ON THE COVER

Pleasant Harbor Country Fest

Country Music And Bull Riding To Make Waves At Lake Pleasant

leasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant will host the Pleasant Harbor Country Fest on Saturday, October 14, 2023, featuring country music from severalpopular local bands and LIVE bull riding. In addition, the event includesfood trucks, a VIP experience, along with mechanical bull riding. The event runs from 2:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$45.00 per person, and \$15.00 per child (12 & under). A limited number of VIP tickets are available at \$125.00.Tickets can be purchased online at www.pleasantharbor.com. Ticket prices DO NOT include entry into Pleasant Harbor which is an additional \$9.00 fee per vehicle for this event. No weapons, alcohol, pets, coolers, or pop-ups are allowed.However, unopened plastic water bottles, lawn chairs and blankets are welcome. Only clear bags will be allowed. Festival attendees are encouraged to buy tickets in advance.

But Wait; There's More!

For those wanting a camping weekend experience, both full hook-up campsites (electric, water, sewer, and internet access),

PORTS 2 DOWNSTREAM Sail Into September

EVENT INFORMATION

What: Pleasant Harbor Country Fest (at Lake Pleasant) When: Saturday, October 14, 2023, 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Where: Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant, 8708 West Harbor Blvd., Peoria, AZ 85383

Why: 1-day Country Festival, w/optional Camping Experience

Tickets

Purchase tickets: www.pleasantharbor.com General Admission: \$45.00 Children: \$15.00 (12 & Under) VIP Tickets: \$125.00 (Limited Availability) Parking: \$9.00 (Per Vehicle) Camping: 623-235-6140 (Call to reserve your campsite.) More Info: Pleasant Harbor Event Line:623-203-5173

as well as dry camping spaces are available. For reservations, campers should call 623-235-6140. Showers, convenience store, pool and clubhouse amenities are available



to weekend campers at Pleasant Harbor RV Resort

Pleasant Harbor offers an array of watersports and lakeside activities featuring



Autumn Is **Action Packed!**

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

Although the heat continues to scorch the Desert Southwest, the good times ahead remind us of all the cool events Arizona has to offer. Soon, Lake Pleasant will revel in the sounds of western music at the September 'Countryfest"

At the same time, hunters will eagerly be hitting the countryside for the ever-popular dove-hunting season. And, as the cooler temperatures finally arrive, there are ideal times to visit some of the state's lakes (which are full this year!) and to get ready for camping or a unique visit to the Petrified Forest.

Although we are cheering on this season in Arizona and the great possibilities it holds, we are also mindful of the people of Maui and their monumental tragedy. I hope many of our readers will join us in finding ways to help the victims begin to recover; it's going to take incredibly intense effort and a very long time.

the world's largest floating waterslide (H2-Whoa!), recreational sailboats, jet skis, kayaks, and paddle board rentals. In addition to the many onsite food trucks at Saturday's event, Dillon's Bayou Restaurant, located at Pleasant Harbor Marina, is open throughout the weekend for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

So Much To Enjoy

"The country fest is a great opportunity to enjoy live music, bull riding and delicious food, with amazing views of Lake Pleasant," said Glen Vortherms, Maricopa Water District general manager.

Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant is less than a 45-minute drive from downtown Phoenix and the closest entry to the lake for most Phoenix-area residents. Located in the City of Peoria, Pleasant Harbor is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information about the Pleasant Harbor Country Fest, tickets, or camping, please visit www.pleasantharbor.com or call the Pleasant Harbor events line at 623-203-5173.

COUNTRY FEST, continued on page 18

Petrified Forest National Park, Ischigualasto Provincial Park Merge

PETRIFIED FOREST, Ariz. - Petrified



4 BOATING Be Safe At Sea

9 **TACKLE & TARGET** Bait Finesse System Gaining Popularity

12 LAND CRUISING Visit Oracle State Park

18 WESTERN WILDLIFE 'Here, Kitty, Kitty'

Dove Season Is Right Around The **Čorner**

If you're a dove hunter who's counting the days until the Sept. 1 opener, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is rolling out a different video each week that's sure to whet your wingshooting appetite.

Just keep checking your email each week, and enjoy what our talented folks in the audio-visual department have produced about hunting doves, Arizonastyle. And, for those who might have missed them -

DOVE SEASON, continued on page 19

Forest National Park and Ischigualasto Provincial Park in Argentina formally became sister parks during a ceremony in Argentina in early

August. The parks share similar paleontological, geological, biological, and archaeological resources.

The sister park arrangement between Ischigualasto, which is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site, and Petrified Forest will promote cooperation through the exchange of professional and technical knowledge and through sharing lessons learned and best practices in the management and administration of both parks.

Exploring Together

Park teams will meet on an ongoing basis to discuss shared challenges and successes managing, researching, and interpreting their respective resources as well as exploring opportunities for future cooperation on management and conservation issues.

Though over 5,000 miles apart, both

Park, Petrified National Forest Arizona

parks are of extraordinary scientific importance, providing complete sequences of fossiliferous continental sediments representing the Triassic Period of geological history (c.250-200 million years before present for Ischigualasto and c.225-205 million years before present for Petrified Forest).

'Age Of The Dinosaurs'

These sediments reveal the evolution of modern animal groups such as crocodiles, turtles and birds in the Triassic, and the na-

PARKS, continued on page 18

PORT DOWNSTREAM



CURRENT

The Ben Avery Shooting Facility

(BASF) has announced new hours of operation, which became effective Aug. 29, for its rifle and pistol ranges, archery ranges, and Clay Target Center.

- Monday: CLOSED
- Tuesday: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Wednesday: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Thursday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Friday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Saturday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sunday: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Note: Archery ranges will close at sunset Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The rifle and pistol ranges will accept walk-in shooters only on weekdays; reservations are required on weekends. Visit www.azgfd.com/shooting-sports/ ben-avery-shooting-facility/ for more information, or call 623-582-8313.





Dove hunting season begins See story on page 1 of this issue.

Celebrates Educators!

Lake Havasu City Educators, bring your school ID for a free local brew at Yard City, plus a raffle just for you. Stop by KAWS for another sweet Educator raffle, live music and kid's crafts!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3

Nature Writing

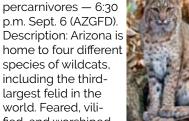
Petrified Forest National Park 9 a.m.–12 p.m

Drawing inspiration from the remarkable beauty of Petrified Forest National Park, this workshop offers participants of all experience levels an opportunity to take in the extraordinary beauty around them, then turn their observations into powerful and vivid poems. Using celebrated examples of both traditional and contemporary poetry, we'll discuss techniques such as metaphor, imagery, sound and allusion as well as introducing basic techniques for creating musicality within a poem. All experience levels welcome.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6

Arizona's Wildcats (Virtual Speaker Series)

Learn about our state's stealthy hypercarnivores — 6:30 p.m. Sept. 6 (AZGFD). Description: Arizona is



wildcats have had a varied relationship with humans from

SEPT. 7-23

Register now for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) workshops

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) encourages all deer and elk hunters to attend an upcoming workshop about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal wildlife disease that affects the nervous system of cervid animals.All of the workshops will be conducted at department regional offices and include a short lecture (20 to 30 minutes), followed by an outdoor demonstration (20 to 30 minutes) on how to collect and submit the required lymph node tissue sampling for testing. There also will be opportunities to speak with wildlife health personnel, including technicians, as well as wildlife managers. Hunters can register by sending an email to chronicwastingdis@ azgfd.gov.

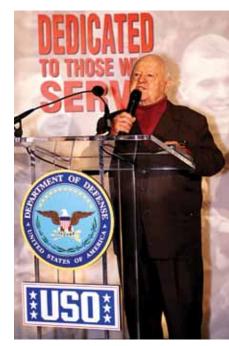
The workshops:

- 7 p.m. Sept. 7: 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop.
- 10 a.m. Sept. 9: 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix.
- 7 p.m. Sept. 13: 555 N. Greasewood Road. Tucson.
- 10 a.m. Sept. 16: 9140 E. 28th St., Yuma.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

National Public Lands Day; see story on page 10 of this issue.

