

ON THE COVER



Spring Forward

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

Not only does Daylight Saving Time begin this month, but so do many other great things. In the Valley of the Sun, fans’ thoughts turn to diamonds, baseball that is, as Spring Training is underway.

Wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts look forward to the annual Arizona Game and Fish Expo; the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Outdoor Expo will feature everything from wildlife exhibits and family fishing tanks and trying out firearms in a safe, controlled environment on the range. Dates are March 23-24, Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

And, for the first time since 2016, Arizona will have a new state park. Rockin’ River Ranch, located in Camp Verde, opened recently, and visitors can look forward to outdoor recreation options like picnicking, hiking, and wildlife watching. The

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Stop those invaders!



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Consider these swim-bait tips.



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What's up 17-Mile Road?

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WESTERN WILDLIFE
Immerse yourself in wildlife lore



Attend The Annual AZGFD Outdoor EXPO

The largest hands-on outdoor expo in Arizona is at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Outdoor Expo will feature everything from wildlife exhibits and family fishing tanks and trying out firearms in a safe, controlled environment on the range.

March 23-24, Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

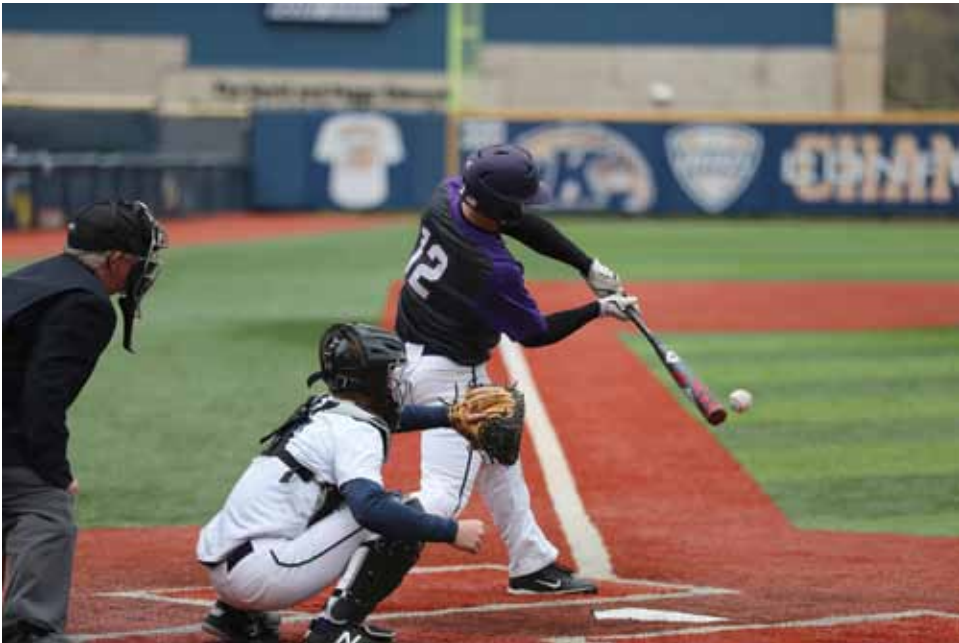
“We’re not aware of any other free event that combines conservation, recreation and industry into such a welcoming environment for the public,” said Ty Gray, AZGFD director. “This is where people can find plenty of hands-on activities, see educational exhibits,

test and purchase the latest equipment and products, and connect with social organizations that can provide countless ‘next step’ experiences to support their outdoor passions.”

Another great event is expected with more than 150 exhibitors, including outdoor recreation and conservation groups, government agencies and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services.

Are you interested in becoming an outdoor expo sponsor, exhibitor or vendor? Become a sponsor or exhibitor at the Outdoor Expo and connect with thousands of potential customers!

Learn about becoming an Outdoor Expo sponsor or exhibitor: Contact Madeline at mgaffney@azgfd.gov or 623 236-7402. ■



PLAY BALL!

Baseball Has Links To Firefighting

BY CHUCK MONTGOMERY
DC@HALLOFFLAME.ORG

Editor’s Note: Especially during spring training here in Arizona, many of us turn our thoughts to baseball, anticipating all the excitement of the upcoming season (especially since the Diamondbacks’ stellar 2023 season). Chuck Montgomery, executive director of the Hall of Flame, reminds us of the historical connection of the sport with firefighting.

The history of baseball in America is linked to our history of firefighting. “America’s pastime” developed from games like cricket and rounders in England and Ireland, as early as the 1700s, and similar games which came to America from Europe. It was played informally, with varying rules, for many decades in American cities like New York by young men in their leisure time, including volunteer firefighters. Competitive with each other

BASEBALL, continued on page 19



Nominations Sought For Arizona Outdoor Hall Of Fame

The Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation (WFT) is soliciting nominations for inductees into the 26th annual Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame. The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 8, 2024.

In 1998, Wildlife for Tomorrow and the Arizona Game and Fish Department joined forces to establish the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame. This prestigious award honors individuals and organizations that have made remarkable and enduring contributions towards the conservation of Arizona’s wildlife, the preservation of its natural resources, and the promotion of the state’s outdoor heritage.

To submit a nomination, visit — https://secure.lglforms.com/form_clengine/s/u9vANBfes4bGNqz2UhwV-A. Complete the form and click on “submit.” Any supplemental materials can be scanned and uploaded to the form. For questions or more information, send an email to info@wildlifefortomorrow.org.

This year’s inductees will be honored at this summer’s annual Outdoor Hall of

HALL OF FAME, continued on page 18



MARCH 21- MAY 4

Raptors At The Rails

11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
By partnering with Phoenix’s Liberty Wildlife the Verde Canyon Railroad provides visitors an opportunity for a close-up glimpse of raptors such as hawks, owls, falcons, vultures and eagles at the depot. Once or twice a month, Liberty volunteers will share several rescued educational animals, and fascinating information about each species, with passengers on the patio, from 11:00am until 12:45pm, prior to the train’s 1:00pm departure. All are welcome. In June, July and August the program features Reptiles at the Rails, cold-blooded creatures who savor the summer.
•Verde Canyon Railroad, •300 N Broadway,•Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

MARCH 30

Easter Bunny Express

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
The “hoppiest” celebration at Verde Canyon Railroad is the Easter Bunny Express. So that everyone will be home to celebrate Easter, the honorable hare will spend his last day off before the big event, Saturday, March 30th, visiting with everyone at Verde Canyon Railroad. The Easter Bunny loves sharing handfuls of wrapped treats and posing for keepsake family photos before bidding farewell to everyone on the train as it departs at 1 p.m..The Easter fun keeps going on-board with a winner-take-all lollipop counting contest.
•300 N Broadway•Clarkdale, Arizona 86324



APRIL 3-7

Arizona Bike Week 2024

Whether you’re an avid motorcycle enthusiast or non-rider, Arizona Bike Week promises to deliver an event like you’ve never seen before. ABW is a growing event, and each year brings more parties, activities and attractions. There’s so much to see and do, you’ll want to visit more than once over the five days of the event. WestWorld is home to the Southwest’s largest motorcycle event, and the pristine 380-acre special event site makes for the perfect setting for non-stop fun and excitement. In the ABW PowerYard, you’ll find hundreds of vendors, builders, dealers and manufacturers offering all the best elements of the powersports industry. Plus, daily stunt shows, contests, live entertainment and bike shows. The RockYard features nightly blockbuster concerts at the most affordable ticket pricing you’ll find. This year’s lineup includes Godsmack, Brantley Gilbert, George Thorogood and The Destroyers w/Everclear, and Yelawolf. All of this (even the concerts!) is included with your five-day Rally Pass for just \$119. Single day passes are also available. For more details, go to azbikeweek.com.
ADMISSION:\$28-\$119 •Westworld of Scottsdale•16601 N Pima Rd.•Scottsdale, Arizona 85260



