



Western Outdoor Times

March 2016

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A Publication of **Arizona** Boating & Watersports



BOATING | CAMPING | FISHING | RVING | SHOOTING SPORTS | WATERSPORTS | WILDLIFE

Go Fish!

At Five Iconic Spring Events

Boating

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Western Wildlife

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Land Cruising

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It's Spring And Time To Enjoy The Outdoors

ISE Hosts The Valley's Only Boat Show

This premier expo has a new, much-larger venue: West-World Of Scottsdale

The 16th annual International Sportsmen Exposition & Arizona Boat Show has moved across town to WestWorld of Scottsdale. And more than doubled its size!

Now there are two full buildings — one for the Arizona Boat Show, and one for the Sportsman Expo, plus vast outside space. All this space will be showcasing more than 100 new exhibitors — 300+ in all.

The Valley of the Sun's only boat show will spotlight more than 15 dealers, 40 brands and 120 boats, plus marinas and accessory companies.

Family Entertainment Options Are Doubled

For the family, the expo has doubled the entertainment choice from the last expo.

New are Action Water Sports giant Rail Jam pond with pro wakeboarders and SUP demos, Lowrance Electronics Learning Center, and Offroad Test Track, presented by Kawasaki and other major brands.



Test Track



Rail Jam

There's a fly-casting seminar area, too, hosted by Arizona Flycasters and Desert Fly Casters. And, there's the Bass Pro Shop Youth

Fishing Pond and other youth activities, including archery and casting games, a giant zipline and climbing wall.

Favorite Features Return

As always, these favorites continue to be

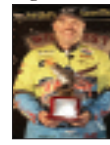


Youth Fishing Pond

See ISE, Page 14



Uribe



Johnson



Shura



ON THE COVER

It's Show Time!

The warming spring weather brings out "the best in show". Make that plural: shows!

The first of the Arizona favorites is the 16th annual International Sportsmen Exposition & Arizona Boat Show, this year at WestWorld of Scottsdale from Thursday, March 10 through Sunday, March 13.

One of the highlights of the Expo is shown on this month's cover — the giant WesternBass.com Aquarium Demonstration Tank, which is presented again this year by Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times news magazine.

The cover photo leads us into the next spring show, a premier fishing event: Bill Luke Bass Days 2016, Friday, March 18 through Sunday, March 20. This year promises cash prizes galore plus activities to please visitors of all ages.

Following soon after is the always-popular Arizona Game & Fish Department Expo, Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3. This is another family friendly event with all things outdoors.

Two more favorite April events are the Lake Havasu Boat Show — Friday, April 8 through Sunday, April 10 — and, of course, San Diego's annual angling celebration: Day at the Docks, Sunday, April 17.

All these should "put some 'spring' in your step.

Making Bass Fishing Great Again

Bill Luke Bass Days is the Southwest's largest family fishing tournament and festival held March 18, 19, 20 at Lake Pleasant.

BY DON MCDOWELL
SHAKE, RATTLE & TROLL RADIO

Bill Luke Bass Days is "Making Bass Fishing Great Again!" The 18th annual event at Pleasant Harbor RV Resort and Marina is handing out over \$50,000 in cash prizes over the course of the three-days bass fishing tournament.

The bass fishing tournament has six daily hourly weigh-ins; every hour first place pays \$300, second through tenth place pay \$100. Top Overall Big Bass this year wins \$10,000! The Biggest Bass of The Day, each

day, will win \$2,000. And, Bill Luke will pay a \$1,000 cash award to the lucky contestant each day who has the 7th biggest bass during the 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. weigh-in and is wearing the Bill Luke Bass Days t-shirt.

Specials For The Women And Kids

This year the lady anglers will share \$1,750 and trophies for the first three places over and above the regular payouts. Kids fish for free with a paid adult and will receive a medal presentation and a gift card for those weighing a fish. Be sure also to enter the Striper Option; there is extra money for a catching a striped bass.

Fishing is for the whole family and at all levels. Fishing guides and those who make 60 percent or more of their annual income



See BASS FISHING, Page 14



'BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE' — Most Arizonans, as well as many from outside the state, are familiar with beautiful Bartlett Lake. They have enjoyed the well-run marina, the availability of both dry and wet slips, the amenities for purchase or rent at both the dock and general stores, the excellent fishing, and, of course, the friendly and helpful staff. Most are also aware of the quaint aqua lodges and the great and well-equipped party boat. They may even have caught a glimpse of "Bartleby" (although no one ever fesses up to having seen this monster in the lake). "But wait; there's more!" Soon, very soon, the new restaurant at Bartlett Lake will open. So, check this spring to see if it's ready to provide you and your guests with excellent dining with a spectacular view from above the lake. As they say, "Stay tuned."

Get Ready For The Largest Hands-On Outdoor Expo In Arizona



The Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo is all set for Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3, at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix.

Admission and parking are free!

From Wildlife To Fish To Targets

Last year's Expo and Youth Day drew a total of 39,000 attendees, and again this year, there will be plenty of hands-on fun

for all ages. Check out the huge kids fishing tanks and take home a free photo. See all sorts of live wildlife. Learn target archery and try other shooting sports in a safe, supervised, controlled environment on the range.

Get a feel for specialty shooting disciplines like clay target, cowboy action, practical pistol, black powder, and air gun. Check out the many firearms manufacturers.

So Many Popular Events

Don't miss the always-popular cowboy

mounted shooting competition. See OHV and ATV exhibits. Give kayaking a try at the "Lake Paddlemore" kayaking pond. Hike a field course and learn cool camping tips. Learn about boating and how to stay safe on the water. Talk to experts about Arizona's wildlife, fishing, hunting and more.

Visit Over 150 Exhibitors

Visit with more than 150 exhibitors, including outdoor recreation and conservation groups, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products

and services.

For Your Information

Concessionaires will have food and beverages available for purchase, and many accept only cash, so ATMs will be on site. There is a nominal charge for ammunition at some of the target-shooting venues.

Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Outdoor Expo is easy to find, located on Carefree Highway, about 1/2 mile west of I-17 in Phoenix.

In This Month's Issue

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Land Cruising

She's Got Camping Covered

At the recent SHOT show, Margie Anderson found a multitude of handy items to make camping easier/Page 11



Tackle & Target

The Well-Dressed Shooter Goes Shopping

Among the many items that make a well-dressed (and prepared) shooter are vests such as these/Page 7





Year after year, organizers, volunteers, and participants showcase the beauty and opportunities of our outdoors. We are grateful to them, highlighting three of the premier events in this issue: International Sportsmen's Expo & Arizona Boat Show, Bill Luke Bass Days, and the AZGFD Outdoor Expo.

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DOWNSTREAM March 2016 Events Calendar

BOATING

27-30 LAKE HAVASU CITY: 18th Annual Desert Storm Poker Run & Shootout – one of the top 5 poker runs in the nation, world-class, top performance boats with top speeds of 160+ MPH 602-578-5975 or <http://www.golakehasvu.com/events/details/>

15-17 PARKER: Lucas Oil Drag Boat Racing – BlueWater Resort & Casino, the fastest boats on water, <http://www.parkeraz.org>

9 PEORIA: Paddle Fest 2016 – Lake Pleasant Regional Park, try different forms of paddle craft, you can bring your own paddle craft too, free to use demo water craft (in designated cove), and live music 9 am – 3 pm, http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/lake_pleasant/Events

8-10 LAKE HAVASU CITY: Jettribe Lake Havasu Open of Watercross Gary Hart Memorial – 9 am – 5 pm, 310-318-4012 or <http://www.golakehasvu.com/events/details>

8-10 LAKE HAVASU CITY: Havasu Marine Association's 25th Annual Boat Show – See story on page 6.

GOAT CRUISE: Sign up now for this family fun goat cruise. Kids are welcome and nannies will be provided. Call Billy for reservations: (619) 523-3091.

LEARN TO SAIL: Current – If you know someone who would like to learn to sail, turn them on to the Arizona Sailing Foundation's Adult Beginning Sailing class.

AZ YACHT CLUB MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of every month 7 p.m. – in the Caddy Shack at Rolling Hills Golf Course, 1415 N. Mill Ave., Tempe; www.arizonayachtclub.org

US SAILING/ RED CROSS ONLINE TRAINING: Ongoing – To make it easier for prospective US SAILING-certified instructors to fulfill course requirements for CPR and First Aid certification, US SAILING teams up with the American Red Cross to provide an online training program. Participants can sign up by visiting www.ussailing.org/training and clicking on the Red Cross Online Training button (towards the bottom of the page).

CAMPING/RVING/ AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

15-17 PRESCOTT: Becoming an Outdoors Woman 480-644-0077 or <http://www.azwildlife.org>

7-10 PHOENIX: Phoenix Bikefest – Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino Festival Park, emerge yourself in the world of motorcycles, enjoy an afternoon of full throttle entertainment with food and drink vendors, motorcycle test rides, Bike Shows and live music, riders, spectators and enthusiasts explore the world of motorcycles, clothing, gear design and more, experience the roaring inaugural spectacle of food, music and good times, free, <http://www.Phoenixbikefest.com>

7 AJO: Night Sky Talks – Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, explore the night sky with a park ranger, programs will include a short program, followed by night sky viewing through a variety of devices, including telescopes, <http://www.nps.gov/orpi>

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6-10 SCOTTSDALE: 20th Annual Arizona Bike Week – WestWorld, motorcycle, racing, flat track racing, charity rides, concert, vendor show, motorcycle demo rides, entertainment, food, free, 10 am – 8 pm, 480-644-8191 or <http://www.az-bikeweek.com>

2-16 HEREFORD: Ranger-led Coronado Peak Hikes – Coronado National Memorial, free guided hike, take in views of northern Mexico, the distant Sierra Madre and the San Pedro River Valley, learn about the Coronado Expedition of 1540-1542, bring water, a snack and sun protection, wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing, a one-mile, moderate, round-trip hike with 300 foot elevation gain, Saturdays at 2 pm, 520-366-5515 or <http://www.nps.gov/coro>



2-16 HEREFORD: Coronado Cave Tours – Coronado National Memorial, free guided hike and tour nestled in a limestone layer at the base of the complex geological puzzle that is Montezuma Peach, bring a flashlight or headlamp, gloves, water, a snack and sun protection, wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing, a one-mile, moderate, round-trip hike with 500 foot elevation gain then scramble 30 feet down a steep, rocky slope to cave floor, Saturdays, 520-366-5515 or <http://www.nps.gov/coro>

Aug. 25: 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PROTECT-A-PARK: Ongoing — Boaters, anglers, divers needed to adopt Lake Pleasant's shoreline areas and coves for regular litter removal in 2009; (602) 372-7460, ext. 200

CLASSES/SEMINARS

AZGFD, CG AUXILIARY, PHOENIX POWER SQUADRON BOATING CLASSES: Ongoing (See page 3 of this issue.)

COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

13-17 PHOENIX: 41st Annual Maricopa County Fair – 602-252-0717 or <http://www.maricopacountyfair.org>

Through 3/27 GOLD CANYON: 28th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival – See story on page 19.

EXPOS/SHOWS

4/2-3 PHOENIX: Arizona Game & Fish Department Outdoor Expo – See story on page 1.

FISHING

2 LAKE HAVASU CITY: 36th Annual New Horizons Pro-Am Bass Tournament – Lake Havasu State Park 928-846-1052 or <http://www.golakehasvu.com/events/details/>

18-20 BILL LUKE BASS DAYS – See story on page 1.

HUNTING/SHOOTING/ ARCHERY

7-11 PHOENIX: 2016 AAE Arizona Cup – Ben Avery Shoot Facility, free, <http://www.arizonacup.com/2016/>

BEN AVERY CLAY TARGET CENTER: Ongoing – Open seven days a week; (623) 434-8119

WATERSPORTS

Diving
SAGUARO DIVING & SPORTS: Ongoing – Learn to Scuba Dive, Open Water Certification Dives, Private Class & Pool, Private Lake Open Water Certification Dives, San Carlos, Mexico; Lake Pleasant, and more; Saguaro can plan your diving vacation for small groups or just one person. How about Grand Cayman, Curacao, Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, Bonaire, Turks & Caicos Contact Saguaro Diving & Sports, 908 E. Imperial Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480) 507-3988 or sales@saguarosports.com

Frozen
14-17 SCOTTSDALE: 12th Annual Desert Ice Bonspiel – Alltel Ice Den, 24 curling teams from Canada and the U.S. will participate in the tournament, <http://www.coyotescurling.com> or <http://www.deserticebonspiel.com/>

Swimming:
28 TEMPE: Ironcore Splash & Dash + Swim Only – Race 2 – Tempe Town Lake, <http://www.4peaksracing.com/>

17 SCOTTSDALE: 11th Annual Southwest Valley Family Regional YMCA Olympic & Sprint Adult & Youth Triathlon/Duathlon – Bartlett Lake Rattlesnake Cove, <http://www.trifamilyracing.com/>

10 TEMPE: Marquee Triathlon – Tempe Beach Park, kicks off Southwest triathlon season, <http://www.redrockco.com>

9 LITCHFIELD PARK: 9th Annual Kiwanis Sprint in the Park Triathlon – 801-791-3929 or <http://www.litchfield-park.org>

WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

tba PHOENIX: Earth Day – Phoenix Zoo, <http://phoenixzoo.org>



30-5/6 PORTAL: Spring Migration Bird Tours – 520-558-2396 or <http://research.amnh.org/swrs/visitor/package-tours>

23 PHOENIX: PLANET Celebration – Earth Day – 10 am – 2 pm, <http://dbg.org>

21-24 COTTONWOOD: 16th Annual Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival – Dead Horse Ranch State Park, 928-282-2202 or <http://www.BirdyVerde.org>

16-22 PORTAL: Spring Migration Bird Tours – (520) 558-2396 or <http://research.amnh.org/swrs/visitor/package-tours>

16 BENSON: Earth Day/Bat Day – Kartchner Caverns State Park, 520-586-2283 or <http://az-stateparks.com/Parks/KACA>

7-10 NOGALES: Santa Cruz Nature & Heritage Festival 2016 – Quality Hotel Americana, cross border birding, cultural and history tours, tours throughout Santa Cruz Country, all birding tours include a professional birding guide or historian, welcome reception on 4/8, includes an overnight visit to a ranch in Mexico for birding and riding at Rancho Cocospa on the 7th, 520-988-5425 or <http://www.natureandheritage.org>

NO-KILL SHELTER NEEDS HELP: <http://animalsbenefitclub.com/index2.html>

RAISING MONEY FOR ANIMALS: Ongoing – Heather L. James-Davis: www.azanimalassistance.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.



We send get-well
wishes to
Patrick McDowell

Spring *forward*

Daylight savings Time Begins March 13



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Update your boating safety knowledge

Our waterways are ready, but are YOU? Brush up on your boating skills by taking one of the many Boating Safety Education classes or take one online at www.azgfd.gov/boating.

March 2016

| Host | Date and Time | Location | Cost | Registration |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------|----------------|
| Arizona Game & Fish Department | March 19 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 Carefree Hwy Phoenix | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |
| Arizona Game & Fish Department | March 19 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Apex Arms Facility – Green Building 2176 McCulloch Blvd., Suite 8 Lake Haasu City | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |
| Arizona Game & Fish Department | March 26 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Arizona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |

April 2016

| Host | Date and Time | Location | Cost | Registration |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------|----------------|
| Arizona Game & Fish Department | April 9 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Arizona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |
| Arizona Game & Fish Department | April 16 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 Carefree Hwy Phoenix | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |
| Arizona Game & Fish Department | April 16 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Apex Arms Facility – Green Building 2176 McCulloch Blvd., Suite 8 Lake Haasu City | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |
| Arizona Game & Fish Department | April 23 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Arizona Paddle Sports Education Arizona Game and Fish Region 5 555 N. Greasewood Road Tucson | \$0 | (623) 236-7219 |

Know the Rules: Learn to identify "Navi-Aids"

Arizona law enforcement agencies write many citations for "failure to obey navigation laws." You can help ensure the safety of all on the water by learning to identify these common navigational aids.



Information

Squares indicate where to find food, supplies, repairs, etc. and give directions and other information.



Controlled

Circles indicate a controlled area such as speed limit, no fishing or anchoring, ski only or no skiing, or "slow, no wake."



Exclusion

Crossed diamonds indicate areas off-limits to all vessels such as swimming areas, dams, and spillways.



Danger

Diamonds warn of dangers such as rocks, shoals, construction, dams, or stumps. Always proceed with caution.

Other Non-Lateral Markers

Safe Water Markers are white with red vertical stripes and mark mid-channels or fairways. They may be passed on either side.



Inland Water Obstruction Markers are white with black vertical stripes and indicate an obstruction to navigation. You should not pass between these buoys and nearest shore.

Mooring Buoy

Mooring Buoys are round and white with a blue horizontal band and are found in marinas and other areas where vessels are allowed to anchor.

Note, the following actions are illegal:

- ◆ Willfully damaging, removing, interfering with, or tying up to a navigation buoy not intended for mooring
- ◆ Mooring, anchoring, or fastening to shore for more than 14 consecutive days any vessel on public waters.

Forget a life jacket or need to borrow one?

Boaters at Lake Pleasant, Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave that need a life jacket can borrow one from the stations placed near each lake's boat ramps.

The stations contain jackets for infants to adults. However, boaters are reminded to **please return** the life jackets to the station once they are done with them so they can be used by other boaters.

Preparing for Boating Emergencies

A safe boater knows how to prevent and respond to boating emergencies.

To prevent from falling overboard:

- Don't sit on the gunwale, bow, seatbacks, motor cover or any other area not designed for seating.
- Don't sit on pedestal seats when underway at greater than idle speed.
- Don't stand up in or lean out from a boat.
- Don't move about the boat when underway.

If someone on your boat falls

overboard:

- Reduce speed and toss the victim a throwable personal floatation device (PFD).
- Have other passengers watch the victim.
- Turn your boat around and slowly pull alongside the victim, approaching the victim from downwind or into the current, whichever is stronger.
- Turn off the engine. Pull the victim on board over the stern, keeping the weight in the boat balanced.



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Arizona Game & Fish Department,
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Phoenix, AZ 85086
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The Game and Fish online watercraft registration system allows you to renew your registration and have immediate use of your watercraft. Visit: <https://az.gov/app/watercraft>. You can also renew your registration by mail or in person at any Game and Fish office.



In 2016, BoatUS Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

Some interesting history re: recreational boating since 1966 is reflected in its archives.

In 1966, boaters could buy a new mid-sized cruiser for about \$7,000, outboard engines had just surpassed 100 horsepower, and recreational boating was growing on a large scale across America. It was also in '66 that the nation's largest recreational boating group, Boat Owners As-

sociation of The United States (BoatUS), got its start thanks to Founder Richard Schwartz who saw a need to make recreational boaters' lives better.

Schwartz's Vision

His vision of offering representation,

improving safety, providing quality services at competitive prices and saving boaters money was all rolled up into the "service, savings and representation" motto that remains at the core of the more than half million member organization today.

"BoatUS has always been there for boaters and always will be," said BoatUS President Margaret Podlich. "Whether it's helping boaters have a safe day on the water, ensuring that boating taxes go to boating programs, offering competitive boat insurance coverage, or having the largest on water towing fleet in the nation, BoatUS is proudly the single source of exceptional service and savings. We're steadfast in our commitment to protect boaters and their rights, making boating safer, more affordable and accessible."