National Hunting and Fishing Day; see story on page 10 of this issue.



SATURDAY, OCT. 7

2023 USO Show

American Legion, Post 2: 2125 S. Industrial Park, Tempe, Ariz.; lunch at 1 p.m.; show starts at 2:15; \$10 includes lunch and show; raffle prizes and 50/50 drawing; all proceeds and donations stay in Arizona and support the USO Military Hospitality Room at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport; for more information, contact Stolie at (480) 326-8671. VFW Post 3632, American Legion Post 138 and their auxiliaries hope you will attend.

Shoot N Scoot

State 48 Veteran's Association and American Knucklheads: shooting, axe throwing, riding, and more; check in at 0700; 6 locations, 5 competitive events; top 3 scorecards win cash; online registration only; raffles include shadow system MR920 tactical knives, booze cruises, 18 holes of golf, gift cards and more; www.shootnscoot23.eventbrite. com



SATURDAY, OCT. 14



THE CREW

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species of wildcats, including the thirdlargest felid in the world. Feared, vili-

fied, and worshiped,

the beginning of time. From jaguars to bobcats, learn about these misunderstood predators, as well as their current ecology and biology.

BECKER1999

Poetry of Place

Petrified Forest National Park 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

This workshop will focus on the significance of place in poetry. Place may be defined as a geographical location, an internal state, or perhaps a poetic meeting of the two. Using our beautiful surroundings of Petrified Forest National Park as inspiration, this workshop will lead students through a series of writing prompts to ultimately create an original draft of a poem. In addition, the class will briefly touch on line breaks and the use of sound. All experience levels welcome.

 10 a.m. Sept. 23: 5325 N. Stockton Hill Road, Kingman.



Pleasant Harbor Country Fest

See story on page 1 of this issue. (623) 203-5173

TUESDAY, OCT. 31

VFW Scholarship entries due See story on page 16 of this issue.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17 AND SUNDAY, FEB. 18, 2024

International Safety At Sea Course See story on page 5 of this issue.

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.

2009 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit

2016 AZGFC Writer Of The Year

THE FINE PRINT

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Our waterways are ready, but are you?

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

Wear a life jacket. Every trip. Every time.

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

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

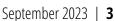
- Any rips or tears
- Missing straps
- Broken fasteners
- Ensure that the flotation hasn't shifted.

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

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 Arizona Game & Fish Department 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086 602-942-3000 | www.azgfd.gov

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PORT BOATING

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BE COOL — High temperatures require some extra precautions while boating.

With No End To Scorching Temps In Sight, Boaters Must Be Prepared

Protect your crew and you while boating in severe heat.

As the country continues to bake under record high temperatures, boaters often head to the water for respite. However, some may be unprepared for what it takes to withstand a high-heat day. Here are five tips from the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water that can help ensure everyone's safety as temperatures climb.

1. Create shade. Direct sunlight can make the air feel 10- to 15 degrees warm-

er. Reduce the time you spend in it. If you don't have a cabin or bimini top that offers sun protection, wide-brimmed hats; loose fitting, moisture-wicking clothing (try a UPF-rated long sleeve shirt); or fishing neck gaiters are next best. Of course, reef-friendly sunblock is a must for burn prevention.

2. Keep extra water aboard. Yeah, that's a no-brainer. However, you'd be surprised how many boaters bring just enough water for a single day's outing. Crew and guests may want consume water like out of a firehose on super hot

PREPARE, continued on page 5





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Long Beach Yacht Club To Host Annual International Safety At Sea Course

BY CAMERON MACLAREN

Long Beach Yacht Club is preparing for their annual US Sailing sanctioned International Safety at Sea course February 17-18, 2024. Participants may choose acomplete in-person two-day course; or a hands-on (Sunday only) course AFTER they've completed the 15 module online course, or a refresher / update if they've completed a sanctioned International course within the last 10 years.

Impressive Lineup

An impressive line up of seasoned and experienced presenters are scheduled to conduct the course and include familiar names to west coast sailors.John Jourdane,Dr.Christian Sloane, Dave Robertson, Mike Hakala of Avon Rafts will be joined by US Sailing Moderator candidatesCapt Debbie Huntsman andCapt Ed Huntsman for the two-day intensive course.



John Jourdane

John Jourdane

Leading modules on heavy weather tactics, damage control and others will bemultiple circumnavigator John Jourdane, one of the most experienced offshore sailors in the world today. Jourdane has sailed over 430,000 miles, crossing between the West Coast and Hawaii some 60 times. In addition to having crossed the Atlantic Ocean 12 times, Jourdane has sailed around the world three times, including two Whitbread Round the World Races.

He is the author of *Icebergs, Port and Starboard, Sailing with Scoundrels and Kings, and Modern Weather for Sailors.* John also previously instructed courses on Marine Meteorology at Orange Coast College in Newport Beach, Calif.



Spray Hoods Work

Dr. Christian Sloane

Dr.Christian Sloane, FACEP attended UC Berkeley for his undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology and medical school at UCSD. His transitional internship was at Scripps Mercy Hospital followed by residency in Emergency Medicine at UCSD where he was Chief Resident. After working for a year at Kaiser San Diego, Tri-City Medical Center, Jackson Hole, WY and UCSD, he took a full time faculty position at UCSD where he has worked since. He received the Golden Apple Teaching Award in 2005. Dr. Sloane is also a member of DMAT CA-4 and deployed with the team to the New Orleans Airport in support of the medical evacuation after Hurricane Katrina, and Hurricane Harvey, as well as immediately following the Haitian earthquake with International Relief Teams. He is a medical team manager for San Diego's



Mike Hakala

Urban Search and Rescue Team, TF-8. Additionally, he is the medical director for Mercy Air Services in San Diego and Imperial counties, and was just appointed medical director of the North County Dispatch Joint Powers Authority, serving the plurality of Northern San Diego County EMS agencies.

Dave Robertson

Five-decade sailboat rigger/outfitter Dave Robertson, based in Marina Del Rey, has extensive experience in offshore racing and deliveries, cruising preparation and boat setup. His 25+ years involvement in ocean safety programs comes from a wish to give back to his sport and industry.

Mike Hakala

Avalon Raft's Mike Hakala will be at pool's edge to give students an immersion experience for safely deploying and techniques for more easily enteringa life raft. *Hakala* has worked as a manufacturer, is a SOLAS and USCG approved lifesaving appliance technician and AMSEA Marine Safety Instructor. *Hakala* has assisted and presented at Safety-At-Sea courses/training for more than 20 years.

The Huntsman Captains

Rounding out the team will be US Sailing co-moderator candidates Capt. Debbie Huntsman and Capt. Ed Hunts-

YACHT CLUB, continued on page 18



BOXSCORE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF THE STAT

Ed Huntsman

PREPARE

Continued from page 4

days! (Good boating housekeeping tip: Keep a supply of bottled water in a locker or dry bilge area next to the hull, below the waterline. The water will stay cooler than the air temperature, and it makes it easy to share – or restock your cooler.)

3. Know how to stay cool, safely. Of course, boaters can take advantage of the best way to stay cool: jump in! Just don't jump off a moving vessel. Find a safe, out-the-way anchorage, drop the hook and enjoy!

4. Know the signs of heatstroke. Heatstroke occurs when the body is unable to cool down. It can happen either gradually or suddenly. Telltale signs are heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, fainting, skin hot to the touch, nausea or vomiting. Infants and children are especially susceptible. Immediately moving the victim to a cooler environment and providing lots of fluids can help buy time for a heatstroke victim until you reach first responders.