APRIL 6

Grand Canyon Family Experience

Join us for an unforgettable adventure at the Grand Canyon South Rim in Grand Canyon Village, AZ, USA! This in-person day trip on a luxury coach bus is perfect for families looking to create life-long memories. Immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of the Grand Canyon as you explore its majestic cliffs and stunning views.
Discover the wonders of nature through guided hikes, where you’ll learn about the canyon’s fascinating geology and wildlife. Capture awe-inspiring photos that will make your friends jealous! Take a thrilling helicopter ride for a bird’s-eye view of this natural wonder, or hop on a mule for a unique and exciting way to experience the canyon.
With plenty of family friendly activities, there’s something for everyone. Join our knowledgeable guides for educational sessions and interactive workshops. Kids will love the Junior Ranger Program, where they can earn badges while learning about the environment and conservation.
Don’t miss out on this incredible opportunity to bond with your loved ones and create memories that will last a life-



time. Book your tickets now for the Grand Canyon Family Experience!

APRIL 12-13

Tour de Scottsdale

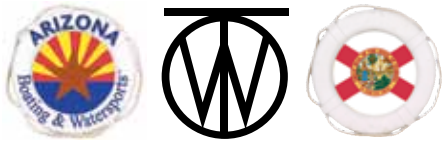
7 a.m.-5 p.m.
The HonorHealth Tour de Scottsdale offers challenging and scenic courses that will undoubtedly push the limits of cyclists; admission: \$125



APRIL 19-21

Lake Havasu Boat Show

12 p.m.-3p.m.
In its 33rd year, the Marine Association originally designed this event to promote marine businesses in the Lake Havasu region, and, today, it is now one of the largest premier outdoor boat shows in the entire Southwest!
The Lake Havasu Boat Show attracts more than 150 exhibitors and more than \$50 million in boats, including more than 65 different brands of new and used boats.
Leading the way at the Lake Havasu Boat Show are the more than 50 top name brand boats on display
Marine vendors include fishing boats, pontoons, family runabouts, wakeboard/ski boats, personal watercraft, jet boats, and the hottest high performance sport boats and all of the marine accessories, bells and whistles that the country has to offer.
Food, beverages and beer gardens on-site.
• Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor Beach•171 London Bridge Road•Lake Havasu CityArizona 86403•928-453-3444



THE CREW

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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.

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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Marinas Grow With PWC Storage/Launching

Many marina owners know they can generate a modest income stream through daily personal watercraft (PWC) launch fees. More are discovering the real money is in dry-stack storage.

An all-electric PWC Launcher from CAPRIA S.A. is easy to add to any small, unused portion of waterfront—whether it's a steep embankment, concrete seawall or second-story structure. The opportunity to increase customer satisfaction and owner revenue is now in place.

Perfect for incorporating into a new or existing dry-stack operation, CAPRIA PWC Launchers are CE-marked and built to ISO 9001 standards. They're manufactured to accommodate virtually any location. Vertical travel can reach up to 100' with angles between 20° and 90°. This makes the machinery especially practical for marinas with extreme tidal fluctuations.

Operationally, it's no different from a standard dry-stack business. Owners contact the marina to book a pickup time. PWCs up to 1,500 lbs. are loaded onto the PWC Launchers using a CAPRIA semi-automated Stacker Crane or forklift. Then, it's a mere five to 15 seconds until it's in the water.

CAPRIA S.A. has manufactured precision heavy machinery for over 50 years, including marine systems for over 20



years. With low-cost dry-stack installations around the world, it has a proven record of solidly improving profits for its customers.

Contact CAPRIA S.A., Haendel 32, Centro Industrial Garin, CP 1619 Garin, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Phone: +54 3327 414470; info@thestackermachinery.com; www.thestackermachinery.com. ■

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Help Stop The Spread Of Harmful Invasive Species

Did you know that invasive quagga mussels cause millions of dollars in damage to boat motors, docks and water intake systems? Or that unwanted turtles, tortoises, and other pets illegally released into the wild can hurt our native species by introducing disease or outcompeting them for habitat and food?



Awareness Week

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) participated in National Invasive Species Awareness Week, which ran through the beginning of March. The nationwide event aimed to educate the public about the harmful impact of invasive animals, plants and other organisms. During the week, AZGFD posted information highlighting some of the invasive species in Arizona, and how people can help slow their spread.

“Taking a few minutes to clean your gear, especially footwear, after use is one of the best ways to protect Arizona’s waters and fisheries regardless if you are in an AIS-affected water or not,” said Kate Dukette, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for AZGFD.

Ways To Help

AZGFD and the North American Invasive Species Management Association encourage people to help in the following ways:

- **Learn** about invasive species, especially those found in this region.

AZGFD’s website and the National Invasive Species Information Center are both resources.

- **Boaters and anglers** should remember to clean, drain and dry your boat (and leave the plug out) before moving to another water. This helps stop the spread of quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species. It’s not just a good practice, it’s the law. www.azgfd.gov/AIS

- **Anglers** should clean and dry their gear. Don’t forget to clean those wading boots. Never transport live fish from one body of water to another. AZGFD AIS Angler Recommendations & StopAIS.org

- **Don’t release pets** into the wild. It is illegal for pet owners who no longer wish to care for their exotic pets to release them into the wild, or dump their aquariums into bodies of water, potentially harming local ecosystems. DontLetItLoose.com

- **Land recreationists** should clean their hiking boots, off-road vehicles and other gear to stop invasive species from hitching a ride to a new location. Learn more at PlayCleanGo.org

- **Campers** should not move firewood. Instead, buy it where you’ll burn it, or gather on site when permitted. DontMoveFirewood.org

- **Slow the spread** of invasive pests by taking extra care when traveling, gardening, or moving recently killed plant material. Buy plants from a reputable source, and avoid using invasive plant species. HungryPests.com

- **Buy** forage, hay, mulch and soil that

SPECIES, continued on page 7

Wearing A Life Jacket Should Be A Year-Long Resolution

Most boating fatalities involve people not wearing a life jacket.



The importance of wearing a life jacket while recreating on Arizona’s waterways is sadly reflected in the most recent statistics involving boating tragedies.

A majority of the recreational boating fatalities were individuals who drowned and were not wearing a life jacket — the most important piece of safety gear one can wear, whether on a boat, personal watercraft or paddlecraft.

Drowning Victims Not Wearing Life Jackets

This was the case for three of the eight fatalities that occurred last year. And it’s a number that’s echoed nationally: In the most recent statistics provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, 85 percent of drowning victims in 2022 were not wearing a life jacket.

“It’s certainly not too late to make boating safety a New Year’s resolution,” said Kim Jackson, boating and OHV education program manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). “Designate a sober operator, wear a life jacket, and ensure that others on your boat do so as well.”

