



March - April 2010

Arizona

Boating & Watersports™

FREE

Western Outdoor Times



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Dive

Into Spring

Game Bag
Page 10

Land Cruising
Pages 11-12

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Pages 7-9

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Arizona Game & Fish Department

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March - April 2010

 **Western Outdoor Times**

Vol. 6, No. 2

Showtime Continues In The Southwest

IT'S FUN! IT'S FREE!

It's Here Again: Day At The Docks

Day at the Docks is all about San Diego sportfishing. Arizonans are invited to the San Diego Sportfishing Landings in Point Loma on Sunday, April 18 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for this annual highlight in The Big Bay.

This is the 31st year the San Diego Sportfishing Council has sponsored its special showcase event. We hope

See **DOCKS** on page 13

If It's March, It Must Be — Time For AZGFD Expo

It's here. The favorite annual event presented by Arizona Game & Fish Department: the big Expo. Come out to the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in north Phoenix March 27-28. It's FREE and for your whole family.

This crowd-pleasing event offers lots of exciting, hands-on outdoor recreational activities:

- Test your skill at archery.
- Take your kids to the huge catch-and-release fishing tank.
- See live wildlife demonstrations (hawks, owls, snakes, more).
- Hike a nature trail/field course.
- Try target shooting with different firearms

on the range.

- Learn about outdoor skills, firearm safety and more.

- View exciting shooting demonstrations by the cowboy mounted shooters, cowboy action shooters and more.

- Attend informative workshops on fishing, hunting, wildlife conservation.

- See off-highway vehicle and boating exhibits.

- Visit with more than 100 exhibitors—sportsmen's organizations, conservation groups, shooting clubs, government agencies,

See **EXPO** on page 13



Boat & RV Show Returns To Arizona State Fairgrounds

Finding the boat or RV of your dreams has never been so easy or affordable. This year the annual Arizona Boat and RV Show will return to the Arizona State Fairgrounds — March 26-28. The annual show has been a community tradition for over 57 years.

Local boat and RV dealers will be on hand with new and used ski boats, wakeboard boats, fishing boats, cruisers, motorhomes, travel trailers, toy haulers, pop-ups, fifth wheels and much more. Attendees will have the opportunity to find their best deals at this year's show. Now is the time to buy as dealers have priced their products accordingly for this once-a-year show and sale.

Join us for the 57th Annual Boat & RV Show & Sale at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, Friday, March 26, noon-7 p.m.; Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday, March 28, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Admission is \$6 for adults, seniors \$5, and children 12 and under are free. There is also a three-day pass for \$10. For more information, visit www.greenband.com and see the show ad on page 15 of this issue.

Bartlett Lake Marina Has Something For Everyone

There's so much for Arizonans (visitors too) at Bartlett Lake Marina: a Boat Club, Aqua Lodges, a Ship's Store, Boat Rentals, and all the water activities you can imagine — from great fishing to wakeboarding and water skiing to just a quiet day on a beautiful lake. See more about Bartlett Lake Marina on the back cover of this issue.



Desert Dolphins

SYNCH — OR SINK!

Local Athletes Offer 'Clips-On' Challenge To Ambitious Media!

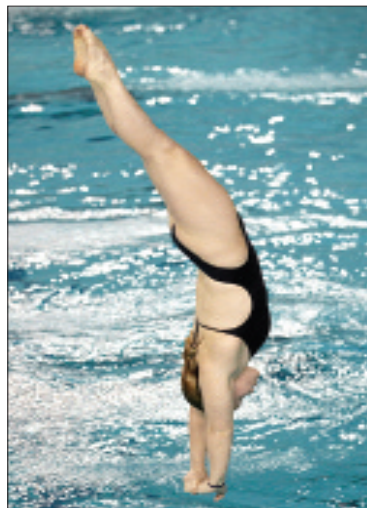
Does your media outlet have a hands-on sports reporter who does not mind getting his or her feet wet? Perhaps he or she is an aggressive sports veteran who will go to great lengths for the inside scoop on a local sporting event.

Or, maybe you've got a macho man who likes to show off during office softball games and cannot turn down a chance to put his athletic talents to the test.

Then consider this a bare-bones, knock-down, drag-out challenge! The buoyant media member will receive a great experience

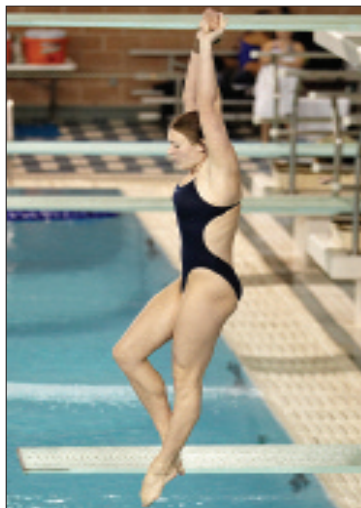
CONGRATULATIONS!

