. Both of the girls are still *very* outdoorsy – camping, hiking, and off-roading with friends – and with us, still, too! We are so blessed.

General Tips

Before you head out, do some research and find a trail with the right difficulty level. There are all kinds of apps (AllTrails is a great one) and websites that will show you a variety of trails in any area you choose. I eventually bought a trail map of the Flagstaff area because we spend so much time there every summer. Also, the *National Geographic* maps have trails on them and I love those. The various Arizona State Parks have amazing trails, many of them per-



Bring ponchos! We've been rained on numerous times!

fect for kids.

We Are Proud

If you take the time to teach your kids about safety, survival, and conservation while they are growing up, you'll worry about them a lot less when they get older and start going off on adventures without you. It's bittersweet having the girls confident enough to strike out into the woods on their own, but we are incredibly proud of both of them. ■

LAKE PLEASANT

Continued from page 1

for camping reservations.

"We pretty much have it all," said Glen Vortherms, General Manager of Maricopa Water District (MWD), owner and operator of Pleasant Harbor. "With our close proximity to Phoenix, and seven-day-a-week public access, we are one of the hidden gems of the Valley."

From the Phoenix area, Pleasant Harbor is the closest destination and entrance to Lake Pleasant, conveniently located off Carefree Highway and 87th Avenue (8708 W. Harbor Boulevard, Peoria, AZ 85383). Visitors exiting I-17, travel west on Carefree Highway, or take North 99th Avenue/North Lake Pleasant Parkway from Bell Road to Carefree Highway and then west to 87th Avenue and then onto Harbor Boulevard. Pleasant Harbor admission fee is \$7.00 per vehicle.

For more information about the Pleasant Harbor, visit www.pleasantharbor.com.

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(<https://www.vfw.org/about-us>)

Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

Who We Are

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.



MATTHEW G. BISANZ
VFW Memorial And Office Building By The Capitol

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today, membership stands at more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

Our Voice

Our voice was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, development of the national cemetery system, in the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, we won a long-fought

victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active duty service members, and members of the guard and reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. We were the driving force behind the Veterans Access and Accountability Act of 2014, and continually fight for improved VA medical centers services for women veterans.

Many Programs, Services

Besides helping fund the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service memorials, in 2005 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to contribute to building the new Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial, which opened in November 2010. And in 2015, we became the first supporter of the National Desert Storm War Memorial which is planned for construction at our nation's capital.

We have many programs and services that work to support veterans, service members and their families, as well as communities worldwide. Please check out our latest fact sheet or spend some time browsing our site to learn why «No One Does More For Veterans».

Our Core Values

- Always put the interests of our members first
- Treat donors as partners in our cause
- Promote patriotism

- Honor military service
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- Serve our communities
- Promote a positive image of the VFW
- Respect the diversity of veteran opinions

The American Legion

(<https://www.legion.org/about>)

Mission, Vision And Values

The American Legion is built on a promise from men and women who swore with their lives to defend and protect the United States through military service. The promise begins at enlistment, grows through training and discipline in the U.S. Armed Forces and continues after discharge, as veterans in service to community, state and nation.

In times of crisis, The American Legion steps into the turmoil and fights to provide needed assistance for others.

Young people who seek positive opportunities turn to The American Legion, which has mentored generations into responsible citizens.

Veterans in need of advocates to help them achieve meaningful careers, educa-



VETERANS, continued on page 19

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SCOOTERS AND SAFETY

Advice To Young Riders: Don't End Up In The Morgue!

BY TOM "RENMAN" COLE

A RIDER AND AN HONORED MARINE

I love riding motorcycles and have been doing so for just short of 60 years. I've been able to do this because I try to ride as safely as possible even with some of the crazy drivers out there.

I do my TCLOCS checks at least monthly and before every long ride to ensure the bike is up to snuff. I carry tools and spare parts in order to try to fix anything that does break during a run. And, I work my "road plan" so as to stay out of bad situations.