Stopping Unsafe Behaviors

AZGFD aims to keep the public safe by patrolling the state’s waterways, as well as by providing education on best practices for boating safety and operation. Law enforcement efforts, including

sobriety checkpoints and participation in initiatives like Operation Dry Water, allow officers to make contact with watercraft users throughout the state and share important messages about sober boating, while helping to stop unsafe behaviors.

The department’s Boating Safety Education courses include instruction on the basic skills required to safely operate a boat or personal watercraft, trailering a vessel, navigational rules, buoys, anchoring, legal requirements, boating emergencies, water sports, and paddling.

As a reminder, life jackets must be worn by children 12 and younger anytime they are on board a boat or watercraft, and that a properly fitting life jacket must be available for all passengers.

Remember The Loaner Stations

For boaters who do not have enough life jackets (or the right sizes) for everyone, more than two dozen life jacket loaner stations have been installed at popular lakes, including Apache, Bartlett, Canyon, Lake Havasu, Mohave, Pleasant, and Saguaro. ■

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

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

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

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Keep Rain Out, Let Sunshine, Fresh Air In

Opening port lights are great for filling a cabin with sunshine and fresh air. But above all else, they need to keep water outside. Few do this better than Newport

self-draining ports from Beckson Marine. Equally ideal for DIY and OEM use, they're designed for ease of installation and built for harsh marine environments.

The Newport Self Drain Opening model comes with a molded angled ramp that promotes drainage and allows for simple through-bolting. The internal incline sits tightly against the gasket and lens, without the need for an exterior water retention ledge. This ensures there's no water ingress when opening it after a rain. They're best for mounting within 15th of vertical.

Beckson's Rain Drain version is built for use on cabin sides with excessive angles. This port drains while tipped up

to 45° degrees and won't collect water. It also has easy-to-clean open ducts that resist clogging.

Newport Fixed Ports are fully sealed and designed for light only and are ideal where interior restrictions would limit the use of an opening port. They're identical in size, shape, style, and strength to the opening ports for a seamless appearance.

Beckson Marine Newport Opening Ports start at \$230, while the Fixed models start at \$139. Both share the same hole and frame sizes.

Contact local dealers or Beckson Marine, 165 Holland Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605. Email: orderdesk@beckson.com; Visit www.beckson.com. ■



Holders Keep Gear From Sliding, Breaking

Rolling boats cause unsecured gear to slide, falling to the deck or floor. The extensive line of Soft-Mate™ Equipment Holders from Beckson Marine safely secures a wide range of equipment, protecting items from damage.

Soft-Mate Equipment Holders are manufactured from a soft, flexible PVC compound, specially formulated for marine use. Each is designed for a specific purpose, but offers imaginative boat owners unlimited uses.

The white Binocular Holder secures delicate optics along with logbooks, navigational charts and tools. It measures 8.25" H x 8.75" W x 2.75" D.

Three sizes of Winch Holders accommodate flat, and standard and large ratcheted handles. Offered in white, they're also perfect for screwdrivers, fish grabbers, fillet knives and other slender tools.

For taller cylindrical items, the 8" H x 3" W x 2.75" dia. Safety Item Holder is ideal. It's available in safety-themed red, as well as black or white.

The Can and Air Horn Holder fits drink cans, air horns and flashlights. Slightly larger, the Beverage Holder is sized for insulated containers. Beckson Radio Holders accommodate portable VHF radios in two sizes - 6" H x 3" W x 2" D and 4.75" H x 2.75" W x 2" D. All three are offered in white or black.

All Soft-Mate Equipment Holders come with mounting screws. Suction cup

mounts where drilling is not desirable are offered for select models. Beckson Marine Soft-Mate Equipment Holders range from \$4.95 to \$85.85.

Contact local dealers or Beckson Marine, 165 Holland Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605. Email: orderdesk@beckson.com; Visit www.beckson.com. ■

Marine Stereo Built To Overcome Harsh Weather

RiverPark Marine's JBL-R3500 source unit was built from the ground up for harsh weather. The stereo receiver overcomes rain, spray and rinse downs, yet delivers the rich, immersive sound quality JBL source units are known for.

The JBL-R3500 is the first level in the WAKE series. Beyond AM/FM and weather band reception, it offers BT5.0 with ID streaming. BT5.0 provides greater control distance and faster data speeds compared to older generations of Bluetooth. With USB and aux ports, it accommodates the most popular device inputs.

The sound quality of the JBL-R3500 source unit is impressive. The built-in amplifier delivers 4x40 watts RMS @ 4 ohms with 4x55 peak @ 4 ohms. Two-ohm stable, it can power eight 4 ohm speakers wired in parallel without an additional amplifier yet has a set of pre-outs if one is desired. While it has the volume to be heard over a roaring outboard, the receiver delivers the acoustical finesse audiophiles look for in a stereo receiver.

Using the JBL-R3500 is intuitive. The

rotary encoder accent ring and power button are illuminated and ergonomically situated. A 4" LCD monochromatic display provides the contrast needed for it to be seen in any light condition. The component can be surface mounted or installed flush although the latter is typically only seen in an OEM application. The WAKE

Series JBL-R3500 from RiverPark Marine costs \$269.95.

Contact local dealers or RiverPark Marine, 3325 S Morgans Point Rd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466. www.prospecelectronics.com; www.facebook.com/prospecaudio; www.instagram.com/prospecelectronics; YouTube: www.bit.ly/2wQmJWz. ■



ICE IT

Whether splitting ice or marking the exact location of a drill hole, Shipmate Stainless Steel Pick/Probes from Beckson Marine are a tool no boat owner should be without. With a low price and available gift box, they make a thoughtful present. Contact local dealers or Beckson Marine, 165 Holland Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605. Email: orderdesk@beckson.com; Visit www.beckson.com.



SPECIES

Continued from page 5

are certified as "weed free".

• *Be a Citizen Scientist* and report observations of invasive species at invasives.natureserve.org.

Everyone's Responsibility

"It is everyone's responsibility to be stewards of the places that we love so we can protect Arizona's waters for future generations," Dukette said.

For more information about National Invasive Species Awareness Week, visit www.nisaw.org. ■

Tutoring, Editing, Writing

As a college English teacher, editor, and writer of both fiction and non-fiction for many years, I am available online (or by U.S. mail) for tutoring, editing, proofreading, copyediting, and writing. I have skills in academic research at both high school and college levels and can also assist those working toward their GEDs, those who need help with resumes, and with both advertising and proposals.

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COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS

More Than 50 Waters To Fish!

We have established fishing waters in 23 Arizona communities.



Whether you are an experienced, occasional or new angler, the Arizona Community Fishing Program offers fishing opportunities that you are sure to enjoy. There are currently more than 50 city park lakes participating in the Program, a partnership between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and 23 communities across the state. Detailed maps and park-specific information on all Community Fishing waters are found in this website section. To ensure fishermen have a good chance of catching fish, plenty of ready-to-catch fish are stocked during the fall, winter and spring seasons.