NAU Swimming/Diving Earns CSCAA Team Academic Award



Jeff Huehn

Megan Collier



Jeff Huehn

Taryn Harris

EVANSTON, Ill. — Northern Arizona swimming and diving has been recognized by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) for its academic excellence in the classroom. The women earned the Division I Team Scholar All-American award for the fifth time under head coach Andy Johns.

Swimming and diving totaled a 3.24 grade-point-average last fall and hold a 3.25 cumulative GPA through the fall semester.

The women had four student-athletes post 4.0 GPAs, including diver Lana Christensen and swimmers Claire Ferro, Rachael Foe and Jessi Jones. Twenty of the 26 members of the swimming and diving team were over a 3.0 GPA.

The Lumberjacks were one of 10 NAU varsity sports to post a GPA over 3.0 and one of eight women's teams to do so.

Founded in 1922, the CSCAA — the oldest organization of college coaches in America — is a professional organization of college swimming and diving coaches dedicated to serving and providing leadership for the advancement of the sport of swimming at the collegiate level.

See **ATHLETES** on page 13



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FIVE PRINCIPLES OF SURVIVAL

Basically, Prepare. Then, Just Keep Your 'Cool'

By Mike Wallace
Superstition Search & Rescue

Editor's Note: At the recent International Sportsmen's Expo, it was our honor to listen to the presentation on the basics of survival in the wilderness given by Mike Wallace of Superstition Search & Rescue. We have asked him to just list the basics for this issue, expanding on each in future publications.

Thousands of people are lost or injured in the outdoors each year. The common attitude of those we have rescued is of both surprise and embarrassment that this could happen to them. Most expressed the fear they felt and their frustration for not being better prepared.

I have observed and learned many things over the past 10 years. I have witnessed the common mistakes that people make when found in a wilderness crisis. It is a subject that has been written about before but is worthy of repeating.

There are five basic survival principles that, when practiced, will allow an indi-

Robert Cooper
BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY — that demands respect. It is easy to get lost in Arizona's wilderness, and Superstition Search and Rescue members have every chance of finding and rescuing you IF you follow five basic principles.



vidual to stay alive long enough to be found by search and rescue — a benchmark number of hours is 72.

The first principle is one of the most obvious: Preparation. Being prepared physically and mentally is again an obvious advantage in a survival situation.

The second principle is fear management. Fear is the leading cause of fatal choices that lead to death by exposure.

The third is hydration, and the

fourth is body-core management; vital body functions fail if both are allowed to get out of control.

The last principle is one that is not normally talked about in a survival situation: how to be found.

All of these principles, if practiced, will save your life if you find yourself in a wilderness crisis. And, all will be written about in more detail in future issues.

For more information, e-mail Wallace at wallysfishing@yahoo.com.



LOST AND FOUND — This young man is carried by a Superstition Search & Rescue member to safety. Being lost in itself is not the main enemy. It's some of the reactions that people have that cause problems for the rescuers — and, ultimately, for themselves.

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

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Life Jackets

When preparing to go out on a boat, the operator should check that the safety equipment is on board.

- ◆ All boats, except sailboards and certain racing shells or rowing skulls, must have at least one wearable Type I, II, III, or V life jacket (PFD) that is U.S. Coast Guard-approved and of the proper size for each person on board. Sizing for life jackets (PFDs) is based on body weight and chest size.
- ◆ All life jackets (PFDs) must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.
- ◆ In addition to the above requirements, vessels 16 feet in length or longer, except a canoe or kayak, must have one Type IV U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket (PFD) on board and readily accessible.
- ◆ All children 12 years of age and younger **must wear** a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, or III life jacket (PFD) while underway on any vessel. The life jacket (PFD) must be fastened according to the manufacturer's recommended use and must fit the child properly.
- ◆ Each person on a PWC **must wear** a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, or III life jacket; and all closures must be fastened according to the manufacturer's design or recommended use and must be adjusted for a snug fit.
- ◆ Each person being towed behind a boat on water skis or a similar device must wear a USCG-approved life jacket (PFD) or buoyant belt. Note, however, that buoyant belts are not approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

TYPE I: Offshore Life Jackets

These vests are geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take awhile. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for flotation, and will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.



