

ON THE COVER



'Tis The Season

CAROL L. ALLEN

Oh, the views: spectacular! Thank you, Margie Anderson, for some fantastic photos of vistas here in Arizona, and on our “Western Wildlife” page, we salute another incredible photographer, George Andrejko, Arizona Game & Fish Department, who has some tips for taking pictures of wildlife.

With so many negatives confronting us, usually from the media, there is such good news to celebrate here in the Southwest —

We have family outings to enjoy as outdoor fans cut their own Christmas trees. We have the incredibly beautiful holiday lighted-boat parades on Tempe Town Lake, in Lake Havasu City, and on San Diego Bay. (Jim and I have enjoyed all of them and hope you have too or will soon.) Go online to find many more than the three we have featured — ‘tis the season!

So, without further adieu, we here at *Western Outdoor Times/Arizona Boating & Watersports* wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving and joy as you enter the wonderful season ahead

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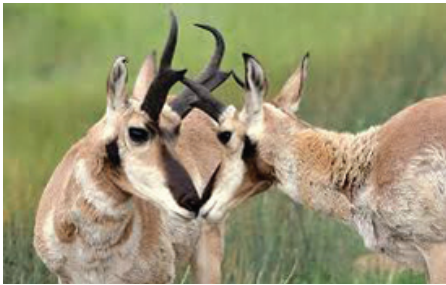
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This month's featured pro is Fred Ward.

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Visit some incredible views.



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Stay focused on his advice for photographing wildlife



THE SEASON SPARKLES — (top) San Diego’s boat parade shines on the Bay; (left) Lake Havasu’s parade lights up the Channel , and (right) Tempe’s parade shimmers on the Lake. These and many others (check online) add their sparkle to the holiday celebrations.



On Our Bays, Channels, Lakes Boat Parades Celebrate Christmas

Editor’s Note: Although there are many other of these fantastic events throughout the Southwest, we here present three of our favorites.

Tempe Town Lake Boat Parade + Fireworks Show

It’s all ahead: holiday shopping, food and drink, a boat parade, and a fireworks show. Join us for the Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade - the Valley’s most unique holiday event and celebrated tradition. Enjoy holiday shopping, festive eats and treats, a dazzling boat parade featuring boats of all shapes and sizes, and a spectacular fireworks show. This event is free and family-friendly. We hope you will join us on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 4-9 p.m. Here’s the schedule:

- 4 p.m. Tempe Beach Park Opens For Shopping, Eats, Drinks
- Holiday Shopping – Shop local handmade goods from various

vendors!

• Eat + Drink – Enjoy a hot chocolate or delightful treat while you stroll through the park. Stop at one of the numerous food vendors for a bite to eat.

6 p.m. Viewing Of Boat Parade Followed By Lighted Boats

8 p.m. Fireworks And Shopping At Tempe Beach Park

• Fireworks - Celebrate the holiday season with a big bang...and lots of “aahhhhs”!

• Holiday Shopping – Continue to eat, drink, and shop local handmade goods from various vendors.

9 p.m. Event Concludes

Lake Havasu City’s Boat Parade Of Lights

It’s quite a year of celebration in Lake Havasu City as it marks the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the famous London Bridge.

BOAT PARADES, continued on page 19

November Is Filled With Special Events

Music in the Garden | Desert Botanical Garden

Desert Botanical Garden presents a spectacular lineup of talent at Music in the Garden’s fall concert series, through November 19. Situated at the base of a butte, Ullman Terrace provides an unmatched backdrop for audiences to experience one of the Valley’s most iconic outdoor concert venues.

Water Lantern Festival On The Lake

While they’re called many things such as lantern festivals, lights festivals, float-



ing lanterns, water fest, or Chinese lanterns – only Water Lantern Festival allows you to Light The Water in a way you’ll never forget. Now you can experience the magic of thousands of lanterns as the soft lights reflect upon the water of Kiwanis Lake.

EVENTS, continued on page 18



A Holiday Tradition Cut Your Own Christmas Tree

With some restrictions, you are allowed to go out in the following forests, find your perfect Christmas tree and cut down with your own hands. The outing is often a great family and friends event. It’s a great time to enjoy the cooler weather, get outdoors, and celebrate the season.

Christmas tree permits are available over the counter at many Forest Service offices. Supplies are limited. Since not all offices offer Christmas tree permits, and some offices may be sold out, call ahead for more details and to be sure the local office responsible for the area in which you are interested offers permits, and still has them available. Please contact the forest where you intend to cut for availability and details.

TREES, continued on page 19



Mark These Dates On Your Calendars



Now: A Special Offer From Bartlett Lake Marina

Enjoy Bartlett Lake with your whole family! The weather is gorgeous, and Bartlett Lake has great ideas for enjoying some time on the water. Until December 15, the marina is offering a pontoon boat or ski boat rental for a full week day (Monday through Thursday, excluding holidays and subject to weather) for special prices. We are offering a 20 foot Pontoon Boat that will hold eight people comfortably and/or a 18.5 foot Ski Boat that will hold five people comfortably. This deal is only available to the first 150 people. Your purchase can be used until December 15, 2022. For more information about Bartlett Lake Marina please refer to our website at www.bartlettlake.com or contact Ryan at (602) 796-8089.



AMERICAN LEGION'S GALA FUND RAISER

November 6

Hopefully you have your calendars marked for this big event...because it is even bigger!

Right now, you can be bidding on the auction items and buying tickets for the raffle items shown below. We now have several other great items that will be given away on the night of the event only. Included are the following:

- Several valuable, collector-grade pieces of artwork
- Large collection of "Botanical Gardens" china
- Two round-trip tickets to any Southwest Airlines U.S. destination.
- A handmade coffee table you have to see.
- A collectible movie poster for "Saving Private Ryan".
- A foursome of golf at Stonecreek Golf Club
- A Chromebook laptop
- A handheld VHS/UHF compact transceiver
- and more are being added every day!

Remember these new items will be offered *only* on Saturday, Nov. 6 at the event. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, you had better act fast. Tickets for the big night are available at the bar for \$25 each. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. For more information, contact Adjutant Rodger Wells at Sipe-Peterson Post 44, 7145 E 2nd St Scottsdale, AZ 85251, (480) 941-0130. **And, see ad re: RAF-FLE on page 18.**



HUGE NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

November 6

You won't want to miss this incredible neighborhood garage sale on Saturday, Nov. 6. It starts at 7 a.m. The Pepperwood neighborhood is just south of Baseline and Hardy in Tempe, Ariz..

SIT, STAY BRUNCH

December 5

Unleash Your Sparkle as Lost Our



Lost Our Home
PET RESCUE



Home celebrates 13 years of helping people and saving pets! Our adoptable dogs will be breaking out the latest festive fashion and strutting their stuff on the catwalk! Enjoy a delicious brunch, sparkling champagne, and a huge silent auction with gifts for everyone's holiday shopping list.

The afternoon will be emceed by John Holmberg, host of KUPDs "Morning Sickness" show; he also hosts a weekly "Pick of the Litter" on his show promoting one of LOH's adoptable dogs or cats each week! In addition, you will be treated to a rousing live auction with Auctiontainer Letitia Frye. You will witness inspiring stories, see adorable pets, enjoy our photo booth and doggy kissing booth, and so much more.

Join us at the Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch for our 12th Annual Sit. Stay. Brunch. Tickets are now on sale. <https://www.lostourhome.org/events> ■

Dine With The Vets And Support Their Post

VFW Post 3513 prepares delicious and very reasonably priced meals three days a week. Sunday brunch is served from 10 a.m. until noon; Wednesday dinners are from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday meals start at 5 p.m.

We hope our neighbors will join us at VFW Post 3513 for great eating with good company. All are welcome (although anyone not a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Auxiliary, the American Legion, or Disabled American Vets (DAV), may need to be signed in as a guest).

A very important note besides your enjoyment of great dining is that the cost of your meal goes directly to the Post to support our veterans.

The Post is at 7220 E. Wilshire Drive, Scottsdale, Ariz. 85257, and the phone number is (480) 941-9849. ■



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See November Hunting Calendar on www.westernoutdoortimes.com.

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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Boat Winterizing Truth Or Myth? Test Your Knowledge

Free downloadable winterization checklist and guide explains how to properly prepare a boat for winter. Yes, even in the colder areas of the Southwest!