5. Have a way to communicate. If you have an unexpected breakdown or other issue, this is not the time of year to be stuck out on the water. Not only is the temperature a significant stressor, atmospheric conditions, especially in the afternoon hours, can bring sudden and powerful storms. Ensure your VHF is operational, and bring your cellphone, keeping it dry and charged. ■





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Easily Upgrade Boat Hardware In Minutes

Many owners hesitate to upgrade their boat's hardware because they lack the confidence or equipment to make the requisite deck cut-outs. Accon Marine offers a solution in its range of surface-mount accessories that install in minutes with just a drill and a screwdriver and feature easy snap-in and snap-out operation.

The 401 Series hardware options have Accon Marine>s Quick Release Base in common, fitting to a range of bimini top hinges, fender hangers, and stylish drink holders. An integrated quick release tab makes it easy to use, move and remove components with push-button convenience.

Crafted from durable 316 marine grade stainless steel for exceptional strength and corrosion resistance, the 401 Quick Release Base mounts to any horizontal or



vertical surface with just two #10 stainless steel screws. Apart from eliminating deck cut-outs, this simple design affords placing exactly where needed, without regard for bulkheads or other obstacles.

To assist in raising and lowering sunshades, the Accon Quick Release Bimini Top Hinge enables rapid securing and removal of standard pin-style legs, while the Side Mount version comes in models to accept 7/8» or 1» tubing. The Quick Release Bimini Strap Hinge helps keep straps organized, and its Turnbuckle variation offers the ability to adjust tension instantly. All keep the hardware attached to the bimini once it's released from the base, making one less thing to lose onboard.

To de-stress docking or raft-ups, Accon offers Quick Release Fender Hangers in 1/2" and 1" diameters. The rings remain secured to the fender line when not in use, eliminating repetitive tying and untying.

Helping keep beverages at hand, Accon has both Single and Double Drink Holders. Both feature an open design with sturdy 3-1/2" dia. arms and flat bottoms that don't collect condensation.

With their tremendous versatility, durable construction and easy surfacemount installation, these Accon accessories make upgrading older or worn-out boat hardware a DIY project anyone can tackle. Suggested retail prices for Accon Marine Bimini Hinges start at \$36.93, Fender Hangers at \$39.95 and Drink Holders at \$90.70; each includes a Quick Release Base. Accon also offers tops and bases separately.

Contact local dealers or Accon Marine, 13665 Automobile Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33762. 727-572-9202; Fax: 727-572-7621. www.acconmarine.com. ■

Carbon Fiber Wheel Provides Luxury Look Without The Price

For all the hours dedicated sportfishermen spend at the helm, the savvy ones know how to do it in comfort and style. The new Schmitt Marine Primus CF delivers all the performance, reliability and looks discerning owners expect from a luxury grade carbon fiber steering wheel, at a smart price point. It debuts at IBEX, Oct. 3-5, Tampa, Florida, booth 3-1831.

The sleek, modern beauty of this 13-1/2" steering wheel belies its rugged construction. Its dynamic 3-spoke design incorporates carbon fiber throughout for a seamless stylized look that exudes gritty sophistication. The Primus CF's 1-1/8" diameter ring, along with its UV-resistant black santoprene rubber finger grip and rim grip, help reduce hand fatigue for secure, all-weather comfort during long

Kits Extinguish Small Lithium-Ion Battery Fires

Self-contained SK Series Fire Safety Kits are compact and easily stowed. Upon opening the fireproof containment bag, the user has instant access to a LiCELL AVD Extinguisher, heat-resistant gloves and protective eyewear. Six simple graphic images provide instructions for use.

Using an SK Series Fire Safety Kit is simple. After donning the safety gear, the LiCELL AVD Extinguisher is shaken, aimed at the fire and completely emptied. The burning object may need to be turned over to access the source of the flames. The device is then placed inside the fireproof containment bag and sealed with the Velcro flap. The bag is rated up to 1,832° F and will withstand the pressure created by potentially exploding batteries. Smoke



runs offshore.

For those wanting the occasional faster wheel spin with one-handed maneuvering, the Schmitt Marine Primus CF carbon fiber steering wheel comes in a control knob model. Glass ball bearings in the knob deliver optimum performance and responsiveness.

Both models come in a 3/4" tapered hub, with a choice of 5/8" or 1/2" carbon-encased stainless steel center nuts. NMMA Type Accepted meeting ABYC standards and CE certified, the Primus CF meets stringent safety requirements. Its carbon fiber construction is overlaid on a fiberglass backbone, which helps disperse

and gases may escape but should not ignite. Sea-Fire Marine offers a demonstration video at www.bit.ly/LiCELL-Kit.

The LiCELL SK Series Fire Safety Kit is available in six configurations. Ideal for mobile phones, tablets and handheld VHF radios, the Small Kit includes a 15.7" L x 16.3" W bag. It's offered as the kit alone, or with a 500ml or 1L LiCELL extinguisher. The 27.2" L x 21.3" W Large Kit will hold bigger electronics like laptop computers and is likewise available as just the kit, or with a 1L or 2L LiCELL extinguisher. MSRPs start at \$749.99 for the Small Kit and \$1,299.99 for the Large LiCELL is a fire protection technologies company specializing in lithium battery fire solutions. Sea-Fire Marine, under license and agreement with LiCELL, supplies the marine market. More information is at www.licellfire.com.

energy from forceful impacts.

Expert innovators in steering accessories for more than 50 years, Schmitt Marine offers its Primus CF carbon fiber steering wheel for both OEMs and aftermarket refits. For pricing and availability, contact the manufacturer.

Contact local dealers or Schmitt Marine, 1001 Ranck Mill Rd., Lancaster, PA 17602. 866-724-6488 (866-SCHMITT); Fax: 866-329-7679 (866-FAXSMSW). sales@schmittongaromarine.com. www. schmittongaromarine.com.

Editor's note: See the new Primus CF carbon fiber steering wheel and other quality Schmitt Marine components at IBEX, Oct. 3-5, Tampa, Florida, booth 3-1831. ■



Contact local dealers or Sea-Fire Marine: www.sea-fire.com. ■

Rechargeable lithium-ion battery-powered devices are a part of everyday life, especially on a boat. So too is the reality that if their batteries fail, the extremely hot and volatile fire can't be extinguished utilizing a common handheld marine extinguisher. Fortunately, the new LiCELL[™] SK Series Fire Safety Kits from Sea-Fire Marine were engineered for this scenario. They include everything needed to quickly contain a lithium-ion battery fire that has started in a small electronic device before it gets out of control.





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BAIT FINESSE SYSTEM 101

Get Hooked On This System

BY MARGIE ANDERSON (ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON BASSRESOURCE.COM)

The Bait Finesse System uses very small and light baitcasting rods and reels and it's gaining popularity with bass fishermen everywhere. But John and I love it for trout fishing on the small forest lakes and even in streams – we're long-time bass anglers who are more comfortable with baitcasting gear than a fly rod or a spinning rod.

Ideal For Panfish

The BFS method is ideal for trout and other panfish and since the lures are so small, you can put a tackle box in your pocket! We bought a couple of 4-piece baitcasting rods from Bait Finesse Empire (he's an Arizona man!), and we just toss them in the Jeep with a small tackle box and we're ready to go. I think you'll really enjoy this kind of fishing – it's a blast!

Japanese anglers often fish limited waters that are highly pressured, so smaller baits and more finesse are often called for. But that presents a problem: those small baits are almost impossible to throw using traditional bait-casting gear, and spinning gear often lacks the precision needed to put a tiny lure exactly where you want it.

Without Drawbacks

Another drawback of spinning gear is line twist. The beauty of a baitcaster is that the line rolls straight off the reel and doesn't spool off like it does on a spinning rod. This spooling action is what causes the dreaded spin caster line twist. So, between the inaccuracy, lack of power, and line twist, sophisticated Japanese anglers wanted baitcasting reels that would allow them to cast small lures like spinning gear, but without those inherent drawbacks.

So about ten or fifteen years ago, Japanese fishermen began tweaking their bait-





casting reels with smaller spools. From there, the movement grew and now you can get BFS rods and reels from online stores like Bait Finesse Empire. BFS reels are built small with shallow spools that allow light lures to pull the line out for casting.