TYPE II: Near-Shore Vests

These vests are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. A Type II may not turn some unconscious wearers face up in the water.



TYPE III: Flotation Aids

These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. They are not for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up.



TYPE IV: Throwable Devices

These cushions and ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. Since a Type IV is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.



TYPE V: Special-Use Devices

These vests, deck suits, hybrid PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, or water-skiing. *To be acceptable, Type V PFDs must be used in accordance with their label.*



Inflatable Life Jackets must have a full cylinder, green status indicators, and an accessible and intact lanyard or lever. Non-hybrid inflatable lifejackets (no foam) are only for persons at least 16 years old.

Statewide Boating Education Classes

March 2010

Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Mar. 13 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	MWR Rentals Building #70914 NE corner of Irwin & Hunter Streets Fort Huachuca	\$0	(520) 533-6707
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Mar. 13 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Depart 7200 E. University Drive Mesa	\$8 per family	(623) 236-7235
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Mar. 20 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Water Safety Center at Contact Point 1801 Highway 95 Lake Havasu City	\$5 per family	(928) 680-0359
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	Mar. 20 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Department 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$30	(602) 559-1440
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	Mar. 27 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Cabela's Outfitters 9389 W. Glendale Ave. Glendale	\$30	(602) 559-1440

April 2010

Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 10 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	MWR Rentals Building #70914 NE corner of Irwin & Hunter Streets Fort Huachuca	\$0	(520) 533-6707
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 10 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Boating Safety Training Center 8484 Riverside Drive Parker	\$0	(928) 669-6141
Arizona Game and Fish Department	April 17 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Water Safety Center at Contact Point 1801 Highway 95 Lake Havasu City	\$5 per family	(928) 680-0359
U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	April 17 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Arizona Game and Fish Department 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$30	(602) 559-1440

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is very toxic even in small quantities. It is produced when a carbon-based fuel, such as a gasoline or diesel, is burned. Cooking ranges, heaters, and charcoal grills produce carbon monoxide also.

Carbon Monoxide Kills!

- ◆ Carbon monoxide disperses freely through the air and will travel readily throughout a boat.
- ◆ Carbon monoxide discharged as engine, generator, or appliance exhaust may re-enter your boat through any opening.
- ◆ By keeping a steady flow of fresh air moving through your boat, you will eliminate much, if not all, of the hazard. The danger comes when there are pockets of stagnant air loaded with carbon monoxide that are not flushed from your boat.
- ◆ When operating any type of watercraft, be careful running downwind because exhaust gases may blow back on board.
- ◆ The best prevention for carbon monoxide poisoning is knowing that carbon monoxide exists.
- ◆ Everyone should know the symptoms and treatments of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ◆ A marine-type carbon monoxide detector will sound an alarm when the gases reach an unacceptable level.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

One or more of the following symptoms may signal the adverse effects of carbon monoxide accumulations:

- ◆ Throbbing temples
- ◆ Inattentiveness or lack of concentration
- ◆ Inability to think coherently
- ◆ Ringing in the ears
- ◆ Tightness across the chest

- ◆ Headache, drowsiness, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, vomiting, collapse, and convulsions

For additional information, read **Boater Protect Yourself from this Silent Killer! Carbon Monoxide**, a brochure produced by the Arizona Game and Fish Department that is available by contacting your nearest Arizona Game and Fish Department office at (623) 236-7235.

Treatment of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Evacuate, ventilate, investigate, and seek medical help.

Teak surfing, platform dragging, and water-skiing within 20 feet of a moving watercraft can be fatal.

Swim Platform Exhaust ports

- ◆ Stay away from the exhaust ports—carbon monoxide builds up in areas near exhaust vents.
- ◆ **DO NOT** swim in areas where carbon monoxide may accumulate, such as the cavity between the swim platform and the stern of the boat.



This advertisement is brought to you by:
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Banner Year Predicted For Desert Storm

From Jim Nichols
LakeRacerLLC

It's looking like 2010 is going to be a banner year for Desert Storm! April (21) 22-25 is our annual Havasu Poker Run; it's coming soon and promises to be better than ever.

Teague Custom Marine has stepped up their sponsorship of DS and has been promoting the event all over the country. Mercury Racing has come back to be part of the event in a big way. IMCO, ILMOR, CMS Powerboats, Nordic Powerboats and Kachina Powerboats round out the top sponsors for 2010.

We are increasing our charity involvement this year with the help of Joy Schou and the Platinum Powerboat Club. In addition to our normal charities, Soldiers Angels and Havasu for Youth, we are adding the Make-A-Wish Foundation to this year's event.