Lately I have seen a lot of younger people riding those motorized scooters on the sidewalks and at times, going faster than the traffic around them — and they're on the sidewalks!

I don't have too much of an issue with this as long as the pedestrians are safe, but what about safety gear for the ride? Many people think there is no helmet law in Arizona, but there is. If you are under 18 and riding a motorcycle, you must wear a helmet. Many of these scooter drivers are not only *not* wearing a helmet, but also they lack other basic safety equipment such as shoes or boots that cover the ankle, long trousers, and gloves.

If one of these young people were to go down (and it happens) their hands



will be destroyed, skin will come off every body part that touches the pavement, their sandals or tennis shoes will fly off and their feet and ankle bones may suffer to the point they may not be able to walk ever again. And, without their helmets, they may be reduced to someone with severe brain injuries or even be killed. Not good options!

Safety gear when riding is essential to keep you and your passenger safe. I'd like to ask all parents to ensure and encourage their young people to wear appropriate safety gear when riding their scooters as it's better to be a little warm riding during the summer than spending your time in the hospital or worse —the funeral home. ■

BE BEAR AWARE!

They're 'Shopping' For Food In Our Trash

Arizona's hot, dry conditions have reduced the amount of natural vegetation available to bears in the wild, raising the chance of them wandering into areas they are typically not seen in search of food. Although bears are typically shy and tend to avoid humans, they have an excellent sense of smell, and this can be problematic for bears and people.

Wildlife officials advise those living in or visiting bear country to not feed wildlife or leave trash or other attractants, such as pet food or bird seed, accessible because a fed bear is a dead bear.

"If a bear becomes habituated to getting food from trash cans and other human sources, it's only a matter of time before it loses its fear of humans and begins to actively search out other human food sources," says Amy Burnett, AZGFD information and education program manager. "At that point, the bear becomes a threat to public safety."

Safety Tips To Avoid Attracting Bears

Keep Them Away From Your Home

- Keep all trash inside a secured area until collection day. If that's not possible, keep food waste in a bag in the freezer and place those in the trash as close to collection time as possible.

- Take bird feeders down at night.
- Keep pet and livestock food inside or remove all uneaten food.

Although forest closures or restrictions due to wildfires and hot, dry conditions may temporarily affect access for hiking and camping in parts of Arizona, the fol-



PETE NUJI ON UNSPLASH

lowing are good tips nonetheless:

Camping

- Keep your food and attractants secured and inaccessible to bears. Do not keep food in your tent.

- Don't burn left-over food or trash on the grill or in a campfire.

- Set up your campsite away from places where bears might forage for food, such as creeks, rivers and other bodies of water.

Hiking

- Don't wear scented lotions, deodorant or perfumes.

- Make noise or hike in groups.

- If you take your pet hiking with you, keep it on a leash at all times.

BEARS, continued on page 18

11 Wolf Pups Journey From Captive Facilities Across United States To Join Wild Populations

Eleven genetically valuable captive-born Mexican wolf pups have been placed into wild dens to be raised in the wild by their surrogate parents after another successful fostering season. Now in its seventh year, the Mexican wolf fostering program continues to help boost the genetic diversity of this endangered subspecies.

Over a three-week period this spring, 11 pups were fostered into five wild packs across New Mexico and Arizona. The pups traveled from captive facilities across the U.S. as part of a coordinated effort to place genetically diverse wolves into the wild population in support of recovery efforts.

Fostering is a proven method used by the Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team (IFT) to increase genetic diversity in the wild Mexican wolf population. It begins with carefully managed breeding by the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) program to produce genetically diverse pups within the captive population. Within 14 days of whelping (being born), the captive-born pups are transported to the wild and mixed together with similarly aged wild pups.

Once all of the pups are placed back into the wild den, the breeding female's maternal instinct kicks in. She will feed and care for both the wild and captive-born pups. With the help of her pack mates, the pups will be raised with the skills and knowledge needed for a life in the wild. The IFT has documented that fostered pups have the same survival rate as wild-born pups in their first year of life (about 50%).