Enter Bait Finesse Empire

Early in 2020, Gary Dobyns of Dobyn's Rods posted on his *Facebook* page that he was toying with the idea of building a lighter power-fishing baitcast rod. Amir Azabbi, who had gotten into BFS via a small online community, answered Gary and suggested he build BFS rods. Gary had never heard of it, but he agreed.

He sent Azabbi and one other fishermen two rods and they fished with them, tested them, and gave suggestions. At first, shops didn't seem interested, so Azabbi started a shop himself (Bait Finesse Empire) and Gary supplied him with the rods. Dobyns told me he is amazed at how fast BFS fishing has taken off. Now Dobyns Rods makes the Sierra Ultra Finesse Casting Rod Series, and he tells me he can hardly keep them in stock.

Special Gear

We all know that baitcasting gear gives you more precision for better accuracy and control, and that's why the Japanese

BFS, continued on page 10



Amir Azabbi, Bait Finesse Empire





Note: There are no changes to the site itself, our Facebook Page, Twitter Account or Facebook Group "The Sportsman's Advocate", Newsletter or the SRT Radio Show.

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Fundraising Event by:

Valley of the Sun Quall Forever, 501c3 Our mission is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of Quail and other wildlife populations in Arizona through habitat improvement, conservation education, land management, women's and youth programs and education. https://www.votsqf.com

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September 2023 | 9

PORT TACKLE & TARGET

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Mark The Date: September 23, 2023

Established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, National Public Lands Day is traditionally the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort. It celebrates the connection between people and green space in their community, inspires environmental stewardship, and encourages use of open space for education, recreation, and health benefits.

Volunteer

Help care for your national parks by volunteering during a one-time event or on a reoccurring basis.

Join The #Recreate Responsibly Movement

Learn how to model best practices to protect America's treasures while looking out for each other's health and safety.

Graphic reading "NPLD. National Public Lands Day, National Park Service" with illustrations of visitors doing various park activities like scuba diving, hiking, kayaking, and picking up trash.



About National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day is organized annually and led by the National Environmental Education Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service and other federal agencies. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers roll up their sleeves to help restore and preserve public lands of all types and sizes—from iconic national parks and rivers to local urban green spaces and everything in between. National Public Lands Day is special because it provides all lovers of the environment—old and new—an opportunity to

PUBLIC LAND, continued on page 15

Celebrate National Hunting And Fishing Day

In 1972, Richard Nixon signed the first ever Presidential proclamation of National Hunting and Fishing Day, writing:

"I urge all citizens to join with outdoor sportsmen in the wise use of our natural resources and in insuring their proper management for the benefit of future generations."

On the fourth Saturday of every September (Sept. 23, 2023), NHF Day recognizes generations of sportsmen and women for their contributions to the conservation of our nation's rich sporting heritage and natural resources. One of the main goals of National Hunting and Fishing Day is to recruit new hunters and anglers by encouraging participation and increasing public awareness of the connection between hunting, angling, and conservation.

Through self-imposed fees and excise taxes, sportsmen and women have raised more than \$57 billion — that's more than \$100,000 every 30 minutes — being raised for conservation. NHF Day is the largest, most effective grassroots movement ever undertaken to promote outdoor sports and conservation.

Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, MO serves as the official home for NHF Day.

Thanks To Our Sponsors

National Hunting & Fishing Day is made possible through the dedicated and generous support of conservation partner organizations who come together to celebrate this day each year alongside the promotion and support of conversation efforts year-round. ■

BFS

Continued from page 9

anglers who started the system started tinkering with the smallest baitcasters they could find, putting even smaller spools on them and tweaking them until they could throw super small baits.

Now companies like Tsurinoya, iFishband, Daiwa, and Shimano make specific BFS reels that are perfect for the Bait Finesse System. For instance, the Shimano Calcutta Conquest BFS HG 2017 has a 6.8:1 gear ratio that takes up 26.8 inches of line per handle turn. It holds just 49 yards of 8-pound-test line.

Light, Limber Tips

The BFS rods are specially designed with very light, limber tips to make casting the small baits easier. They aren't noodle rods – they tend to be fairly stout with a medium to medium-light action ,so even though you can cast small lures, when you get hooked up you know you've got a true bass rod.

BFS is also hugely popular with trout fishermen and the trout rods are generally shorter rods (6-7 foot) with a moderate action that is ideal for what the Japanese call "area fish", meaning stocked trout. These rods really bend when you cast, and they are noodle rods that allow you to play a trout slowly and keep it on the line.

Handle Light Lures

BFS bass rods will typically handle lures as light as 1/8- to 1/16th ounce, while



the trout rods will allow you to throw as light as 1/32 ounce. Over the past year, BFS has gone beyond niche – this year at ICAST two or three American companies had BFS rods on display.

Lures

BFS lures run the entire gamut of bass lures – everything from plastics to metal baits to plugs and topwater. Azzabi says that it isn't the size of the bait, per se, it's the weight of the bait that matters with BFS gear. If you start getting too heavy, you're better off with regular baitcasting gear.

In fact, you can fish many traditional bass baits with the Bait Finesse System – many worms are light enough, as well as small 1-1/2- to 2-inch craws and creature baits, 1- to 3-inch swimbaits, etc. Azzabi says hard baits are the most popular on his website: things like crankbaits, jerkbaits, etc.



Many Imported From Japan

He imports a great many of them directly from Japan, as the Japanese have been doing this a long time and have better quality spinnerbaits.

Topwater baits are one of his biggest selling categories and BFS has just about every kind you can think of, including Spook-like baits, poppers, and the Z-Man Baby GOAT – a floating soft bait with kicking twin tails. There are also frogs, inline spinners, and even spoons.

Why BFS?

First of all, hooking a bass on gear this light is an incredible rush. It's just plain fun. Azzabi says that for most guys (here in America, anyway), BFS isn't going to be their primary bass fishing gear. It's going to be one part of what you do. So you can certainly use your power stuff, but as pressure increases, finesse is going to be more and more important.



Travel Rods

Some of the most popular BFS fishing rods on Bait Finesse Empire are the 4-piece travel rods. They break down small enough to fit in a day pack, so you can easily carry your gear with you anywhere, easily. Azzabi uses a fanny pack as a tackle box, and only needs to carry a couple of small boxes for all the lures he needs, plus pliers, etc.

Walks And Power Fishes

He says that when you're fishing a creek that's only ten inches deep you don't need a lot of line out, so BFS is perfect for that because it still gives you the backbone to get a smallmouth out of current. And it's much easier to cast with a bait caster when you are surrounded by trees and brush. He loves fishing Japanese minnow lures in creeks. They sink, so it's an aggressive bait, and you have to fish it with a fast twitch. He just walks along the

8

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Supplies The Need For Speed

Amir has also seen a lot of avid bass anglers getting into BFS because they love power fishing, but shoulder or other injuries have made it too difficult for them to use traditional heavy bait-casting gear all day long. BFS is the ideal solution – much lighter, but supplies the need for speed!

If you like to fish small rivers, creeks, and ponds, BFS is the way to go, especially if you walk the bank. Amir absolutely loves walking creeks for bass, getting away from other anglers and just enjoying the sport and the outdoors. Most of the fishing that a creek or pond fisherman does is shallow fishing, and that's ideal for BFS since the reels don't hold a lot of line. If you want to fish deep, you'll be better off with your big gear. creeks and power fishes.

Amir also says that he's seen a lot of crappie fishermen getting into BFS, especially in conjunction with the new Live View technology. It allows them to cast directly to the target. But basically, for bass fishermen, BFS is like Power Finesse Fishing. It lets you cover shallow water very quickly, but with smaller baits. It's ideal for pitching or flipping small baits just outside cover; for instance, but you probably wouldn't use it to pitch right INTO the cover.