Five Decades Of Impact, Innovation

BoatUS will be celebrating its golden



'BACK TO THE FUTURE' – In 1974, just eight years after its founding by Richard Schwartz (shown fourth from left), BoatUS moved to new headquarters in Springfield, Va., with just 17 staff – far fewer than the over 500 employees today.

anniversary in 2016 with a series of special member events and coverage in its flagship publication, BoatUS Magazine, and other programs. A look back at five decades of BoatUS' significant impacts and innovation include the following:

See **ANNIVERSARY**, Page 12

Tutoring, Editing, Writing

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

\$25/hour
(4 hour minimum)
Carol Allen
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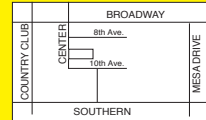
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25TH ANNIVERSARY Lake Havasu Boat Show

LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK WINDSOR 4

APRIL 8-10

FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY

ARIZONA'S LARGEST
BOAT SHOW

OVER 100 EXHIBITORS.....
MORE THAN 65 BOAT BRANDS

PONTOONS • FAMILY RUNABOUTS • HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORTBOATS
FISHING BOATS • WAKEBOARD/SKI BOATS • PERSONAL WATERCRAFT
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FRIDAY NIGHT
BEACH BASH
FOOD &
LIVE MUSIC



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CHILI & SALSA
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BEER GARDENS
FOOD COURTS
LIVE MUSIC



2nd Annual
LAKE HAVASU
CORNHOLE
CHAMPIONSHIPS



USBA JETTRIBE
GARY HART
MEMORIAL
PWC WATERCROSS
RACING

Show Hours: Fri. noon to 6pm; Sat. 9am to 6pm; Sun. 9am to 3pm

Admission: Adults \$5.00, Kids 6 & under free, Free Parking
For Exhibitor/Vendor Inquiries: call 951-501-0210 or info@lakehavasubootshow.com

LAKEHAVASUBOATSHOW.COM



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BILL LUKE BASS DAYS

MARCH 18-19-20, 2016

*Saturday Night
Concert:
The Mogollon Band!*

Free Festival • Daily Fishing Prizes
Kid's Rides • Family Entertainment

Marina

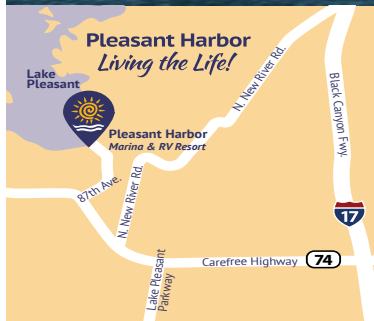
Slip Rental & Storage
RV & Boat Sales
+ Restaurant

RV Resort

254 Sites + Clubhouse

Lake

Boat, Jet Ski & Paddle Board
Rentals + Cruise Ship



8708 W. Harbor Boulevard
Peoria, AZ 85383

Pleasant Harbor Marina
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Boating

Arizona And Nevada's Largest Boat Show Is Just Ahead: April 8-10 At Lake Havasu

The 25th annual Lake Havasu Boat Show preps for its silver-anniversary celebrations.

The count-down to the 25th Annual Lake Havasu Boat Show, presented by Frontier Communications and Mohave State Bank, has begun. This year, the Lake Havasu Boat Show opens on Friday, April 8 and runs through Sunday, April 10 at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4 on London Bridge Road.

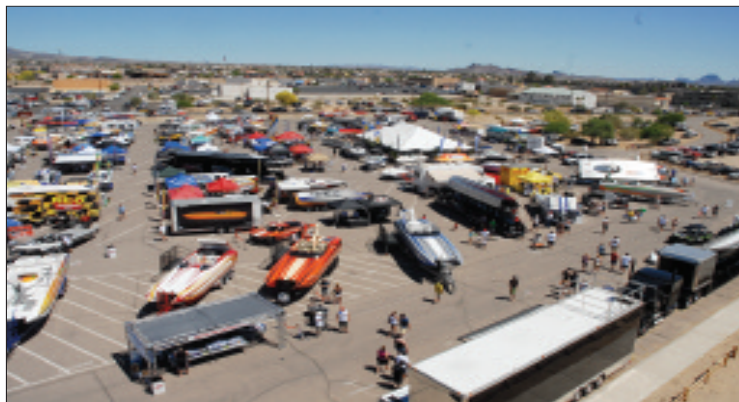
More Boats Than Ever

"This will be a very special boat show since it's our 25th annual," said boat show organizer Bob Brown. "We'll have more boats and exhibitors than ever before plus plenty of great added attractions and some new surprises. Regardless of what kind of boat you're looking for, it will be at

the Havasu show. Pontoon boat selection will be especially spectacular as will the always-popular, high-performance sportboats. In fact, there will more high-performance boat brands on display at Havasu than at any other boat show west of Miami."

WaterCross Races, Cornhole Competition And Classes

But more exhibitors and new boat models aren't the only things that Lake Havasu Boat Show attendees have to look forward to on April 8-10. The boat show will host the 4th Annual Lake Havasu International Chili Society chili cook-off competition sponsored by Havasu Re-



gional Medical Center on Saturday open to all chefs.

The chili and salsa contest, with proceeds going to benefit the Lake Havasu High School Athletic Booster Club, has guaranteed over \$5,000 in cash prize money to the various winners in each category. More than 50 chili and salsa teams are expected to compete. Best of all, attendees have the opportunity to sample all

the recipes by purchasing a \$5 tasting kit while at the boat show.

Family Fun Day Proceeds Benefit LHHS Boosters

Then on Sunday, get ready for "Family Fun Day" at the Boat Show. Grade-school-aged kids wearing their school spirit and/or team/sport shirt to the boat show will be admitted free. "Family Fun Day" will be highlighted by a People's Choice chili cook-off, a host of carnival games and activities for the entire family, plus tasty fair-food favorites like hot dogs, cotton candy, and kettle corn.

All proceeds from "Family Fun Day" go to benefit the Lake Havasu High School Athletic Booster Club.

WaterCross Races, Cornhole Competition

Also returning as a boat show favorite will be the IJSBA Jettribe Gary Hart Memorial PWC WaterCross Races featuring over 150 of the fastest personal watercraft racers in the country hitting speeds up to 70 miles an hour around a challenging motocross style race course. Competition begins on Saturday and Sunday at 9am.

And, for those who fancy themselves expert "Cornhole" players, there will be the second annual Lake Havasu "Cornhole" Championships at the boat show with classes for all ages, both singles and doubles/teams plus cash awards for the winners.

The B's Have It: Boats, 'Beach Bash', Beer, Bar, BBQ, Band

Brand new for 2016 will be the Friday, April 8 afternoon/evening "Boat Show Beach Bash" with beer garden, adult beverage bar, barbecue food favorites and a live band performing. Happy hour will begin at 5:30 pm for food and drinks followed at 6:30pm by a classic rock concert.

The "Beach Bash" is free to everyone who purchases a boat-show admission ticket earlier on Friday. For those only wanting to attend the "Beach Bash", there is a nominal \$2.00 per person cover charge.

Details, Including Schedule

- Friday, April 8 from noon to 6 p.m. ("Beach Bash" starts at 5:30 p.m.)
- Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
- Sunday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Admission is \$5.00 for adults and kids 6 and under are free.
- Parking is also free.
- Food courts and two beer gardens will also be open to serve visitors.
- For those interested in buying a new boat, boat demos are available on a by-appointment basis immediately following the boat show on Sunday afternoon and all day on Monday, April 11.

For additional boat show information, please visit <http://www.lakehavasu-boatshow.com>. Another contact is Bob Brown, 951-501-0210 info@lakehavasu-boatshow.com.

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Tackle & Target



THE WELL-DRESSED SHOOTER

This Is Not Just A Matter Of 'Style'

BY JOHN ANDERSON

There are a few absolute essentials that every shooter, no matter what his sport, must wear. No range will let you shoot without "eyes and ears" — eye protection and hearing protection. That being said, there are tons of different ways to protect your eyes and ears, and some are better than others, some are good for one kind of shooting and not another, and some are just barely acceptable.



These are John Anderson's ear protection that he's had for years and says are fantastic.

Ear Protection

Ear protection is one place where you'll find a lot of different products to prevent hearing loss in shooters. Bottom of the line are those little foam ear plugs that you compress and stick in your ear. I'm sorry if you like those, but I think they stink.

3M Push-Ins

They never seem to fit right, and they don't seem to do a whole of good. At the SHOT Show this year in Las Vegas (Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trades), they gave us some disposable hearing protection that was actually very good. They are called 3M Push-Ins and they work very well. They are also comfortable, easy to insert and they have a cord so that if you remove them for a bit, they don't get lost.

Earmuffs

For pistol shooting at the indoor range, I prefer earmuffs. They offer a ton of protection and really muffle the noise a lot, which is extremely important at an indoor range.

Muffs come in a ton of colors and they adjust to fit anyone. There are even muffs that have earplugs as well, for double the protection. There is one drawback to the muffs — they can definitely be in the way when you are using a firearm that you have to shoulder, like a rifle or a shotgun.

In-The-Ear Protection

At the sporting clays range or at the rifle range, I prefer in-the-ear protection. Margie and I use 3M Peltor Combat Arms Earplugs. They come in a small case so you don't lose them, and they have a yellow end and a green end. The yellow end goes in your ear if you're outdoors, and at an indoor range you put the green end in



Of the various kinds of hearing protection, the foam plugs are the worst. 3M Push-Ins are great, but earmuffs or double-ended plugs are better.

your ear.

We love them — they are totally out of the way of your gun, and you can talk to each other just fine, but they muffle gun noise very well. You can get them on Amazon for less than \$30.



Eye Protection

The other absolute must at any range is eye protection. Your regular eyeglasses will do — you just need something to keep random brass casings from smacking you in the eye. If you don't

wear glasses, there are tons of shooting safety glasses in a wide variety of colors and styles. We bought our granddaughter a set of pink earmuffs and red glasses and she loves them.

Corrective Lenses

A word about corrective lenses: Glasses can make it difficult to shoot at times. If you wear bifocals, it's hard to cock your head just right so that you see the sights and the target clearly. With a shotgun, you are often sighting through the corner of your glasses when you first pick up the bird, and that can give you a warped view. I have found that progressive lenses make it a lot easier to shoot.

Shooting Glasses

For shotgun shooters especially, there are shooting glasses with a variety of lens colors designed to make the clays really pop out at you. Some companies even make prescription glasses with interchangeable colored lenses that install in front of your corrective lenses, so you can choose the perfect color for any conditions.

When Margie and I shoot clays, we wear our progressive Transition lenses and we do just fine, but we don't shoot competitively. If you are a serious shooter, you should definitely check out a variety of lenses and see which ones work best for you.