Community Fishing Areas

- Phoenix area – 29 waters



From left: Channel Catfish, Blue Gill, Rainbow Trout

- Yuma area – 5 waters
- Casa Grande area – 1 water
- Prescott Valley area – 2 waters
- Tucson area – 4 waters
- Town of Payson – Green Valley Lakes
- Ash Fork – Stone Dam
- St. Johns – Patterson Ponds
- Show Low Creek Meadow
- Safford Area

Stocking Schedules
More than 4 million Arizona residents live within a 20-minute drive of a stocked Community Fishing Program lake. Close by and convenient, all the parks offer

parking and other amenities to make your fishing trip and park visit enjoyable. Distinctive Community Fishing Program signs are posted at key locations at all participating waters, uniquely identifying these fisheries from other waters. The signs also highlight the fishing license requirements and bag limit regulations that apply to Community Fishing waters.

- Channel catfish 13-18 inches , stocked in the spring and fall,
- Bluegill 5-7 inches, stocked once in the spring,
- Rainbow trout 10-13 inches, stocked in the winter. ■



2024 Pronghorn, Elk Hunt Draw Results Available

Applicants should check their AZGFD portal account.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has released the draw results for 2024 pronghorn and elk hunts. A customer’s AZGFD portal account is the only source for finding out draw results and viewing bonus points. A free portal account can be created at accounts.azgfd.com/Account/Register (account features for minor dependents are available).

A portal account allows customers to create a secure account where they can view and manage their contact information, as well as their licenses, draw results history and bonus points in their personal “My AZGFD Dashboard” section. For questions about creating a portal account, call 602-942-3000 and press “7.”

By the numbers:
• 24,350: Total number of hunt permits tags issued.

HUNT DRAW, continued on page 17

Ready To Catch A Little Fame And Glory?

Whether you’re new to angling or a seasoned pro, the fishing challenges provide opportunities to pursue and catch your “big fish” and have it posted on our website. Find your challenge, see how to enter, and explore the official rules.

Fishing Challenges Offered By AZGFD
Bass Anglers: The Arizona Hawg Bass Challenge

Arizona is home to great largemouth bass fishing! The Arizona Game and Fish Department works to provide great opportunities for anglers to catch huge largemouth bass all over the state. To complete this challenge, catch an 5 pound or 21 inch or larger largemouth bass. Verify your big fish by taking a picture while weighing or measuring it following the rules and guidelines listed. Release your fish quickly (immediately after weighing or measuring) back into the lake where you caught it. Submit your picture via BFishing@azgfd.gov. Make sure you include a valid email address so that you can be contacted. A Department biologist will contact you to discuss all the great details of your catch.

Catfish Chasers: Our Arizona Fat Cat Challenge

Arizona is home to fantastic large flathead and channel catfish fishing! The Arizona Game and Fish Department works to provide great opportunities for anglers to catch huge flathead and channel catfish (catfish) all over Arizona. Arizona is home to fantastic large flathead and channel catfish fishing! The Arizona Game and Fish Department works to provide great opportunities for anglers to catch huge flathead and channel catfish all over Arizona. Arizona Fat Cat Challenge is an incentive-based conservation program designed to encourage anglers to learn about and pursue prize sized flathead and channel catfish while encouraging catch-and-release on individual fish that exceed the designated weight or length. Catch a 40 pound or larger flathead catfish or a 15 pound or larger channel catfish. Verify your catch by taking a picture of the fish while being weighed or measured following the rules and guidelines



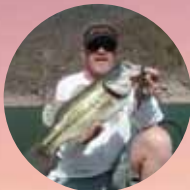
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listed. Release your fish quickly (immediately after weighing and measuring) back into the lake or river where you caught it. Submit your picture via BFishing@azgfd.gov. Make sure you include a valid email address so that you can be contacted. A Department biologist will contact you to discuss all the great details of your catch and get your information to send you an AZ Fat Cat Challenge fishing shirt and decal for your truck or boat to celebrate your catch.

Trout Anglers: Arizona Trout Challenge

Arizona’s Trout Challenge Program was developed to encourage anglers to learn more about fishing opportunities in the state. Arizona Game and Fish Department manages many waters statewide to provide anglers the opportunity to catch several different species of trout, including two found only in the Southwest, Gila Trout and Apache Trout. Arizona’s Trout Challenge Program was developed to encourage anglers to learn more about fishing opportunities in the state. Arizona Game and Fish Department manages many waters statewide to provide anglers the opportunity to catch several different species of trout, including two found only in the Southwest, Gila Trout and Apache Trout. There are two ways to complete the challenge: 1) Catch all five species of wild trout in Arizona. These species include Apache, Brown, Brook, Gila and Rainbow trout. *Note: *Anglers who completed the wild trout challenge without a Gila Trout while the Gila Trout requirement was suspended may submit a photo of a wild Gila Trout they catch for verification along with the stream it was caught at, date caught, and gear type used (fly or*

lure) to the email or mailing address listed below. You do not need to resubmit the full application. After the Gila Trout is verified it will be added to your certificate and a new wild trout challenge certificate will be issued. 2) Catch at least six of the eight total species in Arizona (including hatchery-raised trout): Gila, Apache, Brown, Brook, Rainbow, Grayling, Cutthroat, and Tiger trout. ■



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TEN BEST SWIMBAIT TIPS

Swimbait Are Dynamite Lures!

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

“Swimbait” is a broad term – it can mean anything from a grub to a 15-inch trout imitation. They are distinct from crankbaits in design and usually in material – swimbait tend to be made of softer stuff than crankbaits, but they are all designed to imitate some kind of baitfish. Spring is the perfect time to get acquainted with these baits if you aren’t already a fan, so here are some tips to help you improve your swimbait techniques.



A big Yamamoto Senko is one of John’s favorite swimbait.



A big swimmer bait calls for a beefy rod and stout line.

D-Shad And Fluke Baits

These little baits are all the rage out West right now and they have been putting fish in the boat all year long. Little Dippers, D-Shad, flukes – they come in a huge variety of colors, and the tails can be split, straight, paddle – you name it. Seems like no matter what kind you use, they flat-out catch fish. When the bass are up shallow and active, all you have to do

is put a swimmer bait on a hook (rig it weedless), then throw it to shore and twitch it. But there are several things you can do to increase your catch ratio and save some money, whether you fish flukes or giants.

1. Use a trailer hook. When you rig a fluke on a big worm hook, slip a large treble hook onto the hook before you push it back into the lure. Make sure that the treble is rigged correctly so that one of the hooks is pointing right back at the bait. You can insert this into the bait and have the other two hooks exposed. When you’re twitching over open water, these aren’t going to snag on anything, but they make a difference in your catching, especially if the fish are short-striking.

2. Put a bit of weight in front of it. If the fish are a bit deeper, then you need to add weight to the lure to put it in front of them. A D-Shad is naturally a little heavier, but even a D-Shad may need to be deeper. Gary Dobyns got tired of jig heads that didn’t have decent barb systems, and when you’re fishing an A-rig or even a single bait, it gets expensive when they keep falling off. So he invented one himself. The Dobyns jighead has a 4-barb system that requires no super glue and makes the bait swim naturally but holds it on tight. Put it on straight the first time or you’ll rip it up taking it off. It’s “stupid simple”, Gary says.

3. Use braided line. If you’re fishing a small fluke bait, you need to be able to throw it, and you need to be able to set the hook hard and fast when the time comes. Braided line is perfect for this. If you’re fishing clear water, use a fluorocarbon leader and join them up with a double uni.