Recreational boat owners are preparing their boats for a long winter’s nap, but sugarplums aren’t dancing in their heads. What may keep them up at night is hoping cold temperatures won’t damage their boats. Freshwater expands in volume by about 9 percent when it freezes and can push outward with a force of tens of thousands of pounds per square inch, cracking engine blocks, damaging fiberglass, splitting hoses and waterlines, and destroying refrigeration systems. Boat Owners Association of The United States’ (BoatUS) marine insurance provider, GEICO, shares that boaters often don’t become aware of the damage until springtime.

To prevent your boat from becoming a winter storage statistic, BoatUS has a three question, true-false quiz for boaters to test their winterizing knowledge and also offers a free Boater’s Guide to Winterizing that includes a two-page winterizing checklist, as well as other winterizing resources, at BoatUS.com/Winterization.

1. True or false? A boat’s internal gas tank should be left nearly full of fuel over the winter.

Answer: True. Before there was ethanol in our nation’s fuel supply, the best advice was to leave the tank as empty as possible, ensuring you could add plenty of fresh gas at the start of the next season. For built-in gas tanks today, however, the name of the winterization game is to prevent condensation from forming on the inside of the tank walls, typically a result of daily freeze/thaw cycles. Boat fuel systems are not closed and draw in humid air via the vent. Keeping the tank nearly full, with a little room for expansion, doesn’t give water droplets the chance to form and mix with the fuel, which may contain up to 10% ethanol, potentially leading to phase separation. Phase separation is when water and ethanol separate out from the fuel and settle on the bottom of the tank. This phase-separated cocktail

WINTERIZING continued on page 5



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For the Holidays, Give Your Boater a Ride Home

BoatUS has you covered with 24/7 assistance for breakdowns on the water and on the road.

Looking for a holiday gift for the boater in the family? Look no further than an annual BoatUS Unlimited Towing Membership. Like an auto club for recreational boat owners, a BoatUS Unlimited Towing Membership provides professional 24/7 on-water towing service by the TowBoatUS fleet — the nation’s largest. A Towing Membership takes care of the problems that your boater did not plan for, such as an accidental grounding in shallow waters, an engine breakdown or dead battery, or running out of fuel. Tows back to the launch ramp, home dock or marina are included.

For saltwater boaters, an annual membership is just \$165 per year, while freshwater boaters pay just \$90. BoatUS is also the only national towing service that offers the BoatUS App, which connects boaters to the closest local towing captain



HELP! — A BoatUS Unlimited Towing Membership can help days like this get much better.

at the tap of a button, speeding response times.

For boaters who trailer their boats,

consider adding Unlimited Trailer Assist for just \$15 that takes care of roadside boat trailer breakdowns 24/7. It includes

100 miles of free on-road towing for both a disabled trailer and its tow vehicle to a safe location, as well as lockout, flat tire, battery jump and fuel drop-off services.

But that’s not all a BoatUS Towing Membership offers: Plans include more than 25 valuable benefits and exclusive discounts from Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), a subscription to award-winning *BoatUS Magazine*, free DSC-VHF radio registration, and more. Your boater can also take advantage of BoatUS’s national boating advocacy efforts and safe-boating programs including free boating safety courses from the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation.

Go to BoatUS.com/products-and-services/membership to purchase. ■

WINTERIZING

Continued from page 4

can stall out or even damage your engine. Also note, never plug a vent, as it can rupture the fuel system.

Portable gas tanks, on the other hand, are best removed and emptied, typically into a vehicle if the gas is unmixed or, if mixed, used in other two-stroke engines. One caveat for boats stored in racks — be sure to check your marina’s fuel-storage policy. Also, understand that once fuel becomes phase separated, no amount of additives or fuel stabilizers can help. The contaminated fuel and water mixture must be safely removed by a professional.

2. True or false? Instead of winterizing a boat’s engine and plumbing systems, it’s acceptable to use a plug-in space heater to prevent freeze damage.

Answer: False. GEICO marine insurance claims files show that substituting proven winterization procedures with an electric heater can lead to claims for not only catastrophic engine damage, but fire as well. Claims files are littered with instances of heaters tipping over, shorting out, or igniting nearby combustibles.

Even if you live in a temperate state, you should properly winterize your boat

even if you will only be off the water for a few weeks. Having an engine flush system makes replacing raw engine water with antifreeze fast and easy. The top 10 states for winterizing-related insurance claims include 1. Texas, 2. New York, 3. New Jersey and Maryland (tie), 5. Virginia, 6. Mississippi, 7. Georgia, 8. North Carolina, 9. Washington, and 10. South Carolina.

3. True or false? Most insurance policies cover ice and freeze damage as a result of cold winter temperatures.

Answer: False. Coverage for ice and freeze damage is often excluded from marine insurance unless the policyholder specifically requests it. Ice and freeze coverage may be added as a policy rider or endorsement. This coverage takes care of winterizing mistakes made by your marina, yard or other professional service provider that can leave your engine unprotected when temperatures tumble or when winter storms knock out the heat to indoor boat storage facilities.


This coverage has one caveat: Most insurers do not offer it once temperatures drop, usually the end of October, so check with your insurer now. BoatUS offers GEICO marine insurance policies that can add this coverage for as little as \$25. To get a free quote, go to BoatUS.com/Insurance. ■



Thank You
VETERANS

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

NOVEMBER 11




Jim & Carol Allen and
VFW 3513 Auxiliary
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Dangling Rope Marina Closed Through 2021

The National Park Service is assessing repair needs.

Due to significant wind damage and low water conditions, Dangling Rope Marina will not re-open in 2021. A team of electrical, structural, and marine engineer visited the site during the summer to assess the damaged infrastructure. The National Park Service (NPS) is developing

a plan for marina repairs and additional actions needed to address projected low water conditions.

Be advised that during the closure of Dangling Rope Marina, visitors may not use the dock for any purpose and no visitor services are available. Relevant updates will be posted on the park’s website. Dangling Rope Marina was the only place to obtain boat fuel between the Wahweap area downlake and the Bullfrog area up-



Aerial Dangling Rope. NPS Photo.

lake, a distance of approximately 100 miles. Boaters should plan ahead for their needs. For boaters averaging 20 to 25 MPH, the trip to Bullfrog from Wahweap takes at least 4 to 5 hours. Fuel remains available at Wahweap, Antelope Point, and Bullfrog Marinas.

Lake Powell water level fluctuations are determined by a wide range of factors and it is not possible to predict daily

elevations with absolute certainty. It is imperative that boaters check the park’s website about the status of preferred launch destinations before heading to the lake. Real-time information is available on our website about Lake Powell’s fluctuating water levels and the status of water-based visitor services at this link: <https://www.nps.gov/glca/learn/changing-lake-levels.htm>. ■

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Arizona Game & Fish Department Presents Boating Education

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

Rock the Float.
Life jackets save lives!

Take a boating education course now! Most insurance companies offer a discount on your boat or PWC insurance rate for completing one of our courses.

Courses are offered in three formats: classroom courses, home study courses and online courses.



Online Powerboat Courses

Online Courses – Each of these courses is approved for use in Arizona. If you have a boating ticket and are required to take a boating safety education course, any one of these will satisfy the requirements of the court:

- *Online Paddlesports Courses*
 - *Classroom Powerboat Courses*
 - *Skills-Based Courses* –
 - *Home Study Course*
- Free home study packet, call the Education Branch at 623 236-7258.



Boating Safety Information:
Boat Safe, Boat Smart, Boat Sober
Life Jackets – Personal Flotation Devices

All vessels except sailboards and certain racing shells or rowing sculls must have at least one wearable Type I, II, III or V life jacket (PFD) that is U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved and of the proper size for each person on board.

Life jackets must be readily accessible, in good and serviceable condition, and sized for the intended wearer. In addition to the above requirements, vessels 16 feet in length or longer, except a canoe or kayak, must have one Type IV USCG approved throwable flotation device on board and readily accessible.

All children 12 years of age and younger must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III life jacket (PFD) anytime while underway on any vessel. The life jacket must be worn according to the design of the manufacturer’s recommended use and must fit the child properly. All snaps must be snapped, and zippers and fasteners closed.

Each person on a personal watercraft such as a Jet Ski or Wave Runner must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, III PFD (life jacket) with all fasteners and closures secured according to the manufacturer’s design and recommended use. Further, the life jacket must be adjusted for a snug fit.