Here are examples of shooting vests: John's is a Redhead from Bass Pro; Margie's is a Miz-Mac.

Other Things To Consider

Eye and ear protectors are absolute requirements, but there are other things to consider, such as hats and vests. These aren't something you need at an indoor pistol range, but if you're a sporting-clays shooter, you probably will want to have them.

Hats Are Important

Sporting clays ranges are outside, which means the sun is beating down on you the entire time you're shooting, so a hat is almost a necessity. The brim can be in the way at times, so you may have to try a few different types of hats before you find one that suits you.

Margie always wears visors, and I prefer the type of felt hat that upland bird hunters wear. Besides looking good, it shades ears and neck and doesn't get in the way of seeing the clays or the shotgun sights.

Vests Make It Easier

Vests are great for clays. A well-fitting vest will make it easier to shoot. Why? Because your shirts can have a tendency to catch on the butt stock and crumple up between your shoulder and the gun.

A good vest has a patch on the shoulder that makes it easy to bring the gun up to the perfect position. In addition to

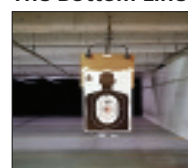


A good shooting vest will let you shoulder your shotgun quickly and smoothly.

that, shooting vests have nice big pockets for shells, your clays card, chokes, your phone, etc.

There are so many styles and colors of vests that you could fill a book with them. Just find one you like and make sure it fits well and you'll be good to go.

The Bottom Line



very expensive, and your hearing is worth it.

Most indoor ranges have earmuffs you can borrow, but get your own. For heaven's sake don't rely on those awful foam earplugs. If you prefer plugs to muffs, buy yourself a decent set that will last you forever.

Your hearing and vision are precious, and once they're gone, they're gone for good. Take care of them.



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Sick Of El Niño? NASA Says, 'You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet'

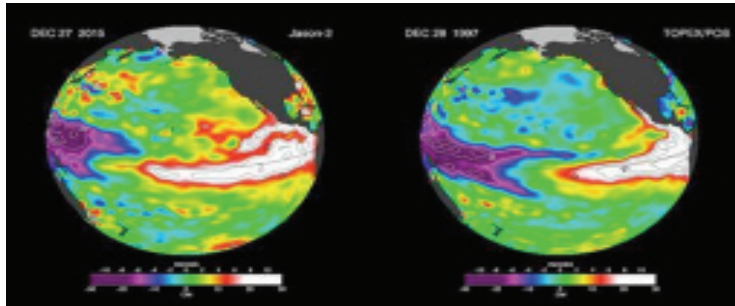
SUBMITTED BY DON MCDOWELL
SHAKE, RATTLE & TROLL RADIO

As we began 2016, heavy rains were predicted for San Diego and Arizona. Anticipation of rising water sheds appear to be in our future for Arizona lakes especially on the Salt River lakes chain.

Meanwhile, the offshore water current temperatures hold and numbers of 15-30 pound yellow tail are being reported at H&M Landing from the ½- and ¾-day boats. The offshore fishing season took the Christmas holiday week off but we're at it once again; it continues!

The *El Niño* currently causing mayhem around the world is predicted only to worsen in 2016 – and *NASA* specialists worry it could possibly get as bad as the most devastating *El Niño* ever.

A fresh satellite picture of the weather system has a surprising likeness to another out of December 1997 – the very worst *El Niño* on record – which had been attributed for severe weather conditions, including record precipitation located in California along with Peru, heat waves through Australia, plus fires within Indonesia. Those severe variables triggered approximately 23,000 deaths in



SOURCE: DARKTHIRTY NEWS STAFF WRITER (DEC. 30, 2015)

1997 and 1998.

Crazy Factors

This year, *El Niño* has already resulted in crazy factors for much of the United States. It resulted in a great number of Americans' witnessing a balmy Christmas Eve, with temperatures peaking through the 70s throughout locations down the East Coast, and it is the cause of deadly storms and near-record flooding inside the South plus Midwest.

In Ethiopia, for example, the govern-

ment predicts 10.2 million people will require humanitarian assistance next season because of a drought made worse by way of *El Niño*, according to Oxfam. In Malawi, 2.8 million people are anticipated to see food shortages as February ends.

Effects Around The U.S.A.

Around the U.S., the biggest *El Niño* effects are anticipated at the beginning of 2016, *NASA* said. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts "several months of relatively cool

and wet conditions across the southern United States, and relatively warm and dry conditions over the northern United States."

Matt Sitkowski, a coordinating weather producer at The Weather Channel, said that *El Niño* could result in a "wetter and stormier California" for the next two to three months – which could be a boon for the drought-stricken state.

"The fear is some of these storms come and you get too much at once, which could lead to flooding concerns," he added. "It doesn't take much in parts of California."

The East Coast can potentially end up being impacted, also. The 1997-1998 *El Niño* brought about a crippling ice storm within New England plus southeastern Canada.

Winds Are A Reason

El Niños usually are generated any time winds within the Pacific deteriorate and / or invert course, creating rising temperatures in the ocean inside central and eastern Pacific, principally across the Equator. Clouds, in addition to storms, go along with the warming water, altering jet streams and, in addition, storm paths across the globe.

Winter HAHWG Meeting A Partnered Success

FROM DOUGLAS BURT
HUNTING & SHOOTING SPORTS
PROGRAM MANAGER, AZGFD

Thank you! What a fantastic gathering and discussion we had on Jan. 30. We had 50 people in attendance of whom 15 were first-time attendees – our highest turnout yet!

The cross section of representation was equally as impressive with 21 unique organizations (many wear multiple hats) – including three angling groups and two predator hunting group.

The Department was equally represented by our public-information staff (five), terrestrial branch (one), wildlife managers and regional staff (four), hunter education (one), and shooting sports (two). These Game & Fish folks are attending for the same reasons as external partners – to build partnership, leverage resources and preserve the hunting / fishing heritage.

Some HAHWG Highlights

We have yet to compile all the notes,

comments and actions from the meeting, but here are some of the highlights and takeaways that I observed and feel are worth sharing right now:

Together, we have more data on the process of recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) than we have ever had, and it's shaping how we improve what we do! (see attached focus and survey reports)

Together, we have accomplished much! (see attached score card)

Together, through growing partnerships, we have improved a number of good events and made them better!

Together, we have identified 3 areas where recruitment is started and is a feeder for HAHWG (archery in schools, community fishing, and expo)

Together, we continue to collaborate, communicate and cooperate!

Next – On The Horizon:

Implementing Focus Group Findings and Recommendations via the HAHWG Steering Committee, suggestions, email dburt@azgfd.gov.

Submit your 2016-17 events for the fall hunt regulations to Steven McClure, smcclure@azgfd.gov by March 15th.

Those interested in connecting with Archery in the Schools participants at hunt event (Mar. 5) or state shoot (Mar. 19), contact kgerchar@azgfd.gov.

Public comment period open on Environmental Impact Assessment for the Sonoran National Monument for recreational shooting, <http://1.usa.gov/1ZPyFSA>, through March 21, 2016 4:30 p.m. MST.

Diablo Trust hosting outdoor day, April 23 at Flying M Ranch. Contact Craig McMullen or Shelly Shepherd.

Thank you to our food sponsors of both breakfast and lunch, the Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association's Shotgun Division, and the Arizona Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. As our events, food and social time are critical to our success, and we couldn't do it without your support!

For More Information

Visit www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills for a list of mentored events. Visit www.azgfd.gov/hahwg to learn more about the Hunting and Angling Heritage Workgroup



YELLOWTAIL TIME – The eighth annual Yellowtail Derby Saturday, April 30 through Sunday, June 5. This premier fishing event out of San Diego offers a total of \$30,000 in cash and prizes (based on 500 entries). The target species are yellowtail, white seabass, and halibut; there are prizes in each category and special prizes for the largest fish caught each week. The IGFA Junior Fishing Program will be the benefiting charity. For more information, contact John Campbell, derby director, at johncinsd@gmail.com or visit www.yellowtailderby.com to enter.



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Spring Begins March 20



Tackle & Target

AZGFD FISHING
REPORT EXCERPTS

Bass Action Gets Better

FROM AZGFD

The Reel Deel

Bass Action

Look for the bass action to get even better at some of our pristine lakes in the desert. Apache, Canyon and Saguaro all have been stocked with rainbow trout throughout the winter, so throwing some trout-imitation swim baits can produce some trophy bass.

With an onset of warmer-than-average temperatures, more bass have ventured into shallower waters in a pre-spawn mode (certainly at Roosevelt and likely Saguaro, too) and are willing to chase crankbaits, spinnerbaits and chatter baits as they feed actively before their spawn.

Catfish Are Coming Back

At our Community lakes and ponds, the final trout stocking of the winter season has taken place. The next stocking will be in late April — catfish are coming back.

Bill Luke Bass Days

Bill Luke Bass Days is this month. Come out to Pleasant Harbor Marina in north Phoenix March 18-20. For everyone, there will be a day and nighttime festival featuring a cornhole tournament, carnival rides, vendors, food, wildlife exhibits and live music. Read more about this exciting, annual event on page 1 of this issue.

Buy Your License Online

Although this is the time many anglers renew their licenses, our licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. Buy



your license online and fish our great state for a year (and help conserve all species of wildlife while doing so.)

Latest From The Fish AZ Blog

"Is the 'Alabama Rig' legal in Arizona?"

The Alabama rig is a rig with several lures (five or more) joined by stiff wires, similar to umbrella rigs used for trolling. Alabama rigs with more than two lures would not be legal for angling in Arizona. Such a "rig" would be legal if it had no more than two lures.

Angler Reports

Send reports and pictures to BFishing@AZGFD.gov; we want to hear from you (and share your success).

Sport Fish Restoration Program

Arizona fishing opportunities wouldn't be possible without the Sport Fish Restoration Program. It was created through the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 (Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act) and the Wallop-Breaux amendments of 1984.

Through a federal excise tax paid by manufacturers on fishing gear and motorboat fuels, it provides grant funds for fishery conservation, boating access, and aquatic education.