4. Match the hatch. Like a fly fisherman, you need to be aware of just what the fish are eating in the lake you’re fishing. In some of our clear-water reservoirs out West, the Game and Fish Department stocks catchable rainbow trout. These tasty morsels make the bass grow big and fat. Throwing a trout swimmer bait is a dynamite way to tempt one of the really big bass into biting. Shad are the main prey on other lakes out West, like Pleasant and Mead. We went to a new lake called Hidden Lake near Buckeye, Arizona (www.hiddenlakeaz.com), which is being managed as a trophy bass lake. It just opened in January. The owner told me that when the big orange dragonflies are out, the bass will jump out of the water and grab them out of the air. I’m thinking an orange twitch bait would be perfect right about then.

5. Put it where the fish are. If you’re too worried about losing your bait, you shouldn’t be fishing it at all. Matt Shura



John caught this big swimmer bass at Lake Pleasant.

(<http://www.mattshura.com/>) told me that he tries to throw his baits into stuff that worries him. He knows that bass love to hang out in the thick stuff, so that’s where to go after them. At Hidden Lake he was casting into branches and submerged trees that you would swear he’d never get out of. But that’s where he caught the big fish.

6. Don’t be afraid to change it up. If you think the tail on your swimmer bait could use a little more action, take a knife to it and carve away until the tail wiggles like you want it to. Try a little dye if you have a little sunfish bait that doesn’t seem quite right. Out here our sunfish have a definite chartreuse tint to their tails, and lots of guys dip their baits in chartreuse dye. You can also use a waterproof marker to add red to the gills. Do whatever it takes to make that bait look like lunch.

7. Study the prey. Many years ago, the late great Aaron Martens told me that he spent a lot of time learning about what big bass eat. He studied how trout swim, where they hang out, and how they behave. You can bet that the bass in a lake know just where to find their prey, and they are also intimately acquainted with how they move. Learn to make your swimmer bait act like the prey. Watch videos, read some studies, then practice throwing your baits in a swimming pool where you can watch them and perfect your technique.

8. Keep the hooks sharp. Hook sharpeners are cheap, so get one and use it. If it’s been a while since you threw that bait, make sure you check the hooks and replace them if necessary. We fish around a lot of rocks out west, and hooks take a real beating. Hooks can get dull or even broken. Make it a habit to at least look at the hooks every time you go to make a cast.

9. Use the right rod. For flukes, you may be using a spinning rod, while for the big swimmer bait you’ll be using a casting rod, but make sure you get a rod that is designed for swimbait – limber enough to throw a lure even without a weight, but with enough backbone to set the hook. My buddy Gary Dobyns has decades of experience fishing every kind of bass bait imaginable, and he was one of the first guys ever to reach the million-dollar mark in tournament winnings. He knows what kind of rod you need no matter what you are throwing. Check out www.dobynsrods.com. Even if you don’t end up buying one from him, you’ll learn what to look for in a good swimmer bait rod.

10. Fish backwards. Decades ago, John Murray told me that he often positions his boat close to shore so he can fish uphill. Last January Tai Au showed me the same thing at Lake Pleasant with an A-rig. He stayed close to shore and threw the rig out toward the channel, let it sink, and then fished it back toward shore. The bass were slamming it. You can do this same thing no matter what

SWIMBAITS, continued on page 12



John and our buddy Matt Shura caught these toads at Hidden Lake using big Yamamoto plastics as swimbait.

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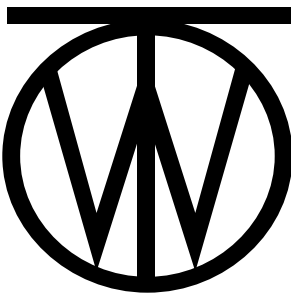
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This Year's Additions Captivate Visitors

We are thrilled to announce the following new and exciting additions for the upcoming 2024 Arizona Renaissance Festival season. Whether you are a seasoned festival-goer or a first-time visitor, prepare to be captivated by the exquisite new additions awaiting your arrival.

The Hops!! - New Pub Crawl
Introducing “The Hops!!” - a brand new pub crawl at the Arizona Renaissance Festival!
Whether you’re a seasoned pub crawler or new to the experience this limited capacity, ticketed event guarantees laughter and revelry that will take place twice a



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See the acts at Mynstrel's Roost!

New Entertainment!
In addition the new music stage, we are bringing even more new Stage & Lane acts to our village of Fairhaven! You will find something for everyone to enjoy. ■

SWIMBAIT

Continued from page 10

kind of swimbait you are fishing. Try something different – you may be surprised at the result.

No matter where you live and fish, there is a swimbait that will mimic the baitfish and put bass in the boat for you. Swimbaiters are dynamite lures – hopefully, these tips will help you catch even more fish with them. ■

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Cruising 17 Mile And Signal Roads

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

John and I had been wanting to explore the area southwest of Wikieup for a long time, and we finally got there last month. We honestly didn't even know if there was anything worth seeing back there, but the fact that you would be able to check out the Big Sandy River decided me!

We did this whole trip in one day from Phoenix, so it's doable, but it makes for a very long day. Starting on Highway 93, go north past Nothing and keep an eye out for the sign that says 17 Mile Road. Turn west off the highway here. The main road is very well-maintained gravel, nice and wide, so just about any vehicle can make it.

Gorgeous Views

The road starts to climb through the Poachie Mountains and you'll get gorgeous views of Arrastra Mountain on the south and Greenwood Peak on the north. It's high desert here so it's mostly junipers and prickly pear – we were able to let Mochi run around without any worries about cholla.

There are also some stunning rock formations on the hills that make the drive even more enjoyable. The road comes to a T when it connects with Signal Road, and you'll turn left here and head southwest. Pretty soon you'll come to the town (?) of Signal, with a sign hanging off the posts saying "Signal Est. 1877 Pop.0". There are houses scattered around, but hardly any traffic at all – in fact we only saw maybe 3 other cars all day!

Rockhouse Cabin

I had seen a site called Rockhouse



Rockhouse Cabin Map

Cabin on the Topo Maps app, and since we didn't know how long it would take for the drive we didn't stop along the way but headed straight for the cabin. Take Signal Road to Alamo Road and head south on Alamo to 7466. From this point you will need a 4WD to get to the cabin.



Rockhouse Cabin



Rockhouse Cabin

It is ROUGH.

Stay headed west on 7466 and drive down a sandy wash then climb up the hill. You'll see a rock wall in a cleft that is the road to the cabin. This immediately turns into a narrow shelf road. I have no idea what you would do if someone was coming the other way. I never spotted a place to pass or to turn around on this road until we got to the cabin. Once you're on it, you're committed!

Room For Parking, Turning

Fortunately, it's only about half a mile to the cabin at this point, and there is plenty of room for parking and turning around. Again, there was no one there. I walked around a bit and it looked to me like the road past the cabin was completely washed out.

The cabin itself was a huge surprise – it's very sturdily built of rock and has a great roof and wooden floors. Inside it's like an old saloon – evidently, a lot of people drive up there to drink and leave their

empties on the shelves inside. There's even wooden furniture inside and we had a fun time looking at everything. It's very neat and tidy, if a bit dusty. Frankly, I can't imagine driving back down that shelf road after drinking!

There are a lot of places to camp along the bigger roads, so on the way back toward Signal we stopped at a site that had a fire ring and ate lunch before continuing back toward Signal and the Big Sandy River.