Each person being towed behind a vessel on water skis or a similar device must wear a life jacket or buoyant belt. Note, however, that buoyant belts are not approved by the USCG.

Learn How To Properly Fit A Life Jacket: <https://kalkomey.wistia.com/medias/kjxtbvga0n>

USCG Approved Flotation Devices

- USCG Type I
- USCG Type II
- USCG Type III
- USCG Type IV
- USCG Type V

5 WAYS TO PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING ON BOATS

CO poisoning is one of the top 5 causes¹ of death among boaters - and one of the most preventable. Buildup beneath the stern deck or near the swim deck can kill someone in seconds.²

Learn how to protect yourself, your passengers, and your fellow boaters.

1 GET MOVING
Avoid prolonged periods of idling and traveling at slow speeds as this can cause carbon monoxide to build up in your cabin, bridge, cockpit, aft deck and open areas.

2 BALANCE THE LOAD
Don't operate the boat at a high bow angle. Overloading or improperly loading the boat puts you and your passengers at risk for back drafting, which can lead to CO build-up in your cabin, cockpit and bridge.

3 BREATHE EASY
Blocked ventilation louvers and exhaust outlets can cause CO to accumulate in your cabin and cockpit. Be sure to check and maintain these items, as well as your CO detector, regularly.

4 SPREAD OUT
Avoid water skiing, wakeboarding, tubing and surfing within 20 feet of the boat while it's moving. Don't dock, anchor or raft within 20 feet of other boats that have engines or generators running.

5 MOVE FORWARD
Don't sit or swim near or under the rear deck or platform while the engine or generator is on. Safety experts recommend avoiding this area for at least 15 minutes after the engine is shut off.

Sources:
1. 2017 Recreational Boating Statistics - US Coast Guard
2. Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning on Your Boat - CDC
3. What Boaters Need to Know About Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - DAN Boater

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide poisoning is also known as the “silent killer”. It is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is very toxic even in small quantities. It is produced when a carbon fuel, such as gasoline or diesel is burned. Carbon monoxide disperses freely through the air and will travel readily throughout a boat. It is discharged as engine, generator, or appliance exhaust that may re-enter your boat through any opening.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are throbbing temples, inattentiveness or lack of concentration, inability to think coherently, ringing in the ears, tightness across the chest, headache, drowsiness, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, vomiting, collapse, and convulsions. Protect yourself from the silent killer and download

the carbon monoxide brochure.

Cold Water Immersion

Do not let the temperature outside fool you. Cold water immersion and hypother-

mia can occur in water as cool as 70 degrees at any time of the year, even on a warm and sunny day. Arizona winters are mild, and recreational boating is popular year-round, but a sudden and unexpected immersion into cold water can cause hypothermia and even lead to a life-threatening situation.

Entering extremely cold water causes an immediate gasp reflex that can fill the lungs with water. After falling overboard or entering the water, it is important to be wearing your life jacket (PFD). A life jacket keeps your head above water and your body on the surface. Stay calm and move slowly. Don’t try to take off clothing in the water (a common misconception is that heavy clothing or waders weigh down your body when in fact they can trap air and help keep your body afloat).

If your boat has capsized, stay with it. More than likely, it will not sink and it can be used as a platform to maneuver, so stay on top of it as much as possible, getting yourself out of the water and maintaining stability. ■



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— Scott G., US Air Force Veteran

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DON'T MISS!

There Is Only One Way To Become A Better Shot

BY JOHN ANDERSON

No matter how much you scout, no matter how well you spot and stalk, no matter how long you prepare for your hunt, it's all for nothing if you miss the shot. You may only get one chance – do you really want to blow it after investing all that time and money?

There is only one way to become a better shot, and that is to practice. Taking your rifle to the range and shooting a target at 100 or 200 yards over and over until you consistently get a nice tight group is a great beginning, but when you get out in the field things are much different.



A range finder is a crucial piece of equipment for a hunter.

Range Finder: 'Never Leave Home Without It'

Forget for the moment that you may have to take a shot standing up in high brush, from a sitting position in boulders, or lying on your belly on the side of a mountain. One of the biggest concerns you have when hunting is range. How far away is that animal? The further away it is, the more important the information becomes, simply because bullet trajectory changes more and more with distance.

Some people are gifted with an ability to accurately estimate range, but I'm not one of them. That's why I invested in a range finder. It's dead easy to use – just turn it on, look through the lens at the target, and push a button. The range pops right up and you can choose to have it in yards, meters, whatever trips your trigger. I never go big game hunting without a range finder.



Notice the caps are off the scope in this photo. I'm zeroing it in. I take a shot, then look at the target to see where it hit. Without moving the gun, I use the dials on the scope to move the crosshairs to the hole I just made. Then I move the target out and take another shot and repeat.

Put your rifle in a vise or sandbag it good and sturdy so it doesn't move. You can rent a shooter's sledge at Ben Avery Range. Make sure the rifle is stationary.

Take 1 shot at 25 yards, aiming at the bullseye. Check to see where your bullet put a hole in the target. If you didn't hit the bullseye, put the crosshairs back on the bullseye, and using the dials on the scope, move the crosshairs (NOT the rifle) until they are right on the hole you made with that first shot.

Move the target to 50 yards. Do the same thing again. You should be a lot closer to the bullseye, and slightly under it.

Move the target to 100 yards. Take three shots. Move the crosshairs (NOT the rifle) to the center mass of the three shots. If your rifle is stationary, those three shots represent the best group your rifle can get

group at 100 yards, that will be two inches at 200 yards, so it really makes a difference the further out you shoot.

Don't Rush The Process

If you're not getting to a one-inch group at 100 yards with your rifle good and stationary, then your gun just won't do well with that ammo. Try something else. Bring several boxes of ammo to the range and try each. Don't do a practice group with a hot barrel. You should be able to grab the barrel comfortably before continuing. Hot barrels move, so if you rush the process you're just hurting yourself.

I generally finish up by zeroing my rifle in at 200 yards. In the old days we used to have to get the ballistic table off the box of ammo and tape it to the stock or put it in our pocket so we'd know how high or low to aim for different distances. Things are so much better now. For our big game rifle, we bought a Leupold CDS Scope.

Custom Dial System

The CDS means Custom Dial System, and it is personalized just for you and the rounds you use – and even where you hunt. Here's how it works: After buying the scope and zeroing it in with the steps



The Leupold CDS lets you dial in for the distance of your target.

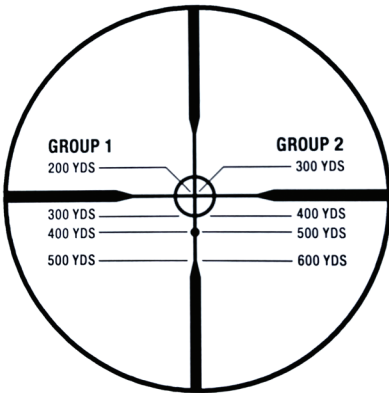
I detailed for you, call Leupold and give them the information asked for on the insert that came with the scope. This will include the serial number, cartridge, ballistic coefficient, and a bunch of other stuff.

They make you up a special dial that goes on the scope. To use the CDS, just use your rangefinder to range the target, and turn the dial on the scope. If the target is reading 350 yards, move the dial to 3.5. Simple as that.

Scopes With Ballistic Reticles

You can also get scopes with ballistic reticles, which means that when you look through the scope you will see crosshairs with other lines above and below them. You find your cartridge on the scope's list and it will tell you which line to use for

SHOOTING, continued on page 10



Here's an example of a ballistic reticle. If your ammo falls into group 1, you would zero your rifle in at 200 yards. Use your range finder to get the distance, then hold the corresponding crosshairs on the animal to take the shot. So if the range was 400 yards, you'd center that dot that is at the 400 yard mark (on the left for group 1) on the animal.



If you aren't familiar with bore sighting, the guys at the range will get your new scope on the target for you for a small fee or even for free.

It Starts At The Range

The first step in making sure you don't miss the shot is to sight your scope in at the range. I like the range because they have target distances measured out and you can change the distance when you want to. Here's how I do it:

with that ammunition.