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DON McDOWELL
Tournament Pro - Talk Show Host



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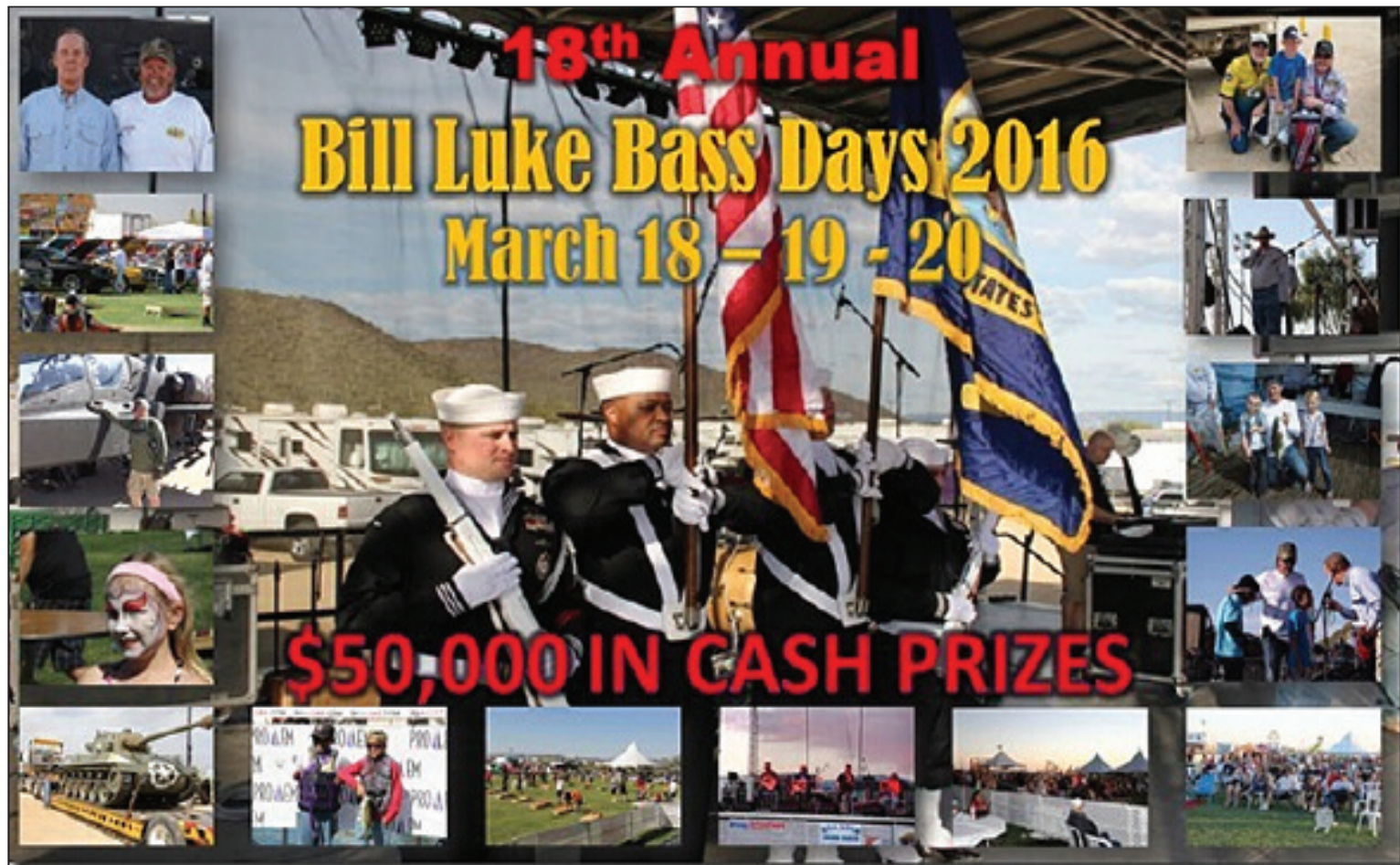
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Western Wildlife



SB1361: A Solution To A Major Problem!

BY JOHN ("JK") KOLESZAR
ELKHABITAT@GMAIL.COM

Every year the State of Arizona convenes the legislature in January and all kinds of bills pop up. Some are ludicrous (just ask Representative Townsend) and some are a response to critical problems. This year the Arizona Game & Fish Department has been pushing for SB1361 to be approved.

What Is SB1361?

What is SB1361 and why are a few select former commissioners screaming?

Back in 1990, The Heritage Fund (Indian gaming monies) awarded an annual amount of \$10 million dollars to the Arizona Game and Fish Department to purchase sensitive habitat for threatened and endangered species. For awhile those monies did exactly what they were supposed to do and the Game & Fish Department — under the guidance of the Arizona Game & Fish Commission — has purchased a number of properties.

Now There Is A Problem

For a brief period of time, the system worked well. Now, however, it has become very obvious that there is a problem. There is no language in the statute that allows for the Heritage monies to be spent on O & M (operation and maintenance).

WAKE ZONE



Opinion

nance).

During the past year, there were several meetings where a lot of concerned people from all walks of the outdoor community tried to find a solution to the lack of funding for operation and maintenance. That group could never arrive at a consensus on how to pay for these properties.

For those who need a little primer on this, consider, if you will, purchasing a new car. If you had \$25,000 to spend on the car and it indeed cost exactly \$25,000, it sounds great.

However —

You can never buy a vehicle, drive it daily and never consider replacing tires, doing an oil change or any other form of maintenance. Well, I guess you could if you wanted to destroy the vehicle in no time flat.

So —

Currently the Arizona Game & Fish Department is forced to pay for the operation and maintenance for these properties out of ... you guessed it. Sportsmen's dol-



Fund has purchased.

Opposition From Three B's

SB1361 would allow the Arizona Game & Fish Department to spend up to 20 percent of the Heritage acquisition monies for operation and maintenance of these properties. It makes perfect sense — unless your name is Beth Wooden, Bill McLean or Bob Hernbrode.

These former commissioners are in a tizzy because they feel the money should not be touched and that no consensus had been arrived at by the working group. Well, I'm sorry Beth, Bill and Bob, but your lack of finding a solution does not mean that time stands still. These former commissioners have a habit of siding with the Sierra Club and other groups that have a Tucson influence.

Former Commissioner Hernbrode has

for years paraded out a "Watchable Wildlife" license idea, which has been met with a deafening amount of silence from the general public.

A Bonus For The Public

Quite frankly, the Arizona general public that does not hunt or fish should always thank their lucky stars that hunters and fisherman exist. Since the general public does not pay a single dime of support to the Arizona Game & Fish Department, any wildlife they see is a bonus to them. No taxpayer dollars are spent by the Arizona Game & Fish Department. Through Federal self-imposed taxes on hunting and fishing equipment as well as state licenses and tags, the sportsmen pay for the Department.

A Good Solution

SB1361 is a good solution to a problem that will only become a more onerous burden as time passes. The shame of it is that Beth, Bill and Bob still keep trying to be commissioners after their day in the sun is long over. The current commissioners reached out to many groups for a solution. No one had anything remotely close to a good idea.

It's time to back SB1361 and get on with maintaining these properties but no longer out of sportsmen's dollars.

Heritage Fund Program Makes A Wildlife Difference

FROM AZGFD

For more than 20 years, the Heritage Fund has made a difference not just to wildlife conservation efforts, but also to the state's economy, public access, environmental education and outdoor recreation.

Passed by voters as a ballot initiative in 1990 by a 2-1 ratio, the fund provides up to \$10 million each year from Arizona lottery proceeds to the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the conservation and protection of the state's wildlife and natural areas.

Protect, Provide, Educate

The Heritage Fund is used to protect endangered species, acquire habitat for the benefit of sensitive species, provide access to outdoor recreational opportunities, and educate children and adults about wildlife.

Because the department receives no state tax dollars to cover its operating budget, the Heritage Fund is critical to recovering or sustaining Arizona's unique native wildlife and to managing more than 800 species. The fund's impact is multiplied through its use as a match for federal dollars.

Heritage Success Stories

The Heritage Fund has contributed to some significant and nationally-recognized wildlife conservation success stories. Notable accomplishments of the department's Heritage dollars over the past two decades include the following:

- Black-footed ferrets, California condors, Mexican wolves and black-tailed



MICHAEL LOCKHART/USFWS

Black-Footed Ferret



SNOWMANRADIO

California Condor



Mexican Wolf



LEONARDO WEISS

Black-Tailed Prairie Dog

prairie dogs — all species that had disappeared from the state — have been re-introduced into Arizona.

- More than 640 Heritage grants have been awarded totaling more than \$14

million for wildlife, outdoor recreation, and environmental education projects statewide.

- The Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program — a nationally-recognized effort — has played a key role in helping the state's bald eagle population grow by nearly 600 percent since the species was listed as endangered in 1978.

- Landowners enrolled more than 22,000 acres in a statewide program to conserve endangered Chiricahua



ERIC FROMMER

Bald Eagle



JIM RORABAUGH/USFWS

Chiricahua Leopard Frog

leopard frogs.

- Implementation of a voluntary non-lead ammunition and hunter outreach program to enhance California condor conservation.

- Native Apache trout have been re-



Native Apache Trout

covered to a point that the species has been downlisted from endangered to threatened, and limited fishing opportunities are allowed.

- Research has identified critical wildlife corridors to be considered in future construction of the state's roadways to help maintain pathways for wildlife to move to seasonal foraging grounds and prevent populations from becoming isolated. This research has also aided in introducing measures to decrease wildlife-vehicle collisions on Arizona's roads.

- Heritage funding contributed to the acquisition of nearly 18,000 acres for public enjoyment and wildlife conservation, and establishment of the Becker Lake Wildlife Area (Apache County), Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area (Cochise County), Verde River Wildlife Area (Yavapai County), and Quigley Wildlife Area (Yuma County) for habitat conservation and species recovery programs.

- Barrier-free fishing piers have been constructed at Woodland, Mittry, Patagonia, Kaibab, Riggs and Rose Canyon lakes.

- Schoolyard habitat projects have been awarded the "Governor's Pride" and Westmarc's "Best of the West" awards.

- The Arizona Quality Alliance recognized the Urban Fish Stocking program with its Showcase in Excellence award for its efforts to provide urban recreational opportunities to the public.