A Day Earlier

Kicking off a day earlier than before,



Cobra Performance Boats

BANNER YEAR — The 2010 version of Desert Storm promises to be better than ever, according to LakeRacerLLC. The annual Havasu Poker Run is set for April 22-25 and has increased charity involvement this year.

on Wednesday, April 21, we will be "Putin' on the Wish"! The Phoenix chapter of Make-A-Wish will bring our special guests out for boat rides provided by members of the Platinum Powerboat club who are here to participate in the Poker Run.

For the Street Party on Thursday, April 22 we start moving the boats on to the

street at 9 a.m. with the show opening at noon.

We are also inviting "Havasu for Youth" to bring deserving children to participate. An auction for the Foundations Benefit will be held Friday, April 23 p.m. during our Poker Hand Opening Beach Party at the Nautical Resort cove.

More Extreme Than Ever

From early information coming in, the boats in the show will be more extreme than ever — both of Bob Teague Skaters, Chip Romer's new Skater, Gary and Rosemary Colles' new 40' Skater along with some first timers, Bob Christie of New Jersey and his 44 MTI "Speed Racer" and Jeff Stevenson and his JBS Racing Team's new Mystic 50-foot Cat running John Aruba's Turbine Marine engines. (You can see this boat at www.JBSRacing.com.)

For the Poker Run on Friday, April 23 we're at about 50 boats preregistered so far, with more coming in daily (at press time).

Hosting Active-Duty Soldiers

Once again, we are hosting six active duty soldiers for the event with LakeRacer providing hotel rooms and meals for them.

On Saturday, April 24, the Shootout will follow a similar format as the last two

years, with a possible lengthening of the course to counter the new format at Lake of the Ozarks event.

We are also planning for Dixie Bell, our local three-story paddle wheel, to be course control and spectator-central positioned at the course starting line. Shuttle boats will be running between the Nautical Resort docks and Dixie Bell for those who purchase tickets.

Discussion: POPRA, APBA

We are in discussion with the Pacific Offshore Powerboat Racing Association (POPRA) and American Powerboat Association (APBA), the sanctioning body for powerboat racing in the U.S. including APBA Offshore, regarding the shootout being sanctioned as an APBA special event. This will increase the stature of the Shootout around the country and is causing some huge interest for groups who have never been to our event.

Sunday's Offshore Race by POPRA is getting a surge in the number of boats racing by the work we are doing with ABPA. Brad Johnson, the new president of POPRA and his team have reached out to a number of teams and groups around the country and sparked interest in coming out. We are also planning a new event for Sunday that is open to the Poker Run participants and others performance boaters who will be in Havasu. For a small entry fee, you can try out what running on a real racecourse is like.

For more information, please visit www.lakeracer.com.

POWER AT PARKER!

Don't miss the SCSC Spring Powerboat Classic at Parker, Ariz., April 17-18; the event is sponsored by BlueWater Resort & Casino. For more information, contact Parker Area Tourism: (928) 669-6511 or www.parkerareatourism.com



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Safety Questions Asked, Answered (And Asked Again)

By Ron & Rose Werner
United States Sail & Power Squadrons

Last issue we asked some questions about visual distress signals.

The rule is that you need three types of distress signaling capability for day and three for night (low-light conditions).

If you are on inland waters, you do not need to have pyrotechnic devices. If you do have pyrotechnic (e.g., flares, smoke) devices, bear in mind that they have an expiration date on the units and should be discarded and replaced on a regular basis.

Remember also that when you use the pyrotechnic device, you need to ensure the best chance that it will be seen and that great care must be observed when igniting the unit so as not to cause harm to yourself and property.

Much of boating can be related to driving a car. For those of us who drive a car, we do it on a fairly regular basis so most of the actions become routine/rote.

However, since boating is a sport many of us do not have a chance to do that often, we can forget some of the principles of safe boating. That is why we of the USSPS recommend everyone take or re-take a basic boating course to learn (or re-learn) the proper rules on the water.

For seasoned boaters, you can keep your good habits and know they are correct. For new boaters, come and discover the right way to do things before you get in trouble.

Start off the boating fun in the correct and safe manner. For more information please go to www.phoenix-ussps.org or call (602) 810-3684.

This Issue's Questions (to be answered in the next issue)

What is the correct traffic flow on a lake and when can it be different?

On the water, who has the right of way?

Under the captain, who is the most important person (and required) person?