I generally buy several boxes of ammo in different weights and makes for the caliber I have when I buy a new rifle, and I sight it in at 100 yards and see which kind of ammo gives me the tightest group. Believe it or not, rifles "like" some rounds better than others. If you have a one-inch



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This rifle likes Fiocchi, and it’s equipped with an old Redfield Scope with Ballistic Reticle. This Redfield isn’t made any more, but you can buy ballistic reticle scopes and just follow the directions that come with it.

SHOOTING

Continued from page 9

the shot. Again, back in the old days they had what was called a “ladder sight”: The rear sight flipped up and had a sliding bar across it that you could move up or down to correct for distance. No scope. Margie’s dad hunted with an old 30.06 with ladder sights, and he could dead reckon distance. I’m glad I don’t have to.

Basics Of Shooting Accuately

Chances are, if you’re not as good a shot as your buddy, you’re just not breathing right. If you breathe during a shot, you get a wobble. You want to touch off the round when you are not breathing. The best time to do that is after you exhale, but don’t force it. Just breathe naturally, and after you exhale, hold your breath for a second while you squeeze the trigger.

Relax, Exhale, Hold, And Squeeze
Squeezing the trigger is the key. I al-



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This is the Effective Range Target for mule deer. In this example, the shooter’s effective range is 200 yards because all five of the shots are inside the 200 yard circle. The target itself is placed at 100 yards away from the shooter. If you can shoot a one-inch group at 100 yards you will be effective at 600 yards — but these targets should be shot at from regular hunting stances, not from vises or sledges.

ways drop a new Timney trigger into every hunting rifle so they all have the same pull. You don’t want to have a long pull because then you start anticipating, and might jerk or run out of time holding your breath. Too light a trigger can surprise you and make you jerk. If you keep things consistent, you’ll do better. Relax, exhale, hold, and squeeze.

One thing to note is that this doesn’t mean to force all the air out of your lungs. You don’t do that naturally when you breathe. Just notice your breathing for a minute or so. Your body should be relaxed at the end of a breath. This is when to hold your breath for a few moments and squeeze the trigger. Practice this at the range while your rifle is in the vise. Practice it every time you shoot. Every time.

Best Option For Steadiness
If you’re winded from running up a



This is the rifle we take for Coues deer. It has a McMillan Stock, Timney Trigger, and the Leupold CDS scope. That Winchester ammo gives me the best group with this gun.

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hill or you’ve got buck fever and you’re shaking like a leaf, it’s important to take a few deep breaths and get control. In this case, you might have to take a deep breath, hold it, and shoot while holding a full breath. It’s not ideal and it doesn’t give you long to touch off the shot, but it does offer the best option for steadiness in extreme conditions.

Effective Range Targets
Once you’ve got your rifle sighted in as good as it gets, you need to find out how good you are. You owe it to the animal you are hunting to be the best shot you can possibly be. To see how far you can shoot effectively – you, personally – go to www.determinationtargets.com and get some Effective Range Targets. They say just five shots at 100 yards will reveal your effective range. How? Concentric rings.

Effective Range Targets are designed to be placed at 100 yards. Take five shots at the bullseye – the best five shots you can manage in a position like you would be using during an actual hunt. In other words, your gun should not be in a vise or a sledge or sandbagged. Just brace and shoot as if you were in the field. The targets are available sized for various types of big game: antelope, elk, deer, etc. They are sized for the vital area of the species.

Which Ring?
Once you have taken all five shots, look at the target and see which ring *all five* of your shots have landed in. That ring will have a distance written on it. If the best you could do was get all five shots inside the largest ring, your effective range is 100 yards. Don’t try for an animal farther than that. If you can get all five shots inside the smallest ring, you will be effective out to 600 yards. That’s pretty darn tight. Personally, I’m happy at 400 – 450 yards. Very happy. Farther than that and guns and ammo and optics start to get very expensive.

Practice All You Can
So that’s how I do it. My goal as a hunter is to make a clean shot, and the footwork it takes to do that is well worth the effort. Besides, I enjoy shooting and I meet great people at the range. It helps if you have a buddy with you who can sight through a spotting scope or binoculars and at least let you know if you are on the target. Take time to be an accurate shot. Practice all you can, and when it comes down to the wire, your work will pay off.

ARIZONA LAKES, ARIZONA PROS: FRED WARD AT BARTLETT LAKE

' Nothing Beats The Day John Made History With Fred's Helicopter Lure'

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

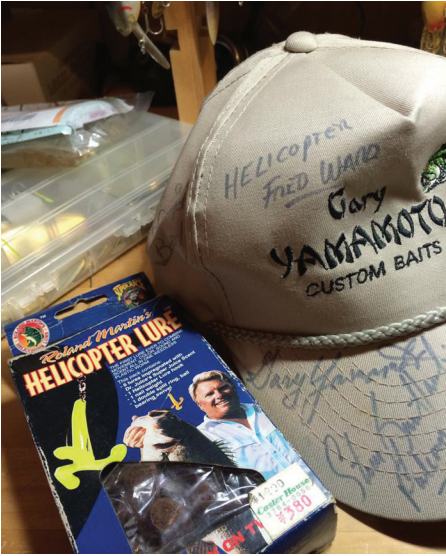
John and I have known fishing legend Fred Ward for many years, but we actually met him in Florida. At that time I was writing for a tiny publication (now defunct) called *Arizona Fishing News*. My day job, *The New Times*, sent me to Denver for a week, then to Miami for a week, and as a reward, they gave me a guided fishing trip on Lake Okeechobee and even flew John out there to join me.

Fred was guiding for the Roland Martin resort, and when he found out I was a writer, he comped our stay! We got to fish Okeechobee with him for a couple of days and to say it was fantastic would be an understatement.

An Odd Bait

Later, when Fred moved back to Arizona, I was now writing for *Arizona Hunter and Angler*, and Fred called me up one day and asked if John and I would like to join him at Bartlett for some bass fishing and a possible story. When we got there, he showed us an odd bait – it was a solid tube with three appendages coming off the bottom at right angles. They were curved.

Fred said he had seen the lure in a dream, and when he woke up, he got to work making some prototypes. He handed one of those to John. You had to fish this lure very slowly – basically just cast it out unweighted and let it helicopter down. It



Fred Ward invented the Helicopter Lure, and John Anderson was the first person to ever catch a bass on it!

fell tube first and those little wings made it spin gently on the way down.

John caught several bass on it almost right away, and Fred was absolutely delighted. "You're the first person to ever catch a bass on this new lure!" he told John.

The Real Deal

The real deal that November day on

LURE, continued on page 12



John Anderson and Fred Ward are shown with some very nice bass.

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There’s just no other way to say it: This is going to be one tough quail-hunting season.

Now that we’ve gotten that announcement out of the way, that doesn’t mean hunters who have high hopes of chasing Gambel’s and scaled quail across the landscape should keep their boots in the closet and their shotgun in the safe when the 2021-22 season opened Oct. 15.

“Hunting desert quail will probably be mediocre, generally,” said Larisa Harding, small game program manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, “but there still are pockets where you can find quail, and most of those are probably carry-over birds from previous years instead of a fresh crop of young birds.

“Quail numbers, and where you’ll find them, will depend on carry-over and spotty moisture over the past 18-plus months; if precipitation fell in areas, and at times, when desert quail could take advantage of a local green-up, birds there probably fared better than in our drier regions.

“The storms we got in July may have come too late to produce a large flush in desert quail reproduction. But we’ve got a lot of tough birds that seem to persist against the odds, so we’re hoping if we can get more moisture in the coming months, we’ll see quail numbers respond more favorably in the future.”

A valid Arizona hunting or combination hunt and fish license is required for all hunters 10 and older. Those hunters

QUAIL, continued on page 13

New Online Course Allows Hunters To Earn Lifetime Bonus Point

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has created an innovative online course — “Ethically Hunting Arizona” — that provides hunters 18 and older with an opportunity to earn a lifetime bonus point.

A bonus point is simply an accumulated credit (or point) that authorizes the department to issue additional computer-generated random numbers to a big game draw application, thus providing an applicant with an added chance of receiving a low random number in the draw and improving their draw odds.

The Ethically Hunting Arizona course was developed primarily for those hunters who are looking to acquire their permanent Arizona Education Bonus Point without having to compete for limited seating in the classroom-style structure of the traditional Arizona Hunter Education course. This new online course should help to free up seating for youths 9 to 13 who must complete a hunter education course in person to hunt big game. To register for the course, visit <https://www.azgfd.com/hunting/eha/>.