"The care, planning and teamwork

that went into this year's cross-fostering is remarkable," said Ed Davis, biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Many contributed to the success of this year's efforts, including interns, biologists, veterinarians, captive facility staff, and individuals that provided flight support. It will take all of us continuing to work together to achieve greater genetic diversity in the wild population."

Five different captive-born litters provided Mexican wolf pups for fostering into the wild population. The following facilities provided pups this year:

- **Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, Ill.:** one litter provided three pups fostered into the Whitewater Canyon Pack in New Mexico;

- **El Paso Zoo in El Paso, Texas:** one litter provided two pups fostered into the Dark Canyon Pack in New Mexico and one pup fostered into the Iron Creek Pack in New Mexico;

- **Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, N.Y.:** one litter provided one pup fostered into the Iron Creek Pack in New Mexico;

- **Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center in Scottsdale Ariz:** one litter provided two pups fostered into the Panther Creek Pack in Arizona;

- **Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, in Socorro, N.M.:** one litter provided two pups fostered into the Buzzard Peak Pack in New Mexico.

Aerial support for this year's operations was provided by LightHawk Conservation Flying and the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Aviation Program.



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BEARS

Continued from page 17

In Case Of A Bear Encounter

- Do *not* run.
- Back away slowly while keeping your eyes on the bear.
- Make yourself look bigger than you are by raising your arms or pulling your shirt/jacket up higher than your head.
- Throw items and yell at the bear.
- If attacked, fight back.

NORTH RIM

Continued from page 1

open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with reservations required for dinner service. The last day of the 2022 season for most commercial services will be October 15, 2022.

Fire Point Opens

On May 15, Fire Point on the Kaibab Plateau was re-opened to the public. Closed due to the Ike's Fire in September 2019, Fire Point is a popular destination for backcountry car camping, sight-seeing, photography and mountain biking. All overnight use in this area requires a backcountry permit.

The National Park Service will continue its operations including the Backcountry Information Office through October 31. Once Highway 67 is closed for the season, the North Rim is only accessible to the public via non-motorized travel.

Overnight lodging reservations for North Rim facilities may be made by contacting Aramark Destinations at 877- 386-4383 or by visiting their website at www.grandcanyonforever.com. For information on Grand Canyon Trail Rides, please call 435-679-8665 or visit their website at www.canyonrides.com.

To Make Reservations

Reservations for the North Rim Campground must be made by calling 877-444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. Campground reservations outside of the park at Demotte Campground, located on the Kaibab National Forest, can be made by online through https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234722.

For more information: Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ , 86023; Office of Communications: 928-638-7779, www.nps.gov/grca.

Tusayan Route Shuttle Bus 'Park And Ride' Has Begun

Starting Saturday, May 28, the National Park Service (NPS) offers shuttle -bus service between the Grand Canyon National Park Visitor Center and the gateway community of Tusayan, Ariz. The Tusayan Route will run at 20-minute intervals between 8 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. daily through September 9, 2022.

Summer can be very busy at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. During busy periods, visitors can expect up to two-hour wait times at the South Entrance Station between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and parking lots can reach capacity as early as 12 p.m. Riding the shuttle from Tusayan can help visitors avoid entrance station lines and parking frustrations and reduce vehicle congestion in the park.

Park Pass Needed

Visitors must have a valid park pass, including lifetime or annual passes, to board the shuttle in Tusayan. Visitors can purchase standard entrance passes for vehicles, individuals and motorcycles

Bear sightings in areas where there is human activity should be reported to AZGFD's dispatch center at 623-236-7201. For questions or to obtain a brochure on living with bears, visit www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/LivingWith.

Did You Know?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department conserves and protects Arizona's 800+ wildlife species but receives NO Arizona general fund tax dollars. Contribute to our on-the-ground conservation efforts at www.AzWildlifeHero.com. ■

at the IMAX, Canyon Plaza Resort, Red Feather Lodge, and Westwind Air Service at the Grand Canyon Airport. Visitors can also purchase these passes from automated machines at The Grand Hotel and the IMAX as well as online through https://www.recreation.gov/sitepass/74282.