A Nice, Quiet Day Of Fishing

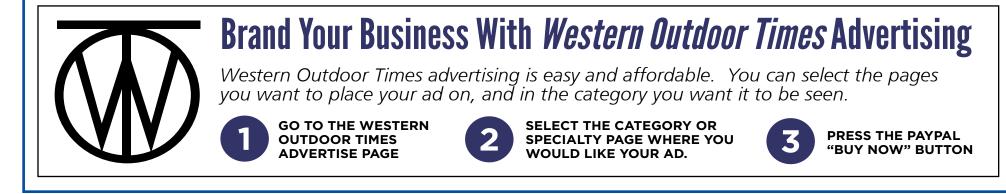
BFS fishing is perfect for travel, particularly when you're not bringing a big bass boat. Imagine being able to pack a single day pack with all the fishing gear you'll need! You can probably think of a lot of places near you where the Bait Finesse System would be the ideal way to have a nice quiet day of fishing, so check out BFS – I bet you get hooked! ■



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THE BEST CAMPING STUFF

These Make It Darn Close To 'Glamping'

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

A lot of our friends have trailers or RVs, but John and I like to throw our gear in (and on) the Jeep and just set up camp wherever we find a beautiful place to stop. But, just because we tent camp doesn't mean we're roughing it! I've been camping for decades now, and we've finetuned our gear to give use the most comfort for the least weight and space. With all the advancements in technology these days, it's easier than ever to take the comforts of home with you, even on a tentcamping trip. I'm not sure that what we do would qualify as "glamping", but in my book it's darn close!

First Priority: Sleeping Comfortably

I've always said that people who say they hate camping probably slept very un-



John is enjoying the sunset and wondering when he can hit the sack in our uber-comfortable Tent Cot.



(11-52-638) 383-6325 (480) 463-6255 FAX (011-52-638) 383-5193

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I bring our favorite pillows and bedding along, and with the self-inflating foam mattress, the tent cot is as comfy as our bed at home!

comfortably on the ground or with one of those tiny little inflatable mats. Been there done that. No thanks. The best thing we ever did was to buy a Kamp-Rite Double Tent Cot. This bad boy sets up very quickly and is so comfortable you'll sleep like a baby.

One of the things we like best about the Tent Cot is that when you have to get up at night you just swing your legs over the side just like in your bed at home. No sleeping on the ground! We bought the Kamp-Rite double self-inflating mattress and it's fabulous. Super comfortable because it's a combo: a foam mattress that is self-inflatable. The only down side is that the bag it comes packed in is almost impossible to use once you've had the mattress out. We ended up buying a large cargo bag and some heavy duty Velcro straps to save our sanity. Great decision!

No Bag On The Ground

The Kamp-Rite Compact Tent Cot Double is \$350 and the double mattress is \$185. They also have a lot of other sizes, including a kid's cot, and I know you will never go back to putting a sleeping bag on the ground or an air mattress again! The cot and the mattress both store small and fit on the roof rack of the Jeep with tons of room to spare. We couldn't be happier with them.

Kamp-Rite also has a SAC-It-Up Cornhole Beach Chair that doubles as a cornhole game board and has a pouch to store the bean bags! It reclines in 8 different positions so you can be seriously loungy. It costs \$110.





John puts the tent cot and mattress on the roof of the Jeep and everything else fits neatly in the back. Mochi has the entire back seat to herself, of course.

Packing Your Camping Bedding And Pillows

We tried inflatable pillows and hated them. So I take full-sized bed pillows with us, as well as a sheet for the tent cot mattress, a small quilt for Mochi, who sleeps in the tent cot with us, and some light blankets for warm nights when we don't need the sleeping bags. I get all of that stuff into one duffel bag, along with slide-on slippers for those nighttime potty that, while it burns it produces a fan (2 speeds!) so it really puts out the heat. It even has a grill that attaches to it with plenty of room for 4 burgers or a couple of big steaks. Plus it has a USB port on the side so I can charge my phone with it while I cook.

BioLite

If you don't know about them yet, **GLAMPING**, continued on page 14

trips and a light nylon skull cap to keep John's head warm. How? Space Bags!

Power Up

I have a Ryobi One+ power station that fits on an 18V Ryobi One+ battery. We charge up our Apple watches with it in the evening, power a light if we need one, and I also use it to power a small pump that I use to suck the air out of the Space Bags so all my comfy bedding fits in a small duffel. Genius, right? They also make Space Bags with a one-way valve that you can just roll up. One thing I do NOT use it for is recharging my Yaesu handheld ham radio, because the output is not a true sine wave. But for a pump or a light or charging a watch via the usb ports, it's the nuts!

Around The Campfire

If we're lucky enough to be allowed to have a fire, we usually just use our Bio-Lite stove. It's so nice and small it fits inside a pot, and it runs on twigs! Not only







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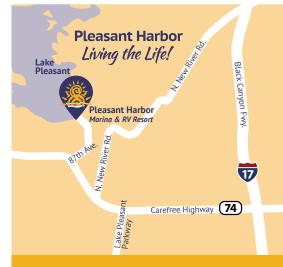
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PORT LAND CRUISING

GLAMPING

Continued from page 12

BioLite is an amazing company that has helped people and whole villages all over the world by supplying them with stoves that can charge their phones and run lights for them, while drastically reducing the hours that the women have to spend searching for fuel. It also cuts back enormously on their carbon emissions and the smoke that definitely damages their lungs. Check them out at www.bioliteenergy. com.

They've got portable stoves, fire pits, head lamps, power stations, lighting, and even solar! Their little solar panels are fantastic – they're adjustable and they've got a little window that helps you get them pointed perfectly for the maximum solar power – just line it up so the shadow is in the center of the marks! Their camping lights are great, too.



Cooking dinner on the BioLite mini stove. I love this thing!



John and Mochi enjoying a fire in the BioLite. We think it's just the right size - we can warm our toes and fingers, and roast marshmallows, and we don't have to worry about hot coals starting a forest fire overnight!

Dinner, Breakfast, Whatever

I confess that most of time (almost EVERY time), dinner for us is a Backpacker's Pantry entrée. They are seriously yummy and each pouch is two servings. They also have a lot of tasty vegan options, so that's perfect for me! When we stop for the night I basically just set up my little kitchen (a tiny folding table) and fire up the JetBoil (https://jetboil.johnson-

TripleWall Productions

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

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



BioLite Versa

outdoors.com/us). It boils water in about 90 seconds flat. I add a couple cups of boiling water to the Backpacker's Pantry package, seal it, and set it aside while we put up the Tent Cot. Fifteen minutes later dinner is ready!





Dinner is almost ready! Backpacker's Pantry makes a great dinner as easy as boiling water!

my morning protein shake. Pretty soon we're fed, coffee'd up, and ready to hit the road with a full Thermos of hot fresh java!

You can get a Stanley French Press in a variety of colors for \$70. It holds a whopping 48 ounces and will keep your coffee hot for 4 hours. I really love it – I love it so much I got one for our son and one for our granddaughter too! The Stanley stuff is so rugged it will last for generations – John and I use the Stanley Thermos that used to belong to my dad!

Personal Blender

Another thing I always like to have for breakfast is a vegan protein shake. I'm not a big fan of the ready-todrink ones in the cartons because they are usually too thick and have a bit of an aftertaste. I put a single serving of vegan protein powder in snacksized some fruit. I



sized ziplock bags, and pack some fruit. I make a morning smoothie with my BlendJet 2 –

it's a rechargeable personal blender with an incredible amount of power. It takes up very little room since the blender jar is the glass, and it really comes in handy for all kinds of things, not just smoothies.

BlendJet

This thing will make 15+ shakes on one charge and it's strong enough to blend



Contact Mike Wallace at (480) 228-7733 or triplewallproductions@gmail.com

Making coffee with the JetBoil and my Stanley French Press. That tiny little table is my kitchen and it's just right!