Note: If a hunter already has earned an Arizona Education Bonus Point by completing Arizona Hunter Education, a second bonus point cannot be obtained through the taking of the Ethically Hunting Arizona course. In addition, completing the online course does not fulfill hunter education requirements to hunt in other states.

Ethically Hunting Arizona is geared primarily for experienced hunters, including those who are nonresidents, new residents to Arizona, and longtime state residents. Statistically, 9 percent of hunter



MEMBETH

education graduates are nonresidents. Of those 18 and older, 76 percent take the course for this bonus point, and only 20 percent identify as new hunters.

Ethically Hunting Arizona’s 10 hours of online coursework will cover the following topics:

- Responsibility, safety, skills,
- Conservation, Fair Chase, ethics, hunters’ image,
- Planning, preparation, survival skills,
- Firearm safety, handling, shot selection,
- Hunting strategies, vital shots, game care, and
- Arizona hunting laws, regulations, licensing.

The course provides focused learning to hopefully help reduce hunting incidents through safety education, as well as the number of citations issued for violations that occur in the field.

The cost of the discretionary course **HUNTERS, continued on page 13**

LURE

Continued from page 11

Bartlett was big one-tonner jigs with Yamamoto Hula grubs. We caught a ton of fish on those that day. In fact, it was the first time I ever fished those jigs, and Fred taught me how. A one-tonner is what they call a one-ounce football head jig. They get down to deep water fast, and with a Yamamoto Hula Grub on them, they have tons of action once they get there. Fred took us to the long points around the S-curve and we stayed on the main channel and caught bass all over the place. You need a really stout rod and strong line for these lures – I have a Fenix jig rod with a pretty stiff butt but a short fast tip. We used 17-pound-test Berkley XL

back then, but nowadays most anglers use heavy fluorocarbon or even braid.

Set Hook With Authority

I’m not a fan of braid because when the bait snags, the braid digs into itself and is hard to untangle. The heaviness of an ounce of lead makes the jigs easy to cast. Just cast it out and watch the line. Don’t close the bail until the line dips and goes slack. That means it’s on the bottom. Now just reel until the line is taut, then give the lure a little hop with the rod tip, or just drag it a bit. If you get stuck, give it a little slack and pop it. Often, the bite will feel like you’re hooked on a rubber band. It can also feel like nothing, like someone cut your line. In either case, you need to set the hook with authority.

The Fish Like Them As Is


The hooks on those big jigs are big as well – that’s where that stout rod pays off. Hit it hard, reeling fast as you snap the rod back to set the hook. The first couple times, I didn’t set it hard enough and the fish spit it out as soon as they reached the surface. Very amusing for Fred and John. For me, not so much. Fred says if you get snagged, just take the boat back over the jig and pop it loose. It’s easier than re-tying. He likes to use scent on the Yamamoto Hula grubs, even though they are so nice and salty that the fish like them fine as is.

A Great Teacher

The colors we used that day were orange pumpkin, green pumpkin, and smoke sparkle. This was actually back before depthfinders, if you can imagine, so you had to know where you were and what you were doing. We used a paper map, plus memories of how the shore looked when the water was down. Fred taught me to look at the shore carefully. “See that little crease that runs down the side of the hill – it keeps going under the water, and the bass use those little creases like highways,” he told me. He directed me to fish my jig down those little cuts and I got a lot of practice catching jig fish that day. He’s a great teacher.

Helicopter Lure Into Production

Freddy actually got that Helicopter Lure into production, and his good friend Roland Martin helped him market it. It was a pretty good bait, and you can even still buy them on Ebay. Fred is a great guy and we’ve enjoyed fishing with him over the years, but nothing beats the day that John made history with the Helicopter Lure. ■



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‘Recast and Recycle’ Contest Winners Announced

Contest garnered 129 entries and paid out \$30,000 in prizes.

Recycling old fishing line and soft baits into new products is labor-intensive, inefficient and simply, for many anglers, not easy to do. This hampers the ability to grow the volume of line and soft bait recycling in the U.S. However, three BoatUS Foundation and Berkley Recast and Recycle Contest winners aim to change that. The prizewinners – a recent college grad, an outdoorsman and 3D printing hobbyist, and a team of four college friends also took home a total of \$30,000 in prize money donated by the 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the fishing products manufacturer.

“Today’s fishing line and soft bait recycling remains labor-intensive and costly,” said BoatUS Foundation Director of Outreach Alanna Keating. “Working with Berkley, our Recast and Recycle Contest sought out new and innovative ideas to improve the recycling process, increase the amount of recycled material, or offer a technology breakthrough in the way line is recycled and reused. We believe these winning entries, which range from a concept to prototype, have the ability to give nearly every angler the opportunity to easily recycle.”

The Recast and Recycle Contest’s panel of judges included — NOAA Marine Debris Program Southeast Regional Coordinator, Sarah Latshaw; American Sportfish Association Social Media Manager, Allen Luck; California Coastal Commission Environmental Boating Program Manager, Vivian Matuk; Two-time Bassmaster Classic Champion and outdoor television host Hank Parker; *BoatU.S. Magazine* Contributing Editor and Angler in Chief of *FishTalk Magazine*, Lenny Rudow; host of “Zona’s Awesome Fishing Show” and “The Bassmasters,” Mark Zona; and BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water President Chris Edmonston.

First Prize

Before she began designing her winning concept, recent Savannah College of Art and Design graduate Abigail Askew designed her own survey to query anglers on what prevented them from recycling line and baits. She then addressed those concerns with her contest concept, which doubled as her school’s senior year capstone project. “Anglers want to do what’s best for the environment, but I found they don’t always know how to or have a way to recycle,” said Askew, who also com-



ABIGAIL ASKEW

EYE-CATCHING — Abigail Askew’s concept for an eye-catching, stand-alone injection molding machine took top honors in the BoatUS Foundation and Berkley Recast and Recycle Contest, and earned her \$15,000 in prize money.

peted on her school’s bass fishing team. Recycling accessibility became her contest entry’s primary goal, and her idea netted her a \$15,000 prize.

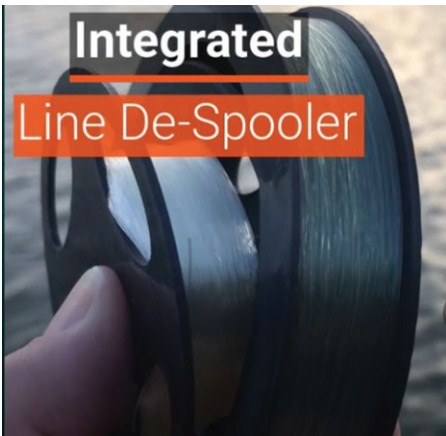
Askew’s theoretical design repurposes an idea from old: colorful, eye-catching 1960s-style plastic souvenir machines. The “Berkley Recycling Machine” brings line and bait recycling out into the open, instead of throwing discarded line into a beat-up cardboard box under the counter at your local retailer. The injection-molding machine also has appeal for kids, who, while watching discarded soft baits get a second life, also learn the importance of keeping our waters clean. The young designer, who earned her B.F.A. in Industrial Design, offers that machines could be located in retailers and at launch sites, becoming a popular novelty.

Second Prize

Reeling in \$10,000 in prize money, Eric Vaughn’s prototype “Integrated Line De-Spooler” has the potential to make recycling safer and more efficient, and better answers the question of what to do with old fishing line when respooling with new line. An active angler and bow hunter, Vaughn says it was his 3D printing hobby that brought the entry to life. Vaughn’s innovative engineering solution inserts a new, smaller spool, used to take up old line that has had hooks removed, into a standard line spool, essentially “nesting” the spools in the existing empty space found inside spools sold at retailers today.

This allows anglers to quickly and efficiently manage the despool/respool process. Once the old line is removed and stored on the small spool by way of a special chuck (included) and electric drill, it’s snapped neatly back into the standard size spool where the new line awaits easy spooling to your reel – functioning the same as it does normally.

Locking in the old line on the small spool also makes it easier to recycle and reduces the chances of snagging wildlife. This recycling solution can also be incorporated into existing packaging and turned into pellets to create new spools, offering benefits to manufacturers.