RIO SALADO ROWING CLUB

Classes Are Available On Tempe Town Lake



Rio Salado Rowing Club

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to row and experience the thrill of moving on the water — in Arizona? Now is your chance! Adult classes are available at Rio Salado Rowing Club on Tempe Town Lake.

Almost anyone can enjoy rowing, regardless of age, experience or fitness. Competition is not necessary to enjoy the sport of rowing, but for anyone interested, the Club offers varied opportunities.

Why should you learn to row?

- Rowing is a complete exercise using all major muscle groups.
- Rowing provides aerobic as well as strength

conditioning.

- Rowing is a great calorie burner.
- Rowing promotes teamwork and problem solving.
- Rowing provides a sense of control and achievement.
- Rowing offers the option of rowing alone or with others.
- Rowing provides an energizing start to your day or a peaceful way to unwind.

Class schedule and additional information can be found at <http://www.riosaladorowing.info/classes> or contact us at info2010@riosaladorowing.info.

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February '10 / March '10

Events & Festivals Across the Grand Canyon State

Arizona's premier travel magazine is now available online at www.touristnewsaz.com. The website features a comprehensive calendar of events and festivals across the state, along with travel tips, local news, and more. The magazine is published twice a year, in February and August.

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Loss Of AZ Heritage Fund = Losses To AZGFD

Colleagues, partners, associates and supporters,

Many of you have been asking me about the impact to the Department with respect to the Heritage Fund. As you know,



Arizona Wildlife

the state of Arizona faces a formidable budget deficit, and options to balance the budget are becoming more limited.

The Governor's office released a budget plan earlier this year that proposes to permanently eliminate the Arizona Game and Fish Department's voter-approved \$10 million



Arizona Hunting

AZGFD

Heritage Fund and redirect all Arizona State Lottery revenue to the state's general fund. That proposal has been sent for consideration by the Legislature.

Adoption of this proposal would have significant impacts not just to wildlife and outdoor recreationists, but ripple effects extending to Arizona's land use and growth that is going to be vital for the state's economic recovery and future well-being.

Game and Fish is one of the few state agencies that operates as a business-based on a "user pay/user benefit" model and poses no burden to the taxpayers. While the Department recognizes that the Governor and Legislature must consider all options, it is our duty and statutory responsibility to ensure that our customers — those who have supported our agency in its mission to conserve Arizona's wildlife and provide outdoor recreation



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Arizona Fishing

opportunities — are aware of the impacts that this loss of funding would have on them.

Passed in 1990 by an overwhelming 2-1 bi-partisan vote, the Heritage Fund provides essential funding for conserving Arizona's wildlife and is one of the Department's primary funding sources. The Heritage Fund makes a difference in communities across Arizona and benefits all citizens.



Arizona Wildlife

We are providing information [on our Web site and via other communications] to inform and educate our constituents on what the loss of the Heritage Fund might mean to them and to Arizona. Visit http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/heritage_program.shtml

Ed Huntsman

Arizona Game & Fish Department



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LIGHT LINES

FISHING IN ARIZONA AND BEYOND



AS THE WORM TURNS It's An Ideal Live Fish Bait Almost Anywhere

By Mary Syrett

When God created the humble worm, He surely did so knowing full well that the creature was a blessed gift to anglers.

Those among you who doubt that the worm is a divine creation, consider a profound yet sometimes forgotten truth: Worms are ideal live fish bait, in Arizona and most everywhere else in the world.

If you fish only a few times a year, you must surely have been in a situation where you spotted a big fish cruising the margins of a lake, pond or stream. What was the first thing you did? Fumble around in your tackle box searching for that forgotten "incredible" lure that Uncle Wally promised "will always bring the big ones in," or start digging around in the good earth with your fingernails while lifting up old logs or much older rocks?

Why do I ask? Because if there is one bait that will get that big one to bite, it's more than likely a worm. Cursing the fact that you forgot (again!) to bring any with you, chances are you'd sell your own grandmother for one big lobbie that's not around when you really need it.

Many old-time Arizona anglers fish with live bait. Not only do such anglers choose live bait, but also they choose to use a particular kind more than any other. We're talking W-O-R-M-S. There are different species of worms, but the point is, when it comes to live fishing bait, many anglers who have been around the block once, twice, or in my case, thrice, sooner or later think of worms.

Rightly so, seeing as how fish of all kinds enjoy devouring worms for breakfast, lunch or dinner. An angler would be hard pressed to find a fish that doesn't appreciate a tasty worm dangling in front of it.