Heritage Grants

The Heritage grants are supported by revenue from Arizona Lottery sales and are available to projects that focus on wildlife, including wildlife education, schoolyard habitats and wildlife conservation efforts.

In addition, there is a grant category geared towards helping schools fund field trips that take students outside to learn about wildlife and outdoor recreation.

Potential grant recipients must have a project that is either located in Arizona or involves research in which the wildlife or its habitat is located in Arizona.

RV Land Cruising



Here Is Some Great Gear For The Outdoors

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

The SHOT Show (Shooting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trades) was held in Las Vegas this past January. As always, the show was enormous and it took several days to get around to seeing everything. Even after several days, I'm sure I missed some great stuff, but I did see a bunch of things that I can't wait to tell you about.



Wildo's Camp-A-Box, left, contains so much in a compact and practical design. Wildo's sporks and folding cups, right, are sturdy, versatile, and wash up easily.



Wildo Campware

I remember when my granddaughters were in grade school and I volunteered in the cafeteria. They would give the kids these little plastic sporks to eat with that were basically useless.

The idea of a spoon/fork combo is great, though, and Wildo (a Swedish company) took it a step further by adding a knife to the mix. The Wildo (say it like will do) spork is sturdy and large enough to actually eat with. It even has a small serrated area that can be used as a knife to cut food. They come in a bunch of different colors and wash up easily.

Best of all, they are very light and save a lot of room, making them great for campers and backpackers. Wildo also has the Camp-A-Box® Complete that contains everything you need. Its compact and practical design means it fits perfectly in a backpack or large cargo pants pocket. Available in nine colors, the Camp-A-Box® Complete includes a plate with a lid that doubles as a bowl, a small and a large Fold-a-cup, a cutting board with a strainer, a three-compartment spice shaker, and a matching spork.

The whole kit weighs just over 10 ounces! It retails for around \$32 (\$23-\$25 on Amazon). Check out all their gear at www.wildousa.com.



These Klymit sleeping pads inflate with just 10-15 breaths.

Klymit

Klymit has the most amazing sleeping pads you've ever seen. They are compartmented to limit air movement and heat



These Klymit sleeping pads are compact and lightweight. The pads can be rolled up in their ditty bags, and there is even one that rolls into the size of a soda can.

loss while making the pad as comfortable as possible. The Kymit Static V is the entry-level mat at around \$60, and it inflates in about 10-15 breaths. Best of all, it packs down to the size of a water bottle and even has side rails so you don't roll off at night. Awesome.

The also have several other pads, along with rafts, packs, sleeping bags, pillows, and camp chairs. You can see them all at www.klymit.com.

JTQ Gear

Although this is a tactical-gear company, a lot of their stuff is ideal for hikers, campers, and travelers. Their TT Tactical Touch Pad Cover (\$55) holds your tablet and also gives you compartments for pencils, id, credit cards, documents, etc.

The Wrist Office (\$24.50) lets you keep a trail map handy without having to stuff it into a pocket or your pack. They also have a variety of pouches, including a folding map pouch. Great stuff! See it at www.jtqgear.com.



The Hydrapak water reservoir for backpacks opens completely and can be turned inside out for cleaning.

Hydrapak

Those little dayhiker packs with a place for a hydration bladder are all the rage. I have a couple of them myself, and my granddaughters use them too. The one problem with them is how to clean them

This is the handy Hydrapak collapsible water bottle.



and keep mold or bacteria from growing inside. It's hard to clean them out when that little fill hole is so small.

So, I was excited when I saw the stuff at the Hydrapak booth. Their reservoirs open completely up at one end and you can even turn them inside out to clean and



The Hydrapak water bottles collapse to the size of a hockey puck.

dry them — you can even put them in the top rack of your dishwasher.

They make a variety of sizes and shapes to fit any pack, and they also make a variety of water bottles and flasks that collapse as they are emptied. They even sell a tube-cleaning brush to get the nasties out of that drinking tube on your water bladder.

Here are some features of their water reservoirs: Besides the top's opening up and sealing tight, they have a silicone high-flow bite valve with a twist shut off, quick disconnect for tube removal, magnetic tube fastener set, anti-microbial to prevent bacteria and mold. They can also be frozen or filled with warm water, and they are compatible with in-line filtration.

Reservoirs run \$30-\$39, depending on size. Bottles run from about \$12 - \$23. You will love these! Visit www.hydrapak.com.

Biolite

The Biolite company introduced a low-cost biomass cookstove that dramatically reduces emissions and generates electricity to boot. They also make camping products that use the same technology, so you can make a very efficient fire and cook your dinner while you charge your phone.

New for 2016 is the PowerLight Mini, which is a clippable lantern that you can wear on a pocket or a strap. The USB rechargeable battery gives up to 52 hours of light or you can charge your phone on it. They say it's a lantern, bike light, and charger all in one. It comes in four colors and the bike mount is included. It retails for about \$45.

Biolite also offers portable solar pan-

See **GEAR**, Page 12

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Coconino County Parks & Recreation Accepting Ramada Reservations

WHAT: Coconino Parks and Recreation has begun accepting ramada reservations for its 11 ramadas at four county parks. The ramadas are popular venues for people to host parties, reunions, and get-togethers and are available for rent seven days a week, either for half or full days.

HOW: This year, Parks and Recreation is rolling out an online feature to improve accuracy of rental information and security. People may fill out a ramada reservation request on CocoRec, CCPR's online program for registrations and facility reservations, and a staff member will follow up with a confirmation within one business day. Go to Coconino.gov/Parks/Ramadas for more information and to make a reservation.

The public is encouraged to submit the application online; however, anyone interested may also visit the Parks and Recreation Administration office (Fort Tuthill County Park, 2446 Fort Tuthill

Loop, Flagstaff) during regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

COST: Prices range from \$46-114 in the summer.

QUESTIONS? Please call (928) 679-8000

GEAR

Continued from page 11

els with battery storage so you can save that power for later (\$80), or you can get one without the power storage (\$60) and just use it to charge your devices or power your Biolite gear.

Also new this year is a camp stove that doesn't charge your phone, but it gives you 30 hours of clean wood cooking (with very little wood) on a single charge. The charge powers the four fans that allow you to control the flame size for perfect cooking or boiling. No gas!

The stove is just under \$100. They're very compact and perfect for camping and backpacking. Each only weighs 1.6 pounds.

MyTopo

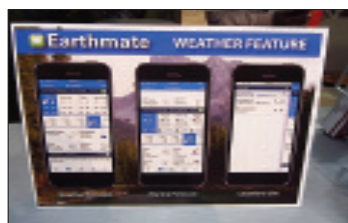
Maps are invaluable and that little map app on your phone is great in town, but once you hit the trail, it may show your location as a dot in a blank space. That happens to me all the time.

Trimble has an app for that. It's called Trimble Outdoors Navigator. You can track your location with GPS and find your way on street, aerial satellite, hybrid, topo, terrain, and outdoor maps. You can download offline maps and helpful layers, and once you're out there, no cell service is needed — the app uses the GPS in your phone.



This is a screen shot of the actual Trimble Outdoor Navigator app.

You can mark waypoints and collect tracks, add photos and videos, and check your trip stats. It's a wonderful tool. The app lets you do plenty of stuff, but for the full benefit, there is a yearly fee. If you still love the feel of a paper map (plus you can view a whole lot more area at once), you can go to www.mytopo.com and have them print you a custom map. You choose the size, the area — everything. Pay the fee and in just a few days, your beautiful map will be in your mailbox.



The DeLorme Earthmate is a map app that is a very reasonable price.

DeLorme

DeLorme Earthmate is another map app that gives you a lot of bang for the buck. It costs just under \$30, but you get a full-featured GPS navigation app with unlimited access to all North America topo maps that your can store on your device, plus unlimited cloud storage for your data.

Maps are downloaded anywhere, anytime — no cell service needed. You can share your information with others, too. After the first year, there is a yearly fee of \$14.95 to continue the service. That is so cheap compared to the price of buying paper maps and atlases!

DeLorme also offers inReach, the first satellite communicator with navigation. It will not only show you where you are and how to get back, but also it lets you send an SOS if you need help, even with no cell service.

You can check in with loved ones to let them know things are fine and share your location. If you do need rescue, you can communicate with the rescuers and let them know what kind of emergency it is



DeLorme's inReach is the first satellite communicator with navigation.

so they will be fully prepared when they get there. Priceless.

The inReach Extreme Communication Kit includes inReach Explorer Satellite Communicator, Goal Zero Nomad 7 Solar Panel, Goal Zero Switch 8 Recharger, and inReach Protective and Flotation Case. This is a \$520 total value with a special DeLorme exclusive kit price of \$479.95. You can order it online at www.inreach-delorme.com.

A satellite subscription is needed to use inReach, but you don't even have to commit for a yearly subscription — you can pay for a single month at any time for as low as \$15 for a month, with a \$25 fee each year.

Gear Tie

These little gadgets have a million and one uses. Gear Tie reusable rubber twist ties have a tough rubber shell that provides excellent grip, a strong wire inside that holds its shape, and a range of bright colors. Gear Ties are available in six sizes (3", 6", 12", 18", 24", 32", or 64") to organize nearly anything from a small cord or cable to large sporting goods equipment.

They also have a variety of lights that you can put on bikes, helmets, shoes, or twist into a stand to light up your map at night. They have a little light called a BugLit that has four Gear Tie legs that you can use to attach the light to almost anything.

Nite Dawg is an LED-lit collar for your best friend so you can see him at night — and so can cars. Look for the lighted handle bar grips, lights for shoes, and the 3-in-1 flashlight/lantern — you can browse this site for hours: www.nite-eize.com.

Victorinox

Last but not definitely not least, every outdoors person needs a good knife. The Victorinox-Swiss Army 54874 Trekker 1-Handed Opening Knife has 12 functions including a one-handed serrated locking blade, Phillips screwdriver, can opener with small screwdriver, bottle opener with a large locking screwdriver, a wood saw, a reamer, a wire stripper, a key ring, and toothpick and tweezers. You'll be prepared for just about anything with one of these in your pocket. You can get it on Amazon for under \$42.