ERIC VAUGHN

EASY — The Recast and Recycle judges honored Eric Vaughn’s Integrated Line De-Spooler contest entry with second place and \$10,000. It helps make recycling easy, more efficient and addresses the issue of safe disposal.

Third Prize

A team of Product Design Innovation students from Western Michigan University, Laura Nicholas, Anna Hurst, Maxwell Downey, and Ross Malackowski, took third place and \$5,000 in prize money with their “Hook Bait” app that encourages the use of sustainable alternatives. By scanning a QR code at recycling centers, the app records what you recycle and gives rewards – eco-friendly fishing supplies based on the individual fishing style – for reaching milestones. These incentives could include hip waders or water shoes made from the recycled fishing materials.

The app also offers the ability to track your recycling progress, includes a map to see what friends are catching, offers a journal to save photos of fish caught and important fishing information such as lures and location, and makes it easy to post on social media.

The BoatUS Foundation and Berkley hope to raise awareness of these prize-winning concepts to help support further research and development. A video of the winning entries and more can be found at the Recast and Recycle website, BoatUS.org/Contest. ■

Arizonans Honored By National Conservation Organization

Arizona Game and Fish Department and private landowner win awards from Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) won two awards and southern Arizona rancher Ian Tomlinson and his Vera Earl Ranch won one, at the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) annual awards ceremony in Providence, Rhode Island, held in-person and virtually on Sept. 13.

The awards recognize individuals and organizations for their dedication to advancing fish and wildlife conservation.

Arizonans won the following awards:

Boone and Crockett Club Award

AZGFD’s Fair Chase Committee was the recipient of this year’s Boone and Crockett Club Award, which honors an agency and team leader for outstanding achievement in promoting and encouraging outdoor ethics.

In 2015, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission adopted a policy related to “fair chase,” a term that applies to hunting as the “ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the game animals.” AZGFD subsequently convened an ad hoc Fair Chase Committee, and out of the committee’s deliberations sprang the idea for a social media campaign to “popularize” the concept of fair chase – called the #IamFairChase Campaign. While AZGFD primarily ran the campaign, it was the public members of the committee who were its “thought leaders.”

Stephen Kellert Award

AZGFD’s Public Affairs and Marketing Teams were the recipients of the Stephen Kellert Award, which honors individual or group efforts for outstanding service in advancing connections between humans and the natural world to all peoples in a diverse and inclusive manner.

The teams were recognized for their combined efforts in several areas:

- Developing and implementing the agency’s “Conserve and Protect” campaign, which introduces the agency

AWARDS, continued on page 19

HUNTERS

Continued from page 12

is \$150 for Arizona residents, \$300 for nonresidents (who now benefit from not having to outlay travel expenses, such as gas, airfare, lodging and meals, to take the course in person in Arizona).

A student will have two opportunities to pass the course with a minimum score of 80 percent. The course must be passed 30 days prior to the draw deadline day for the bonus point to be valid for that particular draw. ■

QUAIL

Continued from page 12

under 10 must either have a valid hunting or combination hunt and fish license, or be accompanied by an adult who possesses a valid hunting or combination hunt and fish license. Licenses can be purchased online or at license dealers statewide. A youth combination hunt and fish license (ages 10 to 17) is \$5.

The general bag limit is 15 quail per day in the aggregate, of which no more than eight may be Mearns’ quail (when

the Mearns’ season opens Dec. 3). The general possession limit is 45 quail in the aggregate after opening day, of which no more than 15 Gambel’s, scaled or California quail in the aggregate may be taken in any one day. After the opening of the Mearns’ season, the 45-quail possession limit may include 24 Mearns’ quail, of which no more than eight may be taken in any one day.

More quail-hunting information can be found on the department’s website at www.azgfd.com/Hunting/. Another resource for both new and experienced

hunters alike is *An Introduction to Hunting Arizona’s Small Game*. Written by Randall D. Babb, the 196-page, full-color book covers where and how to hunt small game birds (like quail), squirrels, rabbits, ducks and geese. It also includes how to prepare and cook your harvest, with illustrations and recipes. The book can be ordered for \$16.95 at www.azgfd.gov/publications.

Finally, check out a field-dressing demonstration by AZGFD small game biologist Johnathan O’Dell at www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gRwZAcWzzk. ■

Six Drives With Fantastic Views

You'll Want To Get Out Of The Car And Explore

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

I'm always on the lookout for a day trip with something to do or see – I love riding around in the Jeep, but it's always better if you see something amazing or fun along the way. Fun stuff can include old cabins, ruins, old wells, springs, waterfalls, lakes, cliffs – pretty much anything that makes you want to get out of the car and explore.

However, some of the roads we've been on aren't much along the way, but the view you get at the end is what makes it worthwhile. So here are six of the drives I've been on that give you amazing views – either as a reward at the end, or as a wonderful surprise along the way. A couple of these require a high clearance vehicle or 4WD, but a couple of them you can do in a car.

Edge Of The World

This drive takes a while, but it's doable with two-wheel drive and moderate clearance, and the reward is well worth it. Start out just west of Flagstaff on I-40. We actually had to go past the road and backtrack, so we took the South Flagstaff Ranch exit and went south to West Kiltie Lane and headed east until we got to South Woody Mountain Road.

You can also look up the Flagstaff Arboretum and use those directions, since it's along the road you want. I found this road on www.trailsoffroad.com, and they say it takes about an hour and a half, but we stop all the time and wander around, so for us from Phoenix it was 326 miles total and took the whole day.



Edge Of The World East Pocket Road (FR231)

A View All Across The Sedona Area

South Woody Mountain Road is also FR231 and you just stay on that road all the way. It's also called East Pocket Road. It's a good gravel road with a few wash-board areas, mostly near the beginning. Near the end it might be a little rougher, and of course weather will make a difference. You'll pass the Arboretum and a lovely place called Rogers Lake that has a lot of great trails with signs telling you about the wildlife. We plan to go back there sometime.

What you're really after is the views near the end of FR231 and it's going to take you a while to get there. We went on a weekday and there was almost no traffic. The Edge of the World is what they call the area near East Pocket, because from there you get a magnificent view all across the Sedona area including amazing



You can walk right to the edge of Woods Canyon and see beautiful views from FR801.

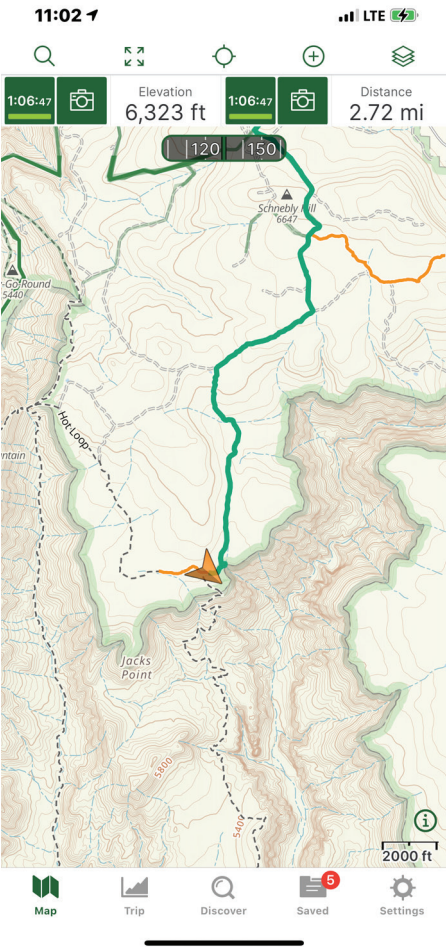
canyons and bluffs.

Go Before The Snows Or Wait 'Til Spring

There are dispersed campsites all along the edge, but I wouldn't camp there if I had kids. Keep your dog leashed – it's a long way down. The road ends shortly after the viewing area, but there are a bunch of little spurs all along the edge and each one gives you a slightly different view. Go back the same way you came – there's no other way out. Absolutely stunning views. Go before the snows or put it off until spring – and try to go when the sky is clear. It was hazy when we went, and my photos don't do it justice.

FR801

This road absolutely requires 4WD or at least high clearance. We spent a whole day in this area and saw some big bucks – mule deer *and* Coues, and had a great time in the Jeep. Find this road by taking the Schnebly Hill Road exit south of Flagstaff and head west. After you pass



FR 801: The Gaia app shows where the road swings close to the edge. Hop out here and walk over.