Types Of Fishing Worms

The *dendrobaena* are the most popular worms used by anglers. They are lively,

See **WORM** on page 8

AT LAKE POWELL

Warming Days Bring Good Fishing

By Wayne Gustaveson

My optimism about great expectations for fishing success in 2010 was given a boost by the catch of a big striper in early March. Dale Barsness from Duck Creek, Utah, was casting for stripers in Navajo Canyon using a deep diving Norman DD22 lure in 20 feet of murky water.

Barsness and friend Bart found a school of willing 4-pound stripers and proceeded to catch fish quickly for an hour while the school was active. They caught 40 fish of which they kept 20 to eat, releasing the rest.

The exciting news was that one of the fish Barsness brought in was 36 inches long and estimated to weigh 15-20 pounds. Unfortunately, he was not able to get an accurate reading on his hand-held fish scale. He measured the fish at 36 inches.

From my personal past experience in handling many Lake Powell striped bass, that length equates to a weight of 16-18 pounds. The weight is not of great importance, in that Barsness had enough fish to eat, so he took a picture of the big fish and released it to grow some more. The important question now becomes, how big will this fish be when it is caught once more?

The big fish was swimming with a school of smaller stripers. The pattern was typical for spring at Lake Powell. Look for murky water with a bottom depth of 20-30 feet. Murky water warms faster than clear water.

With storm fronts moving through each week during March, it has been important to fish on a warm afternoon without wind for best success. Cold-blooded fish respond quickly to a warm spot. They can feel it and will stay in the warmer water when possible.

Sun beating on a rock wall warms the water and draws fish. Wind mixes the water and displaces any warming that has occurred.

Seek out protected canyons where wind action is minimal for best fishing results. When a school of stripers is located, enjoy the moment. Maybe one of the group will be larger than the rest. With forage populations being high the past few years, there will likely be more big striped bass caught in 2010.

Largemouth bass will be caught on the same pattern using the same strategy. The difference is that bass will be in the brush near the wall while striped bass will be over the submerged creek channel. But both species will be in the warmer pro-



UP FOR GRABS — Fishing season is officially open at Lake Powell. Dale Barsness, Duck Creek, Utah, opened it in style by catching a 36-inch striped bass that weighed about 16-18 pounds. The weight is a guess because Barsness released the fish to swim again. Maybe you can catch it; it's still up for grabs!

tected zone of colored water out of the wind.

Find a flat rock with a direct southern exposure that may collect the sun's heat and transmit that into the water. Use a thermometer to fine tune the fishing experi-

ence. Main channel temperature is now near 50 degrees. Seek a warm cove that exceeds 53 degrees for best success.

Don't neglect the main channel right

See **FISHING** on page 9

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TIGHT LINES™

WORM

Continued from page 7

wriggle like no other fishing worm (and by doing so, attract a variety of fish species), and can survive in cool waters for a long time.

Small *dendrobeana* worms are ideal for pond and small stream fishing. Medium-size ones attract carp, big bream, catfish, crappie and good-size perch. Bass of all types and sizes seem to be forever hungry for *dendrobeanas*.

The best thing about this type of fishing worm is that they are easy to care for, provided they are kept in a good-size container that has air holes and moist bedding, and are kept out of direct sunlight. If properly attended to, *dendrobeana* worms can easily survive for two weeks.

Lobworms are the biggest fishing worms around and are often found in home gardens. When skillet-size fish are your target, lobbies, also known as nightcrawlers, are an ideal bait.

Wherever you find receding floodwaters, fish enthusiastically seek out this worm. Those fish include perch, carp, bream, bass and catfish. Red fishing worms are smaller than *dendrobeana* and make ideal bait for perch, carp and bream.

Acquiring And Keeping Worms

Live bait can be purchased at most bait shops or, better still, an angler can get out of the house and find his or her own. Compare the cost of losing one worm to losing one artificial lure, and you'll quickly realize that fishing with live bait is far less expensive than fishing with lures.

Catching worms to use as fish bait isn't difficult. Nightcrawlers thrive in warm, moist earth or other areas where compost is abundant. Nightcrawlers come out most often at night (surprise!) and can be located using a dim light source such as a

flashlight with a plastic cover.

Look for nightcrawlers under vegetation, around compost piles and any place that is damp. When you locate one, grasp and pull upwards using gentle pressure until the worm is dislodged from its hole.

The best way to keep live worms alive is with compost or peat mixed with dirt. Using 1/3rd amount of dirt and 2/3rds-peat or compost mixture works fine in a 3 by 2 by 2-foot box. An angler can keep 500 nightcrawlers in a box that size. Cool and damp are the keys to keeping healthy worms healthy.