ANNIVERSARY

Continued from page 4

• **BoatUS is the first organization to fight for legislation on behalf of boaters**, shaping national boating policy when Schwartz helps draft the watershed Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 creating the US Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety. He also secured passage of the Recreational Boating Safety and Facilities Improvement Act of 1979 — also known as the Biggi Bill — which affirmed that taxes and fees paid by boaters should support boating programs.

• **The BoatUS Marine Insurance program starts in 1967** offering the first recreational boat policy in clear, understandable language rather than the unintelligible, centuries-old language from Lloyd's of London.

• **BoatUS creates the only Consumer Protection Bureau (1970)** for boaters to seek redress with manufacturers, suppliers or businesses as well as a Dispute Mediation Program. BoatUS Reports, the association's early member newsletter, eventually grows to become BoatUS Magazine, the largest boating magazine in the country with over half a million circulation.

• **After two years of BoatUS lobbying efforts**, in 1980 President Carter signs the Recreational Boating Safety and Facilities Improvement Act, authorizing \$60 million in boating fuel taxes to be spent on boating safety programs and boating facilities improvements over the next three years.

• **In 1982 BoatUS leads the successful fight to repeal the Federal Boat "User Fee"** Tax, saving boaters up to \$600 annually.

• **As a result of the U.S. Coast Guard's no longer offering non-emergency assistance to boaters** where towboat companies existed, the BoatUS Insurance policy becomes the first in the nation to feature on water towing coverage to its insureds.

• **Also in 1983, the first BoatUS Catastrophe Team is established** to assist the Houston Yacht Club following the disastrous landfall of Hurricane Alicia. Comprised of expert marine surveyors, claims adjusters and heavy equipment operators, in subsequent years the team becomes the "gold standard" for service to insured boaters after storm-related disasters. As a result of what it learns, BoatUS sets course to become the nation's expert at hurricane damage avoidance for boats and marinas, offering free preparation materials for boat and yacht clubs, marinas and boatyards.

• **In 1984, Schwartz is widely credited in leading the passage of the federal Wallop/Breaux Trust Fund Amendment**, today part of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund that now returns over \$600 million annually to federal and state boating and fishing programs.

• **BoatUS was an early pioneer in discount marine retailing**, starting with a single product — a floating flashlight — eventually opening a nationwide chain of 62 BoatUS retail stores and catalog. The retail division was sold to West Marine in 2003.

See ANNIVERSARY, Page 14

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ORACLE STATE PARK

March Activities Abound

March activities at Oracle State Park Center for Environmental Education opened with a special-event Star Party featuring live music, kids activities, and night sky star viewing on Saturday, March 5. This event celebrated the park's designation as an International Dark Sky Park.

Oracle State Park is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Visitors can bring their own lunch and beverages to enjoy on the ranch-house patios or park picnic areas. Full Oracle State Park event information is always posted on the Web site at AZStateParks.com/parks/ORAC. Park admission is \$7 per car at the main gate on Mt. Lemmon Rd. in Oracle and activities are included with park admission.

Other March activities include these popular events:

Sunday, March 6 at 12:30 p.m.: The popular "Bighorn Basics" program with AZ State Parks volunteer Richard Boyer. Reservation preferred.

Sunday, March 13 at Noon: Mineralogy talk with Wolfgang Mueller, mineralogist. He'll include information on

rocks associated with regional mining operations and lapidary uses. Reservation is suggested by calling (520) 896-2425.

Saturday, March 19 at 8 a.m.: Six-mile guided hike with Gaston Meloche. Hike

includes the Wildlife Corridor Trail, National Scenic Arizona Trail, and Manzanita Trail. Reservation is required: VHC. Gaston@gmail.com or (520) 638-5404 no later than 4 p.m. the day before the hike.

Saturday, March 26 at 1 p.m.: "Wildlife in the Santa Catalina Mountains" presentation by the Sky Island Alliance begins in the Kannally Ranch House. Reservation is suggested by calling (520) 896-2425.

Sunday, March 27 at 1 p.m.: Tohono O'odham basketweaving demonstration on the ranch house patio as part of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Awareness Month. Elizabeth of the Tohono O'odham Nation will do a weaving project to show basket-making techniques. This free program is made possible with the support of Friends of Oracle State Park.

'Civil War In The Southwest' Re-Enacted At Picacho Peak

Join us for the annual historic re-enactment of an Arizona Civil War skirmish, Battle of Picacho Pass, and the New Mexico battles of Glorieta and Val Verde at "Civil War in the Southwest" at Picacho Peak State Park.

The three re-enactments will take place on Saturday, March 19 and will be repeated on Sunday, March 20. Activities will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days but gates will open at 9:30 a.m. and no further entry is allowed after 3 p.m.



PICACHO PEAK'S 'CIVIL WAR' - Join Arizona State Parks for the annual historic re-enactment of an Arizona Civil War skirmish, Battle of Picacho Pass, and the New Mexico battles of Glorieta and Val Verde at "Civil War in the Southwest" at Picacho Peak State Park. The three re-enactments will take place on Saturday, March 19 and will be repeated on Sunday, March 20.

Authentic Re-Enactments

Visitors travel from around the country to experience these authentic historic re-enactments complete with lifestyles of the soldiers in the Southwest during the 1860s. More than 200 re-enactors come in from many states and will camp at Picacho Peak State Park with their Civil

War-era camping gear. There will also be food and beverage concessions available. Bring plenty of water, hat, lawn chair and sunscreen. Please note that pets are not permitted to this event.

Few Know About The West At This Time

Civil War battles across the East Coast have been well documented, but few ever learn what was happening in the West during this time. One battle of the American Civil War was a skirmish fought near a rocky spire called Picacho Peak located between Phoenix and Tucson. The Interstate highway follows the old wagon route that passed Picacho in 1862.

Special Event Vehicle Entrance Fee is \$10 per vehicle for up to 4 persons, each additional person is charged \$3. The entrance fee for pedestrians and bicyclists is \$3 per person. There is no charge for children aged 13 and younger. Pets are not permitted in the event area. The park is located off I-10, on exit 219; 60 miles south of Phoenix, and 40 miles north of Tucson.

For More Information

For more information about the re-enactments, call Picacho Peak State Park at (520) 466-3183 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/PIPE. This year the Civil War in the Southwest event is being coordinated with financial support from the Union Pacific Railroad Foundation, the Arizona State Parks Foundation and the Arizona Civil War Council.

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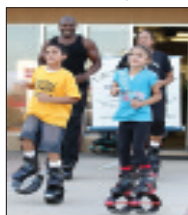
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ANNIVERSARY

Continued from page 12

• **In 1994 TowBoatUS creates a 24-hour toll-free dispatch hotline** to respond to members' needs. The dispatch system pioneers the use of computer mapping to find the closest towboat while connecting the boater directly with the towing captain through teleconferencing.

• **Already a major influence on the national boating-safety stage**, in 2000 the BoatUS Foundation and the BoatUS Clean Water Trust merge to become the nonprofit 501(c)(3) BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, which runs innovative programs ranging from the only free Online Boating Safety Course and nationwide Life Jacket Loaner Program for Kids to the Help Stop the Drops marina spill-prevention program and EPIRB rental program for offshore passages.

• **Long before there was publicly available data on the causes of insurance claims**, BoatUS develops the only recreational boat Damage Avoidance Program and publication to help BoatUS members avoid claims and injuries. Seaworthy. BoatUS insurance programs

today total over \$8 billion in hull value.

• **BoatUS acquires Vessel Assist Association of America in 2003**, the largest on water towing fleet on the Pacific Coast. The move adds a new West Coast 24-hour dispatch center connected to a coastal high-site VHF radio communications system which provides VHF radio communications far out to sea — a unique aspect not found with any other on water boat towing company. Today, TowBoatUS is the nation's largest on water towing fleet with over 600 towboats and 300 locations.

• **In 2006, the EPA starts wrestling with a proposed operational permit** that could be required for each boat in each state. Working with the marine industry, BoatUS launches a massive two-year lobbying effort to pass the Clean Boating Act, exempting recreational boats from permits intended to address ocean-going ships and offshore sources of invasive species.

• **In 2007, BoatUS is sold to a Berkshire Hathaway subsidiary**, National Indemnity Company. More recently, on January 1, 2015 BoatUS is transferred in a change of ownership to GEICO, another Berkshire Hathaway company.

• **In an effort to help the storm-struck marina industry recover** after years of intense hurricane activity and ensure boaters have dockage for their boats after a storm hits, in 2008 BoatUS holds the first ever, two-day Marina Hurricane Preparation Symposium designed to reduce damage and the loss of boats and marinas in storms.

• **In 2011, BoatUS hand delivers over 15,000 comments from concerned boaters**, sailors and anglers to the Federal Communications Commission demanding that the agency not go forward in its plans to allow a private company to put the reliability of the Global Positioning System (GPS) system at risk. The plans fail to win government support.

• **Over 65,000 recreational boats are damaged or lost when 2012's Superstorm Sandy** strikes the Northeast, making it the single-largest industry loss to recreational boats since the Association began keeping track in 1966. BoatUS mobilizes its largest-ever Catastrophe Team salvaging thousands of boats from the NY-NJ region as far north as Maine and inland to Michigan.

• **In 2015, BoatUS offers the first insurance policy for boats rented through**

peer-to-peer rental programs. Fighting for anchoring rights in Florida, amending the nation's renewable fuels corn ethanol mandate, and reauthorization of the US Coast Guard budget top the list of legislative priorities. Forty-nine years after its founding, BoatUS begins a new era of growth and service to America's boaters.

About Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS)

BoatUS is the nation's largest organization of recreational boaters with over a half million members. We are the boat owners' voice on Capitol Hill and fight for their rights. We help ensure a road-side breakdown doesn't end a boating or fishing trip before it begins, and on the water, we bring boaters safely back to the launch ramp or dock when their boat won't, day or night.

The BoatUS Insurance Program gives boat owners the specialized coverage and superior service they need, and we help keep boaters safe and our waters clean with assistance from the non-profit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water. Visit BoatUS.com.