Foxboro Lake Dam (there's water and a wooden sign), watch on your left for the road marker that says 801, roughly a mile past Foxboro. Turn left and just stay on 801 all the way to the end. It's an out and back road, so you have to go back the way you came. This is a very rough, bumpy road with several places that have embedded boulders. Definitely *not* for cars.

Keep A Map App Open

The view is just before the end of the road. Keep a map app open – Gaia and Topo Maps are both good, and you'll see where the road swings closest to the edge of the canyon. The canyon is represented by contour lines very close together. We just stopped along here and walked over to the edge, with Mochi on a leash. There are only a couple of places where you can stand and get a good view, but it's absolutely gorgeous – you're looking out over Woods Canyon (not the lake).

The road continues to the trails and a big waterhole. It's not a very long road, but there are plenty of other roads around near the beginning of 801 so you can keep busy all day exploring. There are lots of waterholes and a big radio tower area as well.



Perkinsville Road View

Perkinsville Road


Unless the weather has been really bad, this road is totally doable with two-wheel drive and average clearance. It's a very good gravel road. We start from Phoenix, so for us this was an all-day drive. We got on Perkinsville Road just north of Chino Valley and ended up in Jerome, then went home. From Highway 89 north of Prescott Valley, we took Perkinsville Road east all the way to the Verde River crossing near Perkinsville. The views when you get to the plateau on the way are stunning – red rock bluffs with the San Francisco Peaks beyond them. We went in December of 2018 and there was snow on the Peaks.

VIEWS, continued on page 15

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You can end up in Jerome, or go back the same way you came, or even go on past the bridge and end up in Williams.

VIEW

Continued from page 14

Through Jerome

On the way back, we went through Jerome (the turns are well marked), and the views from that part of the road are spectacular too. One particularly good viewing spot even has a little kiosk and a bench. We stopped and ate lunch there. The bridge over the Verde is fun – it’s a great little one-lane bridge and you can get out and walk around down by the water. This remains one of my favorite drives of all time.



This is a view from Schnebly Hill Road going west to Sedona.

Schnebly Hill Road

This is definitely a 4WD road, or at the very least, for high-clearance vehicles. It’s incredibly rocky with some steep boulders to get over, and add to that the fact that it is almost always a busy road because it is famous for its views. I think the best way to approach it is to get on Schnebly Hill Road off I-17 just south of Munds Park – exit 320. You’ll drive through some beautiful woods and pass some tanks and water, then suddenly you’ll find yourself on the edge of the ridge and see an incredible spectacle of red rock bluffs and formations ahead. If you come in from this side you’ll be going downhill so the views are ahead of you.

The Views Are Worth It

This is a very popular road for OHV’s, so be prepared to be passed by long caravans of them. You’ll also likely meet a variety of Jeep and OHV tour vehicles. There really isn’t anyplace to stop along this road, so make sure your passenger has the camera. Going in this direction, the passenger side has the best photo



The View From The Bench Near The Kiosk

ops. You’ll see red rock formations almost the entire way down. We went in November and had changing leaves as well, so it was doubly gorgeous. The road ends in the middle of Sedona, so if you go on a weekend be prepared for the traffic. The views are worth it, though, and if you don’t have a Jeep or OHV of your own, you can always catch a tour in Sedona.

Sycamore Point

Last year, John and I decided to spend a few days in the Williams area and explore. We went to all the little lakes (and



Sycamore Point: Get out and walk around the edge in both directions for a variety of views.

one won’t disappoint!

Harquahala Mountain

This is a National Back Country Byway and since there are plenty of steep and possibly slippery sections and some rough spots, the signs say it’s for 4WD only, but it’s a pretty easy road, especially since they paved the short stretch that caused the most problems. Catch this road by taking Highway 60 west of

Wickenburg to the town of Aguila. In Aguila, watch for Eagle Eye Road and turn south. Watch the road for signs that tell you you’re coming to the Harquahala Mountain National Back Country Byway – it’s about 4-5 miles south of Aguila. Turn right, and soon you will come to a very nice rest area with bathrooms and shaded kiosks with lots of information about the road and the solar observatory up top.

A Super Day Trip From Phoenix

The dirt road makes its way up the mountain and it’s desert all the way, but we’ve seen Coues deer, coyotes, burros, and all kinds of smaller critters along the road. When you get to the top you will find a bunch of buildings and signs that tell you about the history of the solar observatory. By walking around the top of the mountain you can get fantastic views in all directions. It really is a stunning spot, and it’s a great place to take winter visitors so they get a taste of the des-

ert and have a lot of fun as well. There are picnic tables at and near the top, and scattered primitive campsites along the road. This one makes a super day trip from Phoenix during the cooler months.

The Rewards Are Incredible

So there you have it – six day trips that reward you with incredible views. I hope you try one or all of these soon. ■



View From The Top Of The Harquahala Road

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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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The Poppy Honors Veterans

The Veterans Of Foreign Wars' Buddy Poppy

Before Memorial Day in 1922, VFW conducted our first poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today.

During our 1923 encampment, we decided that VFW "Buddy"® Poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, we registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting our organization all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. We've made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name Buddy Poppy.

Today, our Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals. The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home For Chil-



dren. Show your support today. Host a Buddy Poppy drive in your town, or have your local government issue a special proclamation.

The American Legion's Poppy Story

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem "In Flanders Fields." The poem was written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on



the front lines.

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion.

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day. On May 28, Legion members urge the public to wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

Editor's Note: Canadians feature the



Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was a soldier, a physician, a poet.

poppy on November 11, which they designate as Remembrance Day. In the United States, many wear the poppy on both Veterans Day, November 11, and on National Poppy Day on the Friday before Memorial Day.

In Flanders Fields

BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Editor's Note: In doing some research about this famous poem, I found the answers to several questions asked by today's public. Some of those follow here:

What does the poem In Flanders Fields mean?


"In Flanders Fields" is a poem written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian doctor and teacher, during the first World War. The poem describes poppies blooming between gravestones. The poppies represent the fallen soldiers, who died in the days before. They felt the sun, but now they lie beneath the ground.

Where are Flanders Fields located?
Flanders Fields, the name of World War I battlefields in the medieval County of Flanders, which spans southern Belgium and north-west France.

Why is the poem In Flanders Fields so important?
Its powerful use of the symbol of the poppies blooming from the churned earth led to the tradition, to this day, of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those killed in service. By 1917, "In Flanders Fields" was known throughout the English-speaking world. ■

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DAV 5K Join Virtually To Help Support Disabled American Vets

We are ensuring our injured heroes are not alone on their road to recovery.

In November, thousands of people across the country will come together for the DAV 5K presented by Humana — virtually and in person — to walk, run, roll or ride to honor America's veterans. **Will you join us and help ensure that America's ill and injured heroes are not alone on their road to recovery?**

The DAV 5K is a walk, roll, run, and ride that thanks those who served and raises awareness of the issues our ill and injured veterans face every day. Join us in keeping our promise to America's veterans! There are two ways to participate, join us in-person in Cincinnati or virtually from anywhere.

By joining the DAV 5K, you are showing your support for our disabled veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our



freedoms. No matter where you join us from or how you participate, we will all be connected by one common goal: helping keep the promise to America's veterans.

Join us in-person at our Cincinnati event on November 6 or **participate virtually from anywhere November 6-11.** Then, determine if you're going to start a team, join a team or register as an individual.

Register at <https://bit.ly/3DYQVYp>
DAV (Disabled American Veterans) is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. Join us this year and help veterans get the benefits they've rightfully earned. This is just one incredible way to honor and raise awareness of the issues our ill and injured heroes face every day.

Sincerely,
The DAV 5K Team

When The Time Is Right, Wildlife Photos Can Be Incredible

BY **GEORGE ANDREJKO**
PHOTOGRAPHER, ARIZONA GAME
AND FISH DEPARTMENT

**Wild Arizona: Two Tips
For Better Wildlife Photos**

Wildlife photography is a pursuit that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. There’s always something new to learn.

This time of year offers plenty of opportunities to take pictures of birds and animals. When you’re outside with a camera this month, make it a point to practice your composition skills. As you look at the subject, look at its surroundings, too. In my opinion, some of the best images have the fewest elements. Watch for branches and rocks and other things that obstruct the view or distract from the subject, and re-compose to eliminate those.