Archaeological Site

Signal And Ruins

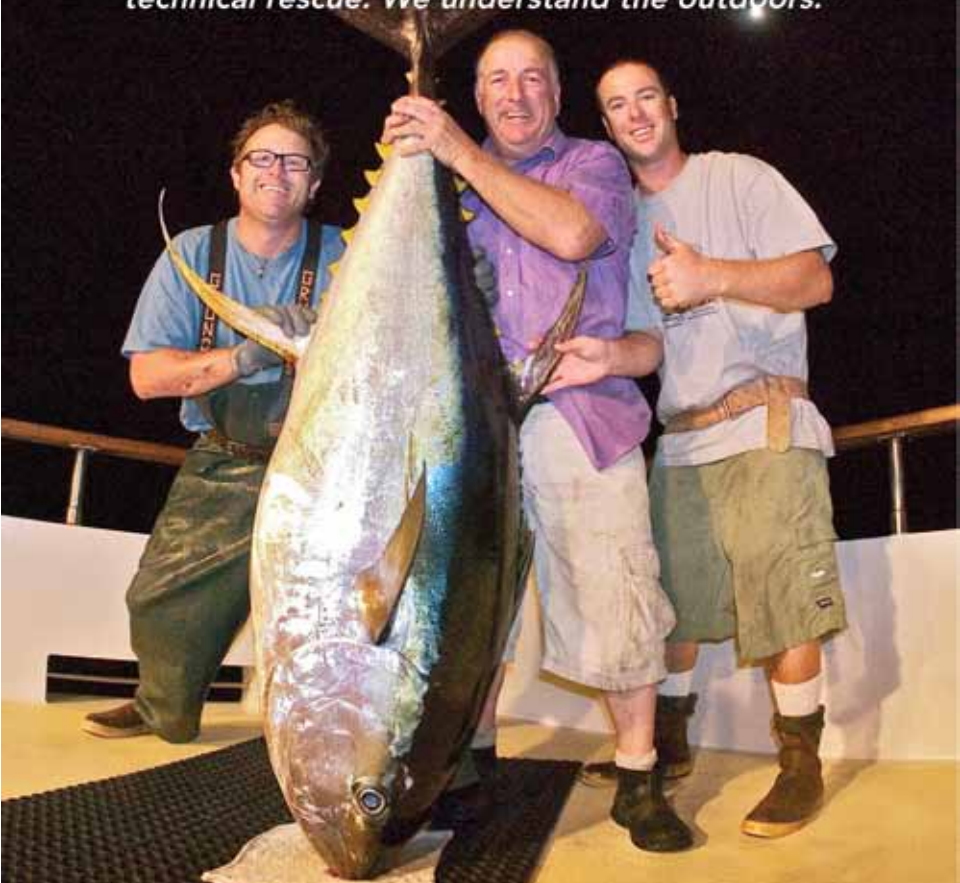
Back on Signal Road we drove to the sign for the turnoff to Signal ghost town and headed east toward the Big Sandy. Pretty soon we came to some huge old concrete walls, probably some kind of old mining stuff. We climbed around on them for a while and Mochi chased lizards, then we headed south to see if we could find the ruins.

17 MILE, continued on page 15

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The views from 17 Mile Road are gorgeous.



17 MILE

Continued from page 14

Need 4WD

This is another spot where you'll need a 4WD because you'll be driving through the deep sand of Rupley Wash. There are



Archaeological Site Map



Ruins Near Signal

some small signs showing the way to go, and once you reach the wash it's less than half a mile to the ruins, so you could easily walk.

These ruins are worth a short hike – the walls are very high in a lot of places, and it's fascinating to wander around and try to figure out what everything was for. But it was getting to be late afternoon so we decided we better get going. Instead of turning onto 17 Mile Road and head back the way we came, we stayed on Signal Road and came out on 93 north of 17 Mile.

Wikieup And Burro Creek Campground

From the intersection of Signal Road and Highway 93, it's only 15 miles north to Wikieup, and if you've never stopped to eat there, you should do it! They have a great gift shop and the prettiest patio and gardens.

Between the turnoff to Signal Road and the 17 Mile Road turnoff is Burro Creek Campground, which is a pretty cool place. The creek makes great little swimming holes there and trails from the campground will take you to them. There are flush toilets and a dump station, and 10 of the 23 campsites are suitable for RVs. Find out more at <https://www.blm.gov/visit/burro-creek-campground>.

As for us, we hit the highway and took the long drive back to Phoenix. It was a 305 mile round trip and about 11 hours altogether. And honestly, we can't wait to go back!

Final Bits Of Advice

I've talked about this before, but I strongly recommend you download the Topo Maps app and then once you have it, download the quadrants you'll be us-



This is a little side road off 17 Mile Road. No matter which way you turn, you get beautiful views.

ing so they are available to you when you don't have a cell signal. I have the hi-res maps of the entire state of Arizona downloaded on my phone, and they are invaluable. You can see where you are in real time which is a godsend when you're navigating a maze of dirt roads.

Topo And Gaia

I used mine a lot on this trip to keep us heading in the right direction to the cabin and the ruins. I also have Gaia downloaded on my phone, and those maps display on the Jeep's screen, which is something John really likes. So if you can, get both of those and have fun! ■



Please Read The Mission 22 Story

At Mission 22, our commitment could not be more personal. Mission 22 was founded by Veterans. Most of our staff are Veterans, spouses of Veterans, or have immediate family members who have served in the US military.

We provide extensive, personalized support and resources to help Veterans and their families thrive. Mission 22's programs for Veterans and military spouses offer everything from biometric monitoring of stress, sleep, and activity levels; to meditation and coaching; to exercise programs and a wellness supplement regimen; to books and learning resources to help Veterans put their experience in context.

A Family's Experience

Mission 22 recognizes that a Veteran's experience is a family's experience – families live through all of the ups and downs that soldiers returning home do. We've developed a support program exclusively for spouses to take positive steps that renew their identities as individuals and the strengths they bring to their household.

Our Ambassador program further supports Veterans and military families – a network of more than 3,500 Veterans and civilians in all 50 states and around the world. We work to advance society's collective understanding of the issues faced by active service members, Veterans, and their families.

Rising To A Challenge

At Mission 22, we know firsthand that Veterans and service members bring extensive skills and assets to any situation. Their leadership capabilities, experiences, and sense of teamwork and integrity



To the 22 veterans who died today: We honor you and wish you peace.

are unmatched. Veterans know how to rise to a challenge.

America's Veterans make our society stronger. They deserve a community worthy of all they have given, and all they will yet achieve. We are proud to continue designing programs for Veterans and their families, and to welcome them into our community.

Our Mission

Mission 22 is a national community supporting active service members, Veterans, and their family members, through three areas of focus:

Support And Treatment Programs

For active service members, Veterans, and their family members, addressing Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, suicide risk and other challenges.

Social Impact

Uniting civilians and the military community to raise awareness of issues active service members, veterans, and their family members face.

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Help When You Need It Most

Our mission eliminates the wait times often experienced by Veterans seeking treatment, and provides help when they need it most: right now. Our programs for Veterans are effective, and provide long-term help and healing for those dealing with post-traumatic stress (PTS), traumatic brain injury (TBI), or military sexual trauma (MST). Our comprehensive program offerings, from Recovery + Resiliency to Amare Wellness, get to the core of persistent issues and help Veterans overcome personal challenges.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution. If you have effective ideas you'd like to share, let us know.