Hot, Fresh Java

I also have the French Press parts for the Jet Boil, but I find it more convenient to make coffee in the Stanley French Press. This thing is awesome – big and roomy. I can make a pot as soon as I get up, pour us both a coffee into insulated mugs with tops, and put the rest in the Thermos. Then I can make another pot real quick while the Backpacker's Pantry breakfast "cooks" in its bag and I make



The BlendJet is the coolest thing since sliced bread. I absolutely love being able to make a protein shake on camping trips.

Arizona State Parks And Trails Presents Its Fall Kickoff Issue

Educating and adventure go hand in hand.

Hopefully you had a chance to enjoy a high-country camping or lake trip this summer to escape the record-breaking heat we experienced across the state! School is back in session and families are getting back into their routines, and most Arizonans are looking forward to cooler temps and fall weather.

Try not to let your adventurous spirit get lost in the fray of your busy life this year. Remember to get outside this fall to remain connected with nature and enjoy the array of physical and mental benefits that come with outdoor exploration. Seize the opportunity over the upcoming long weekend with a Labor Day camping or day trip to your favorite state park.

Featured: Oracle State Park

Are you looking for a peaceful and rejuvenating escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life? Look no further than Oracle State Park! Comfortably nestled in the foothills of southern Arizona's Santa Catalina Mountains, this park offers the perfect setting for a relaxing and im-



Kannally Ranch House

mersive outdoor experience.

Oracle is a well-known birding hotspot and visitors can expect to experience the colorful sights and soothing songs of native birds throughout the 4,000-acre park. In addition to a stunning array of birds, a variety of native wildlife calls Oracle home, including Coues whitetail deer, javelina, and even bobcats on occasion.

Star Parties

The park offers a number of wildly popular Star Parties throughout the year where participants can view constellations, planets, and other celestial phenomena through powerful telescopes provided by local astronomy clubs. With minimal light pollution and great vantage points, Oracle State Park is the best location in the Tucson area to experience the magnitude and wonder of the night sky.

An impressive network of shareduse trails, ranging from leisurely strolls to challenging treks meander across the scenic landscape. After getting to know the park trails, turn your attention to the historic Kannally Ranch House, a stunning example of Mediterranean Revival architecture that was built in the 1920s. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the ranch house and learn about the fascinating and charitable history of the Kannally family, who lived and worked on the ranch for over 50 years.

Something For Everyone

Whether you're a seasoned outdoor enthusiast or just looking for a peaceful retreat, Oracle State Park has something to offer everyone. Load up the car, grab some snacks, and lace up your hiking boots, then embark on an unforgettable adventure in one of Arizona's most beautiful and unique natural settings.

PUBLIC LAND

Continued from page 10

show our appreciation for these unique places.

The theme for this year —"30 Years of Care and Community" — celebrates the 30th year of National Public Lands Day. Join the celebration by volunteering at a national park site near you!

Get Involved

There are many ways to participate in National Public Lands Day. Whatever you choose to do, we encourage you to share Your Park Story.

Visit A National Park For Free

Take part in a volunteer work project. Certain in-park projects may provide a fee-free day coupon to be used on a future date. See the list of National Public Lands Day events below or check out all volunteer events at national parks by using Volunteer.gov, keyword search National Public Lands Day.

Have fun and enjoy the health benefits of being outdoors.

Share your favorite outdoor activity on social media channels with the hashtag #NPLD, #NPSVolunteer, and #MyPark-Story.

Volunteer on National Public Lands Day and receive a free national park oneday pass to any national park site. Or visit a park on National Public Lands Day for free. ■

last me forever. The whole tactical kit is \$100 at www.true.acgbrands.com.

Keeping My Sweet Mochi Safe And Comfy With Ruffwear

I've been buying nothing but Ruffwear for Mochi since she was born. Their dog gear is so well made and sturdy you'll never have to replace anything unless they grow out of it. Puppies! They make amazing harnesses, and I really like the ones that have two chest straps for extra security. I also like that I can get a lot of stuff in bright orange which makes it easier to see her and let hunters know she's not a javelina!

Check Out Ruffwear

They also make some of the nicest dog boots I've ever seen. They fit well and protect from hot streets as well as sharp rocks and cactus. These guys even make portable water bowls and toys. If you're a hiker you'll love the Trail Runner stuff that lets you attach the leash to a belt so your hands are free. Mochi has three of their harnesses for different things, even a cooling harness that you can soak in water to keep your pup cool on these ferocious Arizona summer days. Check all their stuff out at www.ruffwear.com.

What's your favorite item for camp-

GLAMPING

Continued from page 14

ice, leafy stuff, fruit – whatever. I suppose you could make frozen Margaritas with it! Plus you can drink your smoothie without even taking it off the base if you want too. The only difficult thing about the Blend-Jet is choosing a color. To clean it, you just put a little soap and water in it, give it whirl, then rinse.

You won't even believe how many different cool colors you can get with the BlendJet 2, and since I use it at home all the time too I think \$50 is a bargain. I got one for both of my granddaughters too and they love them. In fact, all the girls that work with them ended up buying one too! Right now you get a free large (20 oz) jar when you buy a BlendJet 2. You should check them out at www.blendjet. com. They'd make a great gift even for non-campers. They're just perfect for a smoothie in a hurry - you can just take the whole thing with you! Make a shake for lunch at work or your next tailgating party.

Taking Popsicles Tent Camping

John and I are big fans of solar. We're not usually stopped long enough to use it on camping trips, but we have a lot of gear we can charge up at home and it will last a whole camping trip. Much of our gear is from GoSun.co. NOT com! Our favorite is the Chillest, which is a cooler with two compartments. We can set the big compartment at 40° for a fridge and



the small one at 0° for a freezer. We actually took popsicles with us on a camping trip! We charge it up at home – only takes a couple hours, then plug it into the back ant canva

Wood Stoves For Longer Trips

A lot of our hunting buddies set up giant canvas tents and stay out for weeks. For them, a wood burning stove is ideal. BioLite has a rocket stove they call the EcoZoom Versa that is perfect for camping as well as emergencies. It has a sturdy cast iron top and an insulated body and is built to last for years. Find out all about it at www.bioliteenergy.com. It costs \$149.



The Kamp-Rite cornhole beach chair.

of the Jeep in the cigarette lighter socket in the back.

Chillest

At night when we're not running the Jeep, the Chillest just hums away on its stored battery power. It's so nice not to have all your stuff full of water from melting ice! They make two smaller sizes too, and we recently bought the Chill for shorter trips. It has just one compartment so no popsicles. LOL! They are such nice coolers and when the power went out at the house we turned both sides of the Chillest into freezers and were able to keep our frozen food intact!

GoSun has even has a folding table that is a solar panel – the entire top produces power to recharge your gear. We also bought their little generator. Charges up at the house really quickly and has power to spare for everything we want to bring with us so we stay comfy and entertained.

Little Things That Make Camping Life Easier

One thing I use a lot is a lighter. Whether I'm using the BioLite Stove or the JetBoil, I need to light it. The JetBoil has a push to light function but sometimes I get it wet and it won't work. So my favorite thing to have in my kitchen duffel is a True Tactical Kit. It has four great little tools including a tactical knife, a Plasma Lighter XR with a bendable neck to get in under those pots and light the stove, a tweezer tool that's invaluable for splinters and such, and an LED clip light that you can hook to your belt loop. They're all well-made and sturdy and no doubt will





Here's Mochi in her Ruffwear cooling vest.

September 2023 | **15**

STUDENTS URGED TO APPLY

Veterans Of Foreign Wars Offers Two Scholarships

The VFW Auxiliary adds three more opportunities to win.

The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a democracy-loving high school student interested in a \$35,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, these scholarships may be for you.

Voice of Democracy

Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.3 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first-place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. Before submitting your essay, read the rules and eligibility requirements, and find your sponsoring local VFW Post as applications must be turned in by midnight, Tuesday, Oct. 31. Download and



complete the 2023-2024 Voice of Democracy entry form here: https://www.vfw. org/community/youth-and-education/ youth-scholarships

The 2023-24 theme is "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

Patriot's Pen

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Before submitting your essay, read the rules and eligibility requirements, and find your spon-



WE ARE VFW POST 3513 AUXILIARY

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soring local VFW Post as applications must be turned in by midnight, Tuesday, Oct. 31. Download and complete the 2023-2024 entry form here:

www.vfw.org/community/youthand-education/youth-scholarships

The 2023-24 theme is "How Are You

Inspired by America?"

VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Although the VFW Auxiliaries certainly support and assist with the VFW scholarships, there are three contests that they sponsor themselves: Continuing Education (for members and immediate relatives only), due to National Headquarters by Feb. 15, 2024, and two patriotic art scholarships, due by March 31, 2024,

Each year, more than 4,000 high school students from across the country participate in the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. The contest began in 1979 to recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth. View the current National state winners or all the previous first-place national winners for Young American Creative Patriotic Art. This contest comprises only two-dimensional entries. The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is exclusively for threedimensional art pieces. Click here to see the current National state winners for this contest.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

Who Is Eligible To Apply?

• Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.

• Although US aitizanshin is not ro

• Do not frame two-dimensional pieces.

• Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries, if matted, must be matted in white. Do not use color mats. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used.

• The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.

• Complete entry form and attach to back of entry: https://vfwauxiliary.org/ scholarships/young-american-creativepatriotic-art-contest/

• Submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (250 words or less).

What Are The Scholarship Contest Deadlines?

• March 31: Student Entry Deadline to VFW Auxiliary.*

• April 15: VFW Auxiliary winners due to Department (state) Scholarships Chairman for judging.*

• May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) Winners to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.*

* required deadlines

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest:

Who Is Eligible To Apply?

• Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.

• Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence status (the application for which has not been denied) to become a U.S. citizen.

• Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students are ineligible.

What Is The Scholarship Amount?

• The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$5,500.

What Are The Scholarship Submission Requirements?

• Three-dimensional art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc.

• Pieces should be no larger than 18" in any direction.

• Art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight.

• Complete entry form and submit with entry: https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patrioticart-contest/

• Submit a typed explanation of steps



VFW Post 3513 We are the largest VFW Post in Scottsdale and the only Scottsdale VFW Post with its own building for events. We are located one mile south of downtown Scottsdale. 7220 E Wilshire Dr, Scottsdale, AZ · (480) 941-9849 #AuxiliaryPatriotism



• Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence status (the application for which has not been denied) to become a U.S. citizen.

• Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible.

What Is The Scholarship Amount?

• The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$37,000.

What Are The Scholarship Submission Requirements?

• Two-dimensional art must be on canvas or paper. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media taught may be used. taken to create three-dimensional art/artists statement (total of 250 words or less).

What Are The Scholarship Contest Deadlines?

• March 31: Student Entry Deadline to VFW Auxiliary.*

• April 15: VFW Auxiliary winners due to Department (state) Scholarships Chairman for judging.*

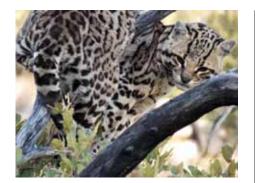
• May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) Winners to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.*

* required deadlines

Digital art, photography, weapons, 3-D printed art and jewelry are NOT AC-CEPTED for either contest.

Editor>s Note: Interested entrants may contact the scholarship co-chairs at the Scottsdale VFW Post 3513: Marianne Hayes at rdhhayes@q.com or Carol Allen at editor@azbw.com. You can also call or visit the Post: (480) 941-984, 7220 E. Wilshire Dr., Scottsdale, Ariz.85257. ■

PORT WESTERN WILDLIFE



AZGFD IN THE NEWS **State's Wildlife Is In Focus**

'Here, Kitty, Kitty'

Trail cam confirms "Lil' Jefe" the ocelot still roams the mountains of southeast Arizona.

Kudos to The Arizona Republic and reporter Brandon Loomis for a recent news story about a Vail, Ariz., man's trail camera footage that confirms Arizona's lone ocelot still roams the Huachuca Mountains, more than a decade after the wildcat was first sighted there.

Upcoming Events: Virtual Speaker Wildlife Series

Arizona's Wildcats: Learn about our state's stealthy hypercarnivores - 6:30 p.m. Sept. 6 (AZGFD). Description: Arizona is home to four different species of wildcats, including the third-largest felid in the world. Feared, vilified, and worshiped, wildcats have had a varied relationship with humans from the beginning of time. From jaguars to bobcats, learn about these misunderstood predators, as well as their current ecology and biology.

Don McDowell Outdoors

Don McDowell Outdoors is hosted by Don McDowell with a slew of guests from politicians, members of the AZ Game & Fish, avid hunters and anglers and so many more! Each Sunday you can be sure to hear great insight into current events both around the country and locally as well as the perfect guides for the current state of hunting, fishing, and conservation.

Meet Don McDowell

Don McDowell. Arizona native, is an avid outdoorsman and has been an active bass pro fisherman for over 22 years and in the past 15 years has developed his own radio show promoting hunting, fishing and conservation.

In the past 20 years, Don has pursued his conservation agenda through AZB-FN-TBF as Conservation Director and with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in the spring of 2014 redesigned his website to include those efforts highlighted below and has increased the AZGFD exposure, public education of the AZGFD and Commission issues on his radio show and website soliciting local and national support for Arizona. 2014 has seen the founding of SRT Outdoors, Inc., 501 C3 organization, "Not for Profit, for Conservation" which is concentrating on grants for mitigating the effects of Gizzard Shad on Roosevelt lake thorough habitat enhancement, Florida Strain Bass stocking, lakes bottom mapping, etc. and feral hog research.

In addition SRTO is retrofitting a 42' Grand Banks Trawler, twin diesel powered, to accommodate wheel chair bound veteran on the saltwater to learn and enjoy the saltwater fishing experience. The



vessel Challenged America has handicap ramps, head, full galley and USCG certified crew and expert deck hands to mentor and care for the veterans. Challenged America is certified as a USCG Certified Facility to assist in USCG AUX patrols in Sector San Diego during down times, off season or on an as needed basis.

Don is also the creator of the Hook & Bullet Club which provides certification of products presented the the Shake Rattle and Troll.

The Ultimate Volunteer

Don's passion has to be kids and fishing. He has worked to promote and participate in Valley Big Brother and Sister Annual Fish-A-Ree, Make A Wish Foundation, C.A.S.T and Pathway to Fishing and Cast for Kids. These programs have been developed for children including the physically and mentally challenged.

Don's goal is to expose his sponsors products and services to a serious marketplace while promoting good sportsmanship. His passion for the outdoors coupled with his extensive professional sales and marketing experience has made him a natural for the highly competitive



world of bass fishing and performance bass boats.

Don was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, division 10 Vice Commander, 11 SR - 1011 which is the uniformed, all-volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard. The Auxiliary was created by an Act of Congress in 1939, and has grown to over 32,000 members who daily support the Coast Guard in all its non-military, and nonlaw-enforcement missions. We have members and units in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.

Don was the Co-Editor and contributing writer for Arizona Boating & WaterSports and Western Outdoor Times, "Tight Lines", as well as a booking agent for Blue Mule Outfitters, Huites Bass Club and Adventures South of the Border.

Read the full story at https://tinyurl. com/52ces8ds ■





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Business Directory

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MARINAS

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Pleasant Harbor RV Resort & Marina

Peoria, AZ (928) 501-5263 (602) 269-0077 www.pleasantharbor.com NEW

PUBLICATIONS

Arizona Boating & Watersports/ Western Outdoor Times (480) 947-6219 jim@azbw.com www.azbw.com www.westernoutdoortimes.com 7620 East McKellips Road, Ste 490 Scottsdale, AZ 85257

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RADIO SHOWS

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COUNTRY FEST Continued from page 1

Getting There

Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant, located in the City of Peoria, is less than a 45-minute drive from downtown Phoenix and conveniently located off Carefree Highway and 87th Avenue (8708 W. Harbor Boulevard, Peoria, AZ 85383). Visitors exiting the I-17 freeway, travel west on Carefree Highway, or take 99th Avenue North from Bell Road to Carefree Highway and then west to 87th Avenue to Harbor Boulevard.