Ice cubes are a must when transporting worms on an extended Arizona fishing trip. Try this on your next outdoor adventure: In the center of a bait box, clear a space in the bedding.

Next, fill a glass jar with ice cubes, screw the top back on and put in a plastic bag. Then, place the container in the center of the box and push bedding soil around it. The ice will keep the soil cool and moist; it will stay that way until the cubes melt. In hot weather, worms will crowd around the jar.

Fishing With Worms

For some anglers, the technique used for fishing with worms never changes. Many grab a worm and thread it onto a large hook, or they hook a worm over and over, creating a worm ball. Many anglers have traditionally used such techniques when fishing with worms as bait.

And, because fish enjoy devouring tasty worms, the method certainly works well for catching some fish. But, do keep in mind: To present a worm in a completely natural way not only means more fish caught, but also means catching bigger fish that fit ever-so-nicely into a skillet.

How does one go about presenting a

See WORM on page 9

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TIGHT LINES™

Trout Season Wraps-Up, Now It's Catfish Catchin'

From AZGFD

Urban lake water temperatures are rising into the 60s, signaling the annual stocking changeover from winter trout to spring catfish.

The most recent trout delivery was the ninth one of the season, concluding a very successful stocking season. A real bonus this year was the larger sizes of the stocked trout that are a result of an excellent growing season at our Colorado vendor's hatcheries.

Trout are stocked into lakes at rates of 50 to 80 fish per lake surface acre. For Payson's Green Valley Lakes, trout stockings will continue every two weeks until the middle of May.

All lakes and ponds in the Phoenix and Tucson areas will be stocked with 15-20 inch channel catfish on Thursday, March

25. Beginning with the spring season kick-off stocking, catfish will be stocked eight times through early July at rates averaging from 40 to 60 fish per acre.

Nearly 14,000 pounds of Arkansas farm-raised catfish will be delivered and stocked into 20 Urban Fishing Program lakes every two weeks by Mr. Fish, our outstanding fish contractor.

Bluegill Stocking Happening Now

Twice each year, the Department stocks 5-8 inch bluegill into all Urban Fishing Program waters to replenish this popular sport fish and offer some great fishing opportunity for young anglers. A delivery of bluegill began March 15 and continues through March 20.

Over 18,000 of the feisty, hard-biting sunfish are being stocked at rates of 90-150 fish per acre across 20 waters. Daily

bag limits for sunfish (includes bluegill and redear sunfish) are 10 per day at Urban Lakes or five per day at Urban Ponds. Best baits for bluegill are meal worms or worms fished 2-4 feet under a small bobber.

Urban Fishing Report

Typically, March offers the best time of the year to fish your nearby park lakes for trout, sunfish, bass and catfish. Good fishing for trout will continue through the month as all lakes have received their final stockings.

Fish stockings at Tucson's Lakeside Lake will resume with a large load of trout. Most trout are falling for Power Bait fished on the bottom. Other good baits include worms, corn and salmon eggs.

The cool morning hours are the best times to target the trout. As waters warm,

try fishing for largemouth bass that are now moving closer to shore.

Regulations require that all bass under 13 inches must be released unharmed immediately. Bluegill are still being stocked through March 20 in all lakes to bolster populations of these popular and fun-to-catch sunfish species.

Try worms, meal worms or cheese fished under a small bobber. Reports keep coming in of anglers catching catfish, even though it has been nearly four months since the last cats were stocked. Speaking of catfish, the catfish stocking has been at all Phoenix and Tucson area Urban waters.

Excellent trout fishing is reported at Payson's Green Valley lakes. Best bets for these pine country trout are Power Bait, corn and worms. Some success has been found by anglers using spinners, small spoons and nymph and wet fly patterns.

WORM

Continued from page 8

live worm in a natural manner? By using gang hooks, which are two small hooks tied in tandem. Gang hooks are the ideal way to present a live worm to fish. Because the hooks are smaller, they are less visible to fish, and because they are smaller, many fish are more tempted to bite.

If you use live fishing bait, especially worms, gang hooks should be a part of your fishing arsenal. Gone are the days of simply threading a worm onto a hook, or creating a worm ball. Using large hooks and threading a worm onto them is a fishing cliché.

When fishing with worms, place the hooks through the center of the large band located approximately 2/3rds the way up on a worm's body. The band will appear as a ring of flesh separating the lower portion of the worm from the upper part.

You can, of course, use a bobber when fishing with worms, with the bobber placed 18 to 36 inches above the hook. Some anglers let out about 10 feet of line and then gently toss the hooked worm under a large tree overlooking the water,

boat dock, or other shaded cover.