In Crisis? Get Help

If you or someone you love is in crisis, there is help available. Mission 22 is not a crisis support organization, but we do have a list of resources that can help address urgent needs. Please click to find the corresponding organizations and contact information.

Mission 22 is not a crisis organization. If you are in crisis please call 911 immediately or one of the crisis lines below:

Stop Soldier Suicide: 844-889-5610
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Please visit our Mission 22 Financials page for a detailed look at our financials.

You can also find our past three years 990s, audited financial statements and annual reports all provided on the Guidestar Website and see a breakdown of our programs and finances here at Charity Navigator as well.

Elderheart Inc. is the 501C3 behind Mission 22. Its Board of Directors is composed of Special Forces operator Mike Kissel and Infantryman Brad Hubbard. Because of their personal battles

MISSION 22, continued on page 18



THE STORY OF SMOKEY

She Was A True Heroine

In February 1944, an American soldier discovered a Yorkshire terrier dog in an abandoned trench in the jungles of New Guinea, which received the nickname "Smokey". It was owned by Ohio corporal William Wynn, who bought it from the soldiers for two Australian pounds. For the next two years, Smokey was with her master in the Pacific theater of operations.

The dog participated in 12 air and sea rescue and photo reconnaissance missions. During these operations, Smokey was often under fire in a soldier's backpack for a long time. She survived at least 150 air raids and two typhoons in Okinawa. Smokey also made jumps with a special parachute from a height of 9.1 m. And Wynn said that she warned him about the threat of a bombing by barking and behavior, which saved his life.

Once a dog saved the labor of 250 workers at an airfield. They would have had to dig a new ditch to lay the cable. This would also require the relocation of 40 warplanes. A buried old narrow pipe was found. The dog was placed at one end of the pipe, and its owner called Smokey from the other end. And a tiny dog with a wire tied to it, was not afraid to crawl through this long tunnel.

Smokey is also considered the world's first professional "treatment dog" - she entertained the wounded by showing them all sorts of tricks. In this capacity, the dog worked for 12 years, during and after World War II.

SMOKEY, continued on page 18

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'Roger That' Has A Military History

The term "Roger that" is a widespread term for confirmation, either between truckers on their CB radios, kids playing back and forth with walkie-talkies, or even face to face. But it's easy to adopt the phrase and understand what it means without ever really knowing where it came from. So here's a (very) brief history for your edification.

"Roger" comes from the phonetic alphabet used by military and aviation personnel during WWII, when the use of two-way radios became a main form of communication and operators need crystal clear ways to spell things out with no room for misinterpretation. You may be familiar with the current NATO version of the phonetic alphabet (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, etc.), where the the word for "R" is Romeo, but before that standard was adopted in 1957, the words were a bit different, and the word for "R" was "Roger."

But the use of "Roger" as a confirmation has roots that go back even further, according to a blog post by Jakub Marian. In the Morse code days, when sending long messages could be arduous, a useful shorthand was to respond with single, meaningful letters.



BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Responding to a message with the letter "R," for example, simply let the sender know their message had been received. When two-way radio came along, the shorthand continued, but with the word "Roger" instead of "R" itself.

Even though Roger has since been replaced with Romeo (and was "Robert" before it was ever Roger), the widespread use of the two-ray radio during the WWII wildly popularized the saying we still use so casually today. Roger that? ■

Operation ‘Game Thief’ Protects Wildlife

Poaching Poachers are thieves who steal Arizona’s most precious natural resource – wildlife! Poaching interferes with the ability to effectively manage wildlife and wildlife habitat. It negatively impacts the ability to enjoy the outdoors, and reduces opportunities to hunt and fish in Arizona.

Cellular phone calls to the OGT hotline have proven to be extremely beneficial. An officer’s chances of apprehending the violator while he is still in the woods are greatly enhanced when the offense is reported immediately. Most calls to the OGT hotline are now toll-free. If your service is provided by either Verizon or Alltel, simply dial #HUNT, and you will be connected to the hotline.

The hotline has long tentacles. A caller may place a toll-free call not only within Arizona, but also from its border states that include Utah, New Mexico, Nevada and the southern half of California.

Reported violations are usually prioritized based on the severity and/or the legitimacy of the information provided. Because the Department has limited commissioned officers statewide, it is not possible to immediately respond to every call. All violations receive the highest priority, and every attempt is made to immediately dispatch an officer to the scene. Officers have extraordinarily large patrol areas, in addition to other responsibilities, and it is not always possible for an immediate response to a violation. This is why it is important that you act as a good witness so that follow-up by an officer can be conducted. Rest assured that **your call and assistance is important.**

All reported violations are logged, tracked, and analyzed for trend data to determine violation hot-spots. Special



JUDD NICHOLS/UNSPLACSH

projects, patrols, or criminal investigations are conducted directly as a result of the trend data. No matter the degree of the reported violation, your tip usually makes the difference on whether a violator will be apprehended.

Things To Know About The Program

OGT History: More Than Four Decades Of Catching Poachers

The Arizona Game and Fish Department long ago recognized the need for a program that provided the public with a way to report wildlife violations to assist wildlife managers in the ongoing battle against the poaching of Arizona’s fish and wildlife resources.

In 1974, the “Help Our Wildlife” (HOW) program was developed. The HOW program was limited due to a lack

of dedicated funding, making the promotion of the program difficult and the financing of a reward program virtually impossible. Before cell phones calls often were made to the HOW program several days after the violation took place. While the information was valuable, the untimely reporting made catching the violator(s) in the field with illegally-taken wildlife unlikely.

Legislation

In 1977, Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) 17-246 (re-numbered in 1978 to the current 17-314), established the civil liability process where the state could bring civil action against any person unlawfully taking, wounding or killing, or unlawfully in possession of wildlife and seek to recover the sum of damages for the loss of the wildlife to the state. Minimum sums of damage were assessed for each species of wildlife. For example, the minimum sum of damages to recover the poaching loss of an endangered species in 1977 was \$750 whereas today’s civil liability minimum is \$8,000.

Additional legislation was enacted in 1978 when, A.R.S. 17-315, created the Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund (WTPF). The WTPF consists of monies received from damage assessments pursuant to A.R.S 17-314, donations made to the fund, monies appropriated by the legislature, and monies received from fines, forfeitures and penalties for violation of game and fish laws. The WTPF can only be expended for the financing of reward payments, a statewide telephone reporting system under the name “Operation Game Thief”. The promotion of the public recognition and awareness of the wildlife theft prevention program, and investigations of the unlawful commercial use of wildlife.

Twenty-Four Hours A Day

The program in 1979, known today as the Operation Game Thief (OGT) Program was established making it the second-oldest in the nation behind New Mexico, which started in 1978. Because of the establishment of the WTPF, the ‘new’ OGT program had dedicated funding that allowed for the program to expand and become one of the nation’s leading Operation Game Thief programs.

The OGT Hotline (1-800-352-0700) has remained the same since 1979, and wildlife violations now can be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In 1979, the OGT hotline only operated from 6 AM until 10 PM. ■

HUNT DRAW

Continued from page 9

- 230,626: Total number who applied for hunts or bonus points.
- 189,648: Total number of applications submitted.