About Pleasant Harbor

Pleasant Harbor, located on the southeastern shores of Lake Pleasant, conveniently adjacent to the metropolitan Phoenix area, is open to the public 365 days a year and located in the City of Peoria. The full-service marina, features Dillon's Bayou restaurant, boat and slip rentals, as well as Jet Ski, kayak, paddle boat, and sailboat rentals. Additionally, the marina features H2-Whoa! – the



world's largest floating water slide and is home to The Phoenix, a 150-passenger boat cruise providing tours of majestic Lake Pleasant.

Pleasant Harbor also includes an RV Resort with 253 full hook-up sites, 60 partial hook-ups and dry camping sites featuring amenities such as a club house, pool and Jacuzzi, bocce ball, basketball, shuffleboard, horseshoes, laundry facilities, showers, convenience store and picnic grounds. For more information, visit www.pleasantharbor.com or call the Pleasant Harbor RV Resort at 623-235-6140 or the Pleasant Harbor Marina at 623-235-6130. ■

PARKS Continued from page 1 ture of paleoenvironments in the Triassic that ushered in the "Age of the Dinosaurs." Additionally, many of the migra-



tory bird species that frequent Petrified Forest in the spring through fall have migration routes that begin and end in Argentina.

Petrified Forest National Park employees received funding from the National Park Foundation's Horace M. Albright-Conrad L. Wirth Grant Program to travel to Argentina. The program funds personal and career development projects for National Park Service employees.

Sites For More Information

- www.ischigualasto.gob.ar/en/
- www.nps.gov/pefo

• www.nps.gov/subjects/internationalcooperation/sister-parks.htm ■

Ischigualasto Provincial Park, Argentina

YACHT CLUB

Continued from page 5

man. Debbie is a long-time instructor of boating safety across the country. She focuses on helping sailors understand how toavoid on-the-water emergencies by identifying small problems early, mitigating themandtaking appropriate action if an emergencyhappens. Capt. Ed retired as the boating safety program manager for the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans and continues to help sailors and power-boaters alike stay safe on the water.

Course Options

There are three US Sailing Sanctioned International Offshore Safety at Sea course options with hands-on training.

1) The two-day in person course for cruisers and cruising couples, powerboaters and sailboat racers: The course complies with World Sailing OffshorePersonal Survival course guidelines. It is required certification for 30% of the crew for many off-shore sailing races, e.g.the Pacific Cup Yacht Club's off year Race to Hawaii – San Francisco to Kaneohe, SoCal 300 Racers, Cal Offshore Race



Mike Hakala And Debbie Huntsman

Week participants, Islands Race racers and Newport to Bermuda Race as well as other races where the crew must have a valid International Safety at Sea course completion certificate. This course certification is valid for five years. An option is available to complete the first day of the course online. The complete course is \$400. To register, check the Events by Category tab under Racing and click on the Seminars and Training tab at https:// www.lbyc.org,or go to the US Sailing Safety at Sea course offerings athttps:// www.ussailing.org/education/adult/finda-course-near-you/ 2) TheUS Sailing Sanctioned Safety at Sea Hands-on Training Only course

is also available as a one-day in-person hands-on course from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb 18. For this option participants must have completed a US Sailing Sanctioned Offshore Safety at Sea course within the last 12 months and have completed Online Offshore Safety at Sea Part-Two (Units 11-15) or have completed the online Offshore Safety at Sea Part-One (Units 1-10) and Part-Two (11-15) before attending. Students seeking a US Sailing International Offshore Safety at Sea Hands-on training certificate that meets World Sailing guidelines for Offshore Personal Survival (either through a One-day Hands-on Only course or a Refresher course) must complete the online Offshore Safety at Sea - Part Two (Units 11-15) prior to attending. The cost of the online Part Two (Units 11-15) is included in the registration fee for this course. This certification is good for five years from

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iTrade Pay https://itradepay.com

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Kokopelli Trailers www.kokopellitrailers.com

WEB SITES

Arizona Boating & Watersports/ Western Outdoor Times (480) 947-6219 jim@azbw.com www.azbw.com www.westernoutdoortimes.com 7620 East McKellips Road, Ste 490 Scottsdale, AZ 85257



the date of the course and is \$400.

3) The US Sailing Sanctioned International Offshore Safety at Sea Refresher course will be a one-day event that will start at 8 a.m. on Sunday,Feb 18. This course is a one-day International Offshore Safety at Sea Hands-on Training ONLY course and requires participants to have previously completed a US Sailing Sanctioned International Offshore Safety at Sea Course with Hands-on Training two-day [ISAF Offshore Personal Survival Course] within the last 10 years. This is a \$350 course.

To Register

To register for the two-day, one day hands-on or one-day refresher courses, contact Long Beach Yacht Club's Cameron MacLaren at phone (562) 294-5161, email at cmaclaren@lbyc.org or register on the US Sailing Safety at Sea course page at https://www.ussailing.org/education/adult/find-a-course-near-you/. ■

DOVE SEASON

Continued from page 1

Yuma Desert Doves Women Hunt

https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=QkWAczgpBD0

Healey Family Opening Day Dove Hunt https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=QKU gdYpYtk

Yuma: A Dove Hunter's Paradise

https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=UwibSeOmgpA

Dove Season Outlook: Birds Should Be Plentiful

When it comes to dove hunting in Arizona, one thing is pretty much indisputable: There's never a bad season opener.

All signs indicate that there will be birds aplenty when the 2023 season gets underway next Friday, Sept. 1. This is especially true for hunters who are willing to scout in the mornings and evenings between now and the opener to locate some good hunting spots.

Where The Action Is

Once again, the greatest number of doves — and dove hunters — will be concentrated in the state's agricultural areas, particularly those that produce small-grain crops like wheat, barley, oats and sorghum. That includes locations like Yuma, one of the premier destinations in the U.S., as well as Buckeye, Eloy, Florence, Gila Bend, Toltec and others. Note: All National Park Service parks and monuments are closed to hunting unless specifically opened in Commission Order.

The 15-day "early" season gets underway 30 minutes before legal sunrise Sept. 1. The daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves, of which no more than 10 may be white-winged. The possession limit is 45 mourning and white-winged in the aggregate after opening day, of which no more than 15 may be taken in any one day. Of the 45-dove possession limit, only 30 may be whitewinged, of which no more than 10 may be



taken in any one day. There is no daily bag limit or possession limit on the invasive Eurasian collared-dove. A fully feathered wing must be left attached to each dove for identification purposes until a hunter reaches his or her permanent residence or where the game meat will be consumed.

License Requirements

All hunters 18 and older must possess a valid Arizona hunting license, as well as a migratory bird stamp — both of which can be purchased online at www.azgfd. com/license/. A youth combination hunt/ fish license (for youth hunters 10 to 17) is only \$5 and includes a migratory bird stamp.

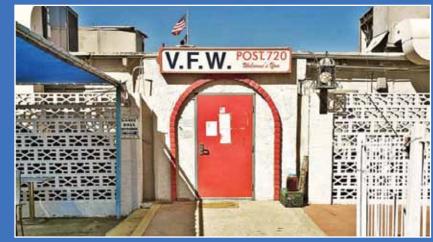
All dove hunters should review the "2023-2024 Arizona Dove and Bandtailed Pigeon Regulations," which are posted at https://www.azgfd.com/Hunting/Regulations/. The regulations have been produced in a format that hunters will find particularly handy in the field. The color brochure is easy to read and features important hunting information, such as season dates, daily bag and possession limits, and legal requirements, at a glance.

Dove Hunters 'Pay It Forward'

Dove hunters play an important role in conservation. Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) funds consist of excise taxes collected on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment (including 11 percent on ammunition), the benefit of which comes right back to Arizona for habitat improvements, shooting ranges, boating access and more. ■



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