Visitors can park anywhere in Tusayan, including near stops at the Best Western Premier Inn, Grand Hotel, Big E Steakhouse, IMAX, and the park-and-ride lot on the north end of town near the roundabout. Unless visitors have a campground reservation in the park, those with RVs and those pulling a trailer should park their vehicles in Tusayan at one of the "park and ride" lots and take the shuttle.

All-Day Schedule

The first bus into the park leaves Tusayan at 8 a.m. from the IMAX Theater. The first bus from the park to Tusayan departs the Grand Canyon Visitor Center at 8:25 a.m. The last buses leave IMAX at 9:45 p.m. and Grand Canyon Visitor Center at 9:30 p.m. each night.

After making four stops in Tusayan, the shuttle bus heads to the Grand Canyon Visitor Center, where visitors can access trails, scenic viewpoints, and the free in-park shuttle bus system. Shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible, fueled with clean-burning compressed natural gas, and have bike racks that can hold up to three bicycles.

"We are pleased to provide this service to park visitors and local residents again in 2022" says Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Ed Keable. "Riding the shuttles helps protect resources, reduces crowding on park roadways, and reduces our carbon footprint. The Tusayan Route has not operated since the start of the pandemic in 2020, so we hope visitors and residents will use and enjoy it this year."

For More Information

Due to the COVID pandemic, various public health measures may be in place, including capacity limits and face mask requirements. For current measures, please visit the park website here.

Additional shuttle bus information is available online at www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm.

For real-time traffic updates, check out the South Entrance Station webcam at https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/photos-multimedia/webcams.htm.

A World Wonder!

Grand Canyon National Park, in northern Arizona, encompasses 278 miles (447 km) of the Colorado River and adjacent uplands. Located on the ancestral homeland of 11 Associated Tribes, Grand Canyon is one of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world—unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers visitors on the rim. Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site. The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. ■

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What Have You Got To Lose?

D-DAY REMEMBRANCE
JUNE 6

Parker & Sons Offers Some Really 'Cool' Advice

FROM PARKER & SONS

(PLUMBING, HEATING/COOLING, ELECTRICAL, AND MORE)

Trying to keep your home cool and comfortable in these 100+ degree temperatures can get expensive if your A/C unit is running continuously. But, there are some ways to save energy and money without sacrificing your comfort.

1. Close your blinds and curtains during the day.

This keeps the sunlight from coming in and heating your home during the hottest part of the day, which keeps your air conditioner from running all day.

2. Use fans to cool your home.

Ceiling fans help circulate cool air through the room, creating a draft. According to Energy.gov, using fans in a room will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees without sacrificing your comfort.

3. Replace A/C filters.

Dirty air filters can restrict airflow, which then makes your air conditioner work harder. It's recommended to replace your filter each month.

4. Avoid using appliances during the hottest part of the day.

Ovens, dishwashers, washers and dryers all emit heat when we use them. Don't use these appliances during the warmest hours of the day to keep the excess heat out of your home.

5. Install a programmable thermostat.

These thermostats allow you to program them in a way that fits your schedule. You can set the thermostat to go to 76 degrees when you go to work at 8 a.m., and you can set it to go to 72 degrees when you get home at 5 p.m.

6. Schedule an A/C Tune-Up.

Monsoon Season

Here in Arizona, we experience more severe weather than many other states.

This time of year, monsoon season is our biggest threat. Monsoon season can bring high winds, severe downpours, dust storms, and downed power lines. It's important to protect your A/C unit to avoid major damage and expensive repairs from these serious storms.

1. Keep the area around your A/C unit clear of debris.

Trim back bushes, trees and other landscaping to keep leaves and branches away from your system. During a storm, there's always the threat of flying debris and falling trees. These can cause damage to the outside of the unit, but some debris may get lodged inside the unit as well.