Also, control the depth of field to focus attention where you want it. Wildlife photography is not like shooting a landscape, where you want everything in focus. Here, often you want the background to blur. Use larger apertures (a smaller f-stop number) and closer focusing distances to produce a shallower depth of field. This technique will make your wildlife subject the center of attention, just as it should be.

**Excerpts From Arizona
Wildlife Views Magazine**

In the Shot: I think the best time to photograph ungulates (such as deer) and horned animals (such as antelope) is during their breeding period. For Coues



ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

white-tailed deer, the rut occurs between mid-December and March, peaking in January. Bucks lose their caution and move around more, making them easier to see. There is an old saying that goes something like this: “Find the does and get the buck.”

Challenges: The main challenge [is] locating deer and finding bucks. Once I [do], the next challenge [is] to stalk a buck

for a photo opportunity. White-tailed deer generally are fidgety and highly nervous, but are less so in breeding season. The final challenge [is] hand-holding a 300 mm lens and manually focusing it so that it would not re-focus on the tall grasses or tree branches.

Parting Thoughts: Studying the habits and habitats of an animal you wish to photograph, and knowing as much as you

can about them, will increase your chances to make some great images.

Note: George Andrejko has been a professional photographer for more than 25 years. In 2009, he celebrated his 20th year with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, a career that has taken him to many remote corners of the state to photograph wildlife. One of his favorite places is southeastern Arizona. ■



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ROASTED WILD TURKEY

Many of our readers have avid hunters in the family and quite often prepare game. It's Thanksgiving and this recipe for wild turkey is excellent. Once it's stuffed with apples and topped with a unique combination of sauces, this wild bird requires no basting and cooks up nice and moist. Get the recipe at <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/roasted-wild-turkey>. Total prep time is 10 minutes, and bake time is 3-1/2 hours. This makes 12 servings.

EVENTS

Continued from page 1

Water Lantern Festival is filled with fun, happiness, hope, and great memories that you'll cherish for a lifetime. This is a family friendly event that can be shared by everyone. Friends, families, neighbors, and lots of people that you haven't met can come together to create a peaceful, memorable experience.

On Saturday, Nov.13, Come see the lights on Kiwanis Lake, 5500 S.Mill Avenue, Tempe, Ariz.

Check out the event website for more details: https://www.tempetourism.com/blog/tempe-fall-festivals-you-wont-want-to-miss/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Learn%20more&utm_campaign=Consumer%20October%202021%20%20

For more information on events in Tempe, visit our Tempe Events Page. ■



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TREES
Continued from page 1

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

- Christmas tree permits go on sale Oct. 14.
- Cutting dates are Oct. 14-Dec. 31.
- A permit costs \$15.
- One tree per customer.
- Tree height: 15 feet maximum.

Coconino National Forest

- Permits go on sale Nov. 9.

- Customers choose between the Flagstaff and Mogollon ranger districts.
- Cutting dates are Nov. 16-Dec. 31.
- A permit costs \$15.
- One tree per customer.
- Tree height: 10 feet maximum.

Kaibab National Forest

- Permits go on sale Oct. 14.
- Customers choose among the Williams, Tusayan and North Kaibab ranger districts.
- Cutting dates are Nov. 9- Dec. 31.
- A permit costs \$15 per tree.
- Each customer is allowed five trees.
- Tree height: 10 feet maximum.

Prescott National Forest

- Permits go on sale Oct. 14.
- Cutting dates are Nov. 1-Dec. 31.
- A permit costs \$20.
- One tree per customer.
- Tree height: 10 feet maximum.

Tonto National Forest

- Permits go on sale Nov. 9.
- Cutting dates are Nov. 20-Dec. 31.
- A permit costs \$15.
- One tree per customer.
- Tree height: 10 feet maximum. ■

BOAT PARADES
Continued from page 1

(See October issue of *Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times* for more details.) And, just ahead is one of the most fantastic events on the Colorado River: The city’s salute to the holiday season, Friday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 at 10 p.m.

It is thrilling to watch the parade float through Thompson Bay and the Bridgewater Channel beneath the grand old London Bridge. Although last year’s parade was somewhat compromised by the pandemic restrictions, there were still around 30 craft ranging from a tiny tugboat up to a 52-foot yacht.

There is no charge for spectators and all are recommended to abide by social distancing guidelines.

The annual Festival of Lights continues into January 2022. Take the family for a stroll under the London Bridge along the walkway, or take a boat on a night cruise through the Bridgewater Channel as over 500,000 lights set the water aglow. Free parking is located at the English Village or the London Bridge Resort and Convention Center. Illumination is from dusk to 10 p.m. nightly.

Although more information was not available at press time, we suggest that you continue checking these sites for updates: <https://bit.ly/3AL0tLL>

San Diego Bay Parade Of Lights

After a year’s hiatus, the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights is looking to make big waves with its return on Sunday, Dec. 12 and Sunday, Dec. 19.

The San Diego Bay Parade of Lights today announced the theme for the 2021 holiday boat parade is “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” This year marks the 50th Parade of Lights, one of San Diego’s most beloved holiday traditions held on San Diego Bay.

“It’ll be great to get back and celebrate the holidays on the water San Diego-style this year,” said Parade Chairman Larry Baumann. “The 12-days of Christmas is a traditional theme with tons of potential for fun and creativity. The kids should enjoy this year’s theme, in particular.”

The San Diego Bay Parade of Lights brings more than 100,000 San Diego residents and visitors together on the San Diego Bay waterfront each year. The procession of about 80 lavishly decorated boats has become one of our region’s most iconic holiday events.

The parade route starts at Shelter Island and travels west past Harbor Island, then south along the Embarcadero, Seaport Village, and Cesar Chavez Park before turning parallel with the Coronado Bridge to the west side of the bay. The parade then proceeds past the Coronado Ferry Landing to the finish line. It takes about two hours to

complete the procession and there are many comfortable waterfront viewpoints along the route.

A variety of prizes and awards are presented to the best decorated boats and those that best capture the parade’s theme.

Viewing areas span across multiple areas of the San Diego Bay. Prepare for traffic and parking ahead of time. Please report any suspicious activity to the Harbor Police. The possession of open alcoholic beverages is prohibited along the parade viewing area. Drones and other unmanned aircraft systems are also prohibited. Spectators and participants are asked to comply with San Diego County health guidelines when attending the event

Those interested in sponsoring the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights, can contact Larry Baumann at 619-222-1181 or larry@balihairestaurant.com.

For more information and parade details, visit www.sdparadeoflights.org.

San Diego Bay Parade Of Lights Tradition

The San Diego Bay Parade of Lights is a time-honored tradition brought to the San Diego Bay by the boating community. Each year, more than 80 lavishly decorated boats proceed around the San Diego Bay on two consecutive Sundays in December. For more information, please visit www.sdparadeoflights.org. ■

AWARDS
Continued from page 13

and its mission to a broader audience.

- Shifting the agency outreach culture to be more proactive.
- Increasing Spanish-language media outreach that strives to reach a diverse audience and engage nontraditional customers with opportunities to connect with wildlife and enjoy the outdoors.
- Establishing its Diversity Communications Work Group, which seeks to create a meaningful, sustainable culture shift driven by ongoing internal conversations and actions.

Private Lands Fish And Wildlife Stewardship Award

Southern Arizona rancher Ian Tomlinson and the Vera Earl Ranch were the recipients of the Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award for their proactive conservation and environmental practices and for continuing to exhibit outstanding stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

Mr. Tomlinson applies a strong conservation ethic in concert with the ranch business model. He and the Vera Earl Ranch work to promote a healthy ecosystem for all species and are currently working on a climate plan that will make the ranch more resilient in the future. He is highly involved with the local conservation districts and community and embodies good stewardship in all aspects.

About AFWA

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies represents North America’s fish and wildlife agencies to advance sound, science-based management and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest.

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ARIZONA'S

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



2,815 ACRES OF FUN!

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

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

BOAT RENTALS

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



PONTOON BOAT



SKI BOAT



PERSONAL WATERCRAFT



PARTY YACHT



PADDLE BOARD

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Christmas boat-parades light up the waters.

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'O, CHRISTMAS TREE'

There are several spots to cut your own.

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SAY CHEESE

George Andrejko, AZGFD, gives tips on taking wildlife photos.

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