AZGFD expects to mail hunt permit-tags to customers by April 3, with the exception of those who have downloaded the new Arizona E-Tag mobile app (from either the Apple or Google Play stores) and opted-in to receive an electronic hunt permit-tag in their portal account. Customers who have downloaded the app but opted-in after the Feb. 20 deadline will receive their hunt permit-tag by mail. Information: www.azgfd.gov/hunting.

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AZGFD Offers Arizona Wildlife Viewing Events/Wildlife Viewing

From in-person events all across the state of Arizona to educational programs you can experience from the comfort of your own home, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has a wildlife viewing event you are sure to enjoy. Learn more about each of these incredible programs and how you can attend.

Bat Netting

Arizona is home to 28 species of bats, and many live and forage in our own backyards. Here’s your chance to see these fascinating creatures up close.
https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-viewing/wildlife-viewing-events/bat-netting-events/

Wildlife Photography Tours

Learn along with AZGFD’s award-winning photographer, George Andrejko! Join us photographing wildlife such as sandhill cranes, bighorn sheep & bison.
https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-viewing/wildlife-viewing-events/sandhill-crane-photography-tour/

Bighorn Sheep Tours

AZGFD is offering this unique opportunity to view one of Arizona’s most iconic land animals, desert bighorn sheep,



on a 3-hour boat tour on Canyon Lake.
https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-viewing/wildlife-viewing-events/bighorn-sheep-viewing-events/

Virtual Speaker Series

Featuring LIVE Virtual Speaker Series about wildlife, with a Q&A portion, given by our AZGFD biologists from the comfort of your home.

https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-viewing/wildlife-viewing-events/virtual-wildlife-lecture-series/
Bison Tours
The Arizona Game and Fish Department manages two bison herds in northern Arizona. Get an exclusive, up close look at these animals in person!
https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-viewing/wildlife-viewing-events/bison-viewing-events. ■

SMOKEY

Continued from page 16

There are a total of six monuments to Smokey in the United States. In addition, the Yorkshire Terrier National Rescue awards an annual “Smokey Award” to rescue dogs that excel that year. ■

SPRING

Continued from page 1

park will operate Fridays-Sundays.
In addition, many of our favorite and meaningful holidays are just ahead: St. Patrick’s Day: March 17, First Day of Spring: March 19, Palm Sunday: March

24, Good Friday: March 29, and Easter: March 31.
It’s a wonderful time of year here in the Southwest; we hope you will spring forward with us and totally enjoy the season. ■

MISSION 22

Continued from page 16

with PTS and TBI, they have made it their mission to raise awareness, enlist support, and end Veteran suicide in America.
To find ElderHeart on the IRS Non-Profit website search under “ElderHeart Inc.” or EIN Number 46-2750726 ■

HALL OF FAME

Continued from page 1

Fame Banquet to be held on August 24 at the Wigwam Resort, located in Litchfield Park.
Past Outdoor Hall of Fame inductees have been individuals with backgrounds in wildlife volunteerism, corporate leadership, politics, wildlife and the media, including Ben Avery, Barry Goldwater, Morris Udall, John McCain, Bill Quimby, Tom Woods and Steve Hirsch, as well as groups and organizations such as Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center Volunteers, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Rio Salado Sportsman’s Club, Arizona Deer Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Audubon Arizona, Arizona Public Service, Salt River Project and others (see list of past inductees here - scroll to the bottom of that page).
Wildlife for Tomorrow was created in 1990 to enhance the management, protection and enjoyment of Arizona’s fish and wildlife resources. As the official 501(c)(3) partner of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), WFT works to provide funds to advance key programs and initiatives beyond AZGFD’s self-funding capacity. For more information, visit www.wildlifefortomorrow.org.
Subscribe to WFT for more information on how you can make an impact on wildlife conservation efforts in Arizona. ■



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BASEBALL

Continued from page 1

in all things, fire companies often played against each other, and eventually formed clubs. This led Alexander Joy Cartwright (1820-1892) to draft a set of official rules for the game in 1845.

Knickerboker Rules

A brokerage and bank clerk by day, Cartwright was a member, first, of Oceana Hose Company No. 36, and later of Knickerboker Engine Company No. 12 in Manhattan. He was a founding member of the Knickerboker Base Ball Club, so his rules (adapted from earlier rules used by William R. Wheaton of the Gotham Base Ball Club) came to be known as the Knickerboker Rules, which included a 90 foot separation of the bases, three-out innings and an abolition of “plugging,” i.e. hitting a baserunner with the ball for an out. This allowed for a harder ball which would travel farther when hit.

These rules were used in the earliest documented organized game, between the Knickerbockers and the Gotham Club at Elysian Fields in Hoboken, New Jersey on June 19, 1846. The Knickerbockers got clobbered, 23 to 1.

First Active Chief In Honolulu

Cartwright went on to make his mark on firefighting history thousands of miles away from New York. In 1849 he undertook the difficult and dangerous crossing of the American continent, with the idea of participating in the California Gold Rush. Instead, from there he traveled on to the Kingdom of Hawaii, where he en-

gaged in various business speculations and in 1850, on the basis of his New York experience, became the first active fire chief of Honolulu (an earlier appointed chief had done little in the post), appointed by Kamehameha III (1814-1854), who also served as an active volunteer in the city’s department.

Baseball Goes To The Islands

Cartwright was instrumental in recruiting volunteers, acquiring equipment beyond a few buckets and a small hand pumper borrowed from a local business, and constructing Honolulu’s first dedicated fire stations. But he also found the time further the cause of his beloved baseball. The game had already been brought to the islands by Christian missionaries, but Cartwright soon introduced his set of baseball rules to the islands.

Cartwright: ‘The Father Of Modern Baseball’

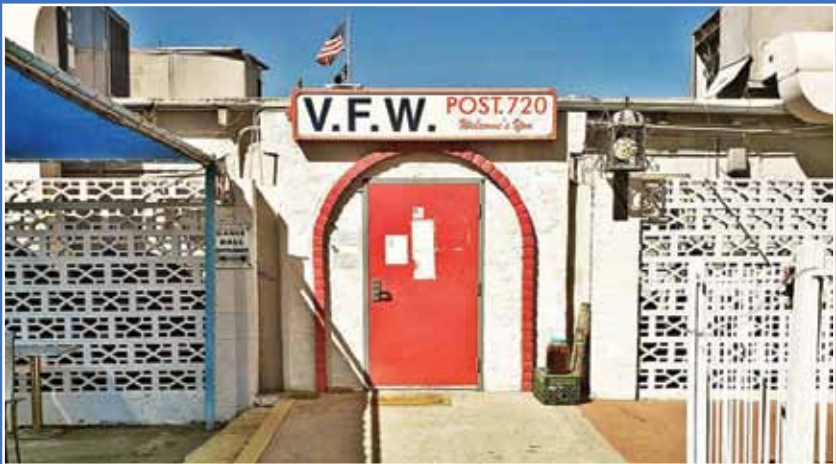
Alexander Joy Cartwright died in 1892, shortly before the demise of the Kingdom of Hawaii, eventually leading to its annexation as a U.S. Territory in 1898. In 1938, Cartwright was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. His plaque describes him as “The Father of Modern Baseball”. He was a major force in the history of firefighting, too.

For More Information

For more about the inspiring history of firefighting around the world, visit the Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting, the world’s largest historical firefighting museum. For details go to hallofflame.org. ■



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



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