Grass is another dangerous culprit. When you cut the grass, make sure to thoroughly clean up the clippings and keep the area around your air conditioner as clear as possible. Grass clippings and weeds can get into the system, potentially clogging the coils and restricting airflow, which can lead to system failure.

Finally, don't forget about your air filters! Monsoon season increases the amount of dust particles in the air that are being sucked into your A/C system, so be sure to replace your filters regularly!

2. Elevate your A/C unit.

Another major concern during monsoon season is flooding. Floods can do major damage to your unit, sometimes requiring complete replacement. Elevate your air conditioner so that if flooding does occur, the AC system remains above the standing water. This can be done by raising the platform or moving it to a spot in your yard that's elevated above the rest of the land.

Do not try to move or elevate your A/C unit on your own. Contact us so we can help, ensuring that it is done properly and safely.

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VETERANS

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tions, health-care services, friends and stable homes are supported every day, free of charge, by The American Legion.

The Importance Of Home-Front Support

Active-duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel have dedicated supporters in The American Legion. A strong and well-resourced national defense is, and has always been, a central purpose of the organization. As former troops, Legionnaires understand the importance of home-front support.

Legionnaires constantly remind communities that freedom and prosperity come with a price, a price often paid in blood. They know the difference be-

tween Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They raise the money, put in the hours and bring into existence monuments and memorials to "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars."

The American Legion salutes the flag and asks all others to show respect for the unity, freedom and hope it represents.

Among American Legion members, there is no rank or prejudice, only purpose. A veteran is a veteran. And the purpose of veterans in The American Legion is to strengthen the United States of America through programs, services, compassion and actions that have proven vital, timeless and life-changing for over a century.

Mission Statement

The American Legion's mission statement, as adopted by the National Executive Committee in October 2020, is —

To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness. The American Legion's vision statement is "The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America." The American Legion's value principles are as follows:

A Veteran Is A Veteran - which means The American Legion embraces all current and former members of the military and endeavors to help them transition into their communities.

Selfless Service - which means The American Legion celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America.

American Values And Patriotism - which means The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution, equal justice

and opportunity for everyone and discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship and honoring military service by observing and participating in memorial events.

Family And Community Engagement - which means The American Legion meets the unique needs of local communities.

Advancing The Vision - which means The American Legion educates, mentors and leads new generations of Americans.

Honor Those Who Came Before Us - which means The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.

American Legion Motto

The American Legion's motto is "Veterans Strengthening America." ■



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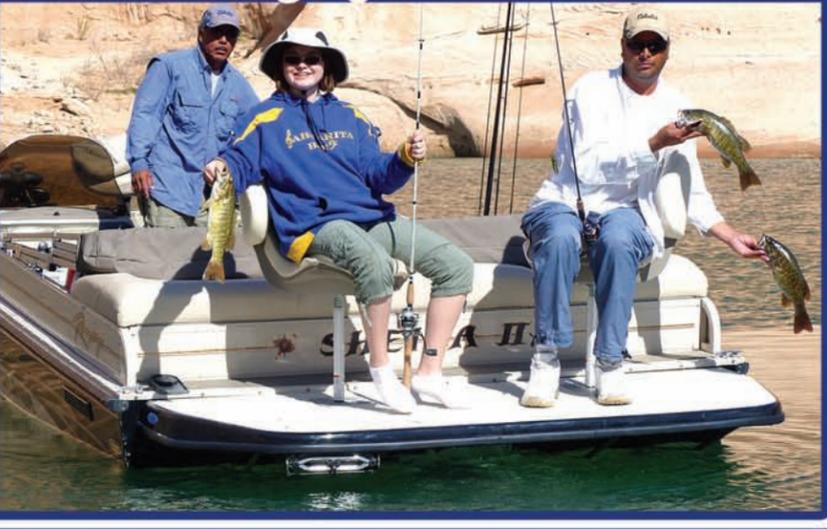
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