ISE

Continued from page 1

light ISE visitors:

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- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Adventure Theater,
- Arizona Taxidermy State Championship,
- Trophy elk and deer displays, and
- The giant WesternBass.com Aquarium Demonstration Tank, presented by Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times news magazine.

Location

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16601 N. Pima Rd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Hours

Thursday, March 10: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday, March 11: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday, March 12: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday, March 13: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tickets

Adult Admission: \$12
Youth under 16: Free

Parking

WestWorld parking: \$5 per car

More Information

<http://www.sportsexpos.com/attend/scottsdale/>



WesternBass.com Demo Tank, Presented By AZBW/WOT

BASS FISHING

Continued from page 1

from fishing need not apply. This is a "live" bait and artificial lure tournament. Proper fish care is paramount. Dead fish will not be weighed. We'll have water dogs from Liar's Corner available at the sign-up tent at the lake.

Cash, Cash, Cash!

We have **Bonus Cash!** Sign-in at Bill Luke CJDR and catch the second largest bass on Friday or Sunday and win a \$1,000. To be eligible for this prize, you must sign our CASH BONUS book located in the service department and sign-in at Sportman's Warehouse.

Also there can be a \$1,000 winner who catches the second largest bass on Saturday. To be eligible for this prize you must sign our CASH BONUS book located in the store at I17 and Yorkshire Blvd. in Phoenix. You may register for the event online at www.billlukebassdays.com or at the Bill Luke Chrysler Jeep Dodge RAM dealership at I17 and West Camelback Road.

Think about this: one fish, just one fish, could \$300 for the hourly prize, \$1,000 for the Bonus Cash, \$2,000 for the daily biggest bass and then \$10,000 for the overall big bass — \$13,300.00 for one fish! Is that great? Yes, that "Makes Bass Fishing Great Again!" All this is possible only at Bill Luke Bass Days. We'll give you the money!

For Cat Anglers

If you're a cat fisherman, sign up for the Arizona Cat Fish Conservation Association "Catfish Derby". This year again we are proud to welcome back the Arizona Catfish Conservation Association

(ACCA).

The ACCA is a non-profit organization with the goal to promote awareness and conservation for catfish in Arizona lakes and rivers. Catfish tournament participants will fish for the largest catfish on Friday and Saturday nights. There are two weigh-ins — Saturday between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and Sunday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. More information can be found at Catfishaz.com.

Sign-Up Times

Fishing sign up begins Thursday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. and daily at 4:00 a.m. at the main tent at Lake Pleasant RV Resort, on the east side of Lake Pleasant. Sign up at the lake is mandatory. Rules are posted on line www.billlukebassdays.com.

Something For Everyone

Bill Luke Bass Days is the Southwest's largest family fishing tournament and festival held March 18, 19, 20 at Lake Pleasant. This year's is sure to be one of our biggest events! There is fun for everyone:

- day and night time festivals featuring a Corn Hole Tournament,



- free carnival rides,
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- military vehicle displays,



- vintage tractors and a vintage 1917 steam engine from the Arizona Early Days Gas Engine and Tractor Association,

- live music concerts Friday and Saturday nights, and

- free boating-safety inspections being provided by USCG AUX, Flotilla 10-11; you may qualify for a cash discount from your insurance company with the USCG Certification. (Boating safety begins with you and it's free!)

'But Wait, There's More'

Meet and greet military soldiers and sailors from the US Army, US Navy, various "First Responders" from City of Peoria Fire and Police departments, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and the fine folks from our Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Sportfishing charter Captain Bill Wilkerson from Malihini Sportfishing H&M Landing's premier ¾-day offshore sport-fishing boat will be on hand to answer all your questions on saltwater fishing out of San Diego.

Talk hooks and techniques with Ron

Stallings from Daiichi Hooks, the world's sharpest hooks, and ask him about the new "Gun Protect" for your firearms. Get guidance from Arizona's own "Striper Snatcher" Guide Derrick Franks on how to catch stripers on Lake Pleasant; he's got the experience, the lures and the secrets.

Helicopter rides over the lake will be available Saturday by Sun State Helicopter with Captain Chris Dobkins in his new Raven R44.

Camp On Site

Bill Luke Bass Days has over 60 dry camping spaces available in two different areas inside the event. Each spot is measured out to a minimum of 25 feet by 40 feet and is \$100 per space. The two locations are on the north end and south end of the event. Each spot is on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$100 for all three days.

Staging will start March 17th at 10 a.m. Contact **Steve Zea** for vendor and camping details and reservations at **602-989-9444**. All reservations are first-come, first-served.

RAM Trucks And More Fun

Curious about RAM trucks? Love the outdoors? Come out to Bill Luke Bass Days and Experience the new 2016 RAM 1500. We will have several RAM Trucks on site as well as RAM specialists to answer all of your questions.

So, come out to the lake and enjoy the weather and free rides and all the fun courtesy of Bill Luke, serving our community since 1927.

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Lowe
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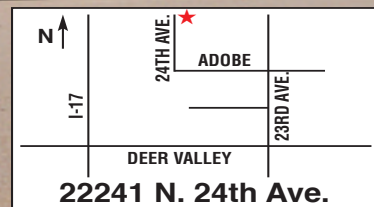
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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Descale-It Is A Favorite Of Boaters

Take the work out of cleaning! Let Descale-It products do the work for you.

It is our pleasure to turn the spotlight on Descale-It products in this issue. Not only does the company have many happy and satisfied customers, but also this is an Arizona company, located in Tucson.

The Descale-It® Products Company is committed to producing effective, Earth-friendly products. For example, Descale-It Lime-Eaters® was the first product in its class to be Green Cross Certified by Scientific Certification Systems as 100 percent biodegradable.

For our boating readers, a Descale-It product that has been so successful in wa-

tercraft cleaning is their Watercraft Spot Remover. The following are only some of its commendable features:

- This product removes unsightly water spots.
- It removes alkaline build-up with ease.
- Watercraft Spot Remover won't scratch or cloud surfaces.
- It beautifully shines stainless steel and chrome.
- This product is user-friendly with no scrubbing, no fumes, no gloves.
- Watercraft Spot Remover is certified 100 percent biodegradable.

And, since boaters have had such outstanding results from this Descale-It product, they may want to try some of the other cleaners offered by Descale-It; these items in their Variety Pack are a good way to start experiencing the cleaning pleasure of other items. The \$37.80 pack, a bargain, includes the following:

- 1-22 oz. Bathroom Descale-It®
- 1-22 oz. Lime-Eaters®
- 1-16 oz. Toilet Bowl Cleaner and one of the following: 32-ounce Pool & Spa Descale-It ® or 32-oz. SeaSpots Gone!™ or 16-oz. Earth-Friendly Cleaner for Animals or 32-oz. Cooler Treatment

For larger quantities call (520) 294-5676 or email info@descal-it.com

De-scale It is located at 4357 S Santa Rita Ave, Tucson, AZ 85714

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There is something for *everyone* in our shire. Here's an example —



Mermaids Make Merry

Mermaids are making a splash at the 28th Annual AZ. Renaissance Festival and ye shall be *mesmerized*! Witness the wonder of Living Mermaids, the lovely and charming curiosities of the deep. Guests young and old will revel in the magic and mystery upon seeing the newest attraction at The Royal Faire — Sea Fairies!

Fishermen, sailors and people throughout the world have told their tales of maidens of the deep and now visitors to the 28th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival will have a chance to see these elusive beauties firsthand. Curiosities they are, Pirate Captain Francis Drake shares his tales of meeting the mesmerizing merfolk and how he brought them from the sea to our Festival Village of Fairhaven.

Delight in the Sea Fairies daily at The Royal Faire — a world of wonderment presented exclusively for your enjoyment.

Huzzah!

The annual Arizona Renaissance Festival is back



for its 28th season of tomfoolery, feasting, tricks and thrills. This 30-acre village is an eclectic mix of living history, fairytale, fantasy and a bit of Monty Python brought to life.

The Arizona Renaissance Festival runs every Saturday and Sunday through March 27th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Discount ticket prices are adult, \$22.00; children 5-12, \$10.00 and may be purchased at Fry's Food stores. Children under 5 are always free. Tickets purchased at the Festival are two dollars more.

Senior discount tickets are \$21.00 for those 60 and older, and are available only on Festival days at the front gate ticket booth. Parking is Free.

The Renaissance Festival site is located east of Apache Junction on U.S. Highway 60, just past Gold Canyon Golf Resort. (12601 East US Hwy 60) For visitor information, directions and more info, visit www.RenFestInfo.com, call Sanja Malinovic, marketing director at (520) 463-2700, or email her at Sanja@RenFestInfo.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Helpers Need Your Help

Volunteering At Lost Our Home Pet Rescue brings rewards beyond measure.

One of the best of Arizona's no-kill shelters is in Tempe, Ariz.: Lost Our Home Pet Rescue. They need and welcome volunteers — for whom thorough training is provided — to help provide not only temporary homes for dogs and cats, but also careful care, and adoption services.

Right now, LOH has a few more great opportunities with which they need assistance:

PetSmart Volunteers Needed

We have a great opportunity to possibly get more dogs and cats adopted by getting into another PetSmart location that is opening up on the corner of McClintock and Guadalupe. This is going to be a busy store with lots of traffic so the potential for expanding our adoptions is great. If you are interested in helping out at this brand new location please contact Tracey Varga at tracey@lostourhome.org.

Volunteer Adoption Counselor Opportunities

Do you have what it takes to be an adoption counselor? Who better to work with potential adopters than the very people who spend so much time with the animals? Our volunteers! We have a volunteer adoption program set up for both cat and dog adoptions and *we need you!* If you are interested in becoming a volunteer adoption counselor please contact Tracey Varga at tracey@lostourhome.org.

LOH Could Use Some Painters

Are you good at painting or, at the very least, okay at it? We need some painting done at the shelter and it needs to be done within the next couple of days. If you can assist us with this task please contact Tracey Varga at tvarga@lostourhome.org.

Our Mission, Our Vision

Our mission is to ensure that all pets have loving homes when families face major life challenges. We provide compassionate options when Realtors and the community find an abandoned pet. Our vision is a world in which all pets have loving homes and are treated with dignity and respect.

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