Another Wormy Consideration

Many anglers using worms as bait employ techniques similar to what they used when they were kids. For example, consider the act of carrying worms with you while fishing for bass, catfish, crappie or carp.

Many anglers buy a cheap cardboard container full of worms at a bait shop and then carry it with them for hours on end while fishing ever-so-hopefully for supper. This technique, while seemingly logical, is inefficient and can result in used-up, unsightly worm containers being left all along lakes, ponds and streams.

Today, an o-so-stylish worm bait bag that can be purchased in many sporting good stores can be used to carry live bait.

An angler, just before starting to fish, simply removes worms from a cardboard container and places them in the bait bag.

Using this technique, fishing worms are literally at one's fingertips all the time, thereby eliminating the need to carry throwaway containers. Have Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren or Tommy Hilfiger given thought to designing a fashionably hip worm bait bag? Probably not, but there's always the possibility.

Fool 'Em, Fry 'Em

When you hit an Arizona lake, stream or pond, do you want to fool fish time and again and then finish the day off with a delicious fish fry? Then make certain to bring along worms.

Many anglers, myself included, begin their fishing careers with these noodles of fish-attracting wonder. But, for some

strange reason, many people move on and mature (whatever that means), and, before you know it, the miraculous, incredible worm is cast aside in favor of a mind-blowing array of plastics, flies, plugs, and whatever else is the "in" fishing thing today.

Can an angler catch more fish in a day using artificial fishing lures? Maybe. Maybe not. In many instances, where we're inclined to cast fancy lures on the water, fish, when they are hungry, are really seeking delicious earthworms.

You may just find there is no better way to fill up a cooking skillet than fish that have been reeled in on a worm.

Mary Syrett is a freelance writer, photographer, cook and avid angler. Her e-mail is msyrett@earthlink.net

FISHING


Continued from page 7

now. Smallmouth bass are in the depths, seeking stable temperatures, but when the afternoon sun warms a shallow crack or small inlet in the cliffs, the clear water will warm and smallmouth will move up into the shallows to enjoy the moment.

Fishing success now will follow the temperature. Warm days will bring good fishing. Cold days will require really good fishermen to make fish bite.

Both experiences will be fun when surrounded by beautiful Lake Powell.

At press time, lake elevation was 3619, and water temperature 49-51F.



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Margie Anderson, Editor

Game Bag

Write On Target

Arizona Hunting/Fishing Licenses Are Available Online Again

They're back: Arizona hunting and fishing licenses are available online once again.

It's simple and easy: Just visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site at www.azgfd.gov to decide what license or license package suits you or your family best, and make the online purchase using your Visa or MasterCard from the convenience of your own home or office.

"It's been a long time coming. But the timing is superb for hunting and fishing conditions," said Game and Fish Deputy Director Bob Broscheid. "Our interior lakes are filling and spilling. There's a lush green-up in the desert low lands. Plus we have a tremendous snow pack in the high country."

There is a \$1.50 Internet fee for buying your license online — the fee actually pays for the service. Be sure to have a printer handy; you must physically print out the license you purchase online (color or black and white will work).

If you need a little help while purchasing the license online, there is telephone assistance available during normal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. business hours Monday through Friday by calling (602) 942-3000.



There are lots of hunting and fishing license options available, including some exceptional deals on Family Licenses, so be sure to shop online at Buy a License for the license package that works best for you.

You will also find lots of online help deciding where to go on your hunting or fishing adventures.

The Game and Fish Department's Web site is full of where-to and how-to fishing and hunting information. In fact, you can even subscribe to the weekly fishing report or the Hunter Highlights e-news products and have them delivered directly to your computer.

Agency officials pointed out that the online license sales and other online services were suspended almost three years



ago due to workload difficulties the former vendor experienced during the online big game draw process. There is no projected date for when the online hunt draw process will be available online once again, although agency officials are actively work-

ing on the issue.

The Game and Fish Department operates on revenue-driven "user pay, user benefit" business model and relies on non-tax dollars — it receives no tax money from the state's general fund.

Hunting, Fishing Heritage: A Plus for U.S. Olympic Shooters

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.—Every four years, the U.S. fields an Olympic shooting team known worldwide for achieving success in a most un-contemporary way — a rich and distinctly American background in traditional field sports.

Coaches say hunting and fishing, still the primary funding mechanisms for conservation in our country, also help boost America's competitiveness on the international stage.

In recognition, the entire USA Shooting Team is serving as honorary chair of National Hunting and Fishing Day 2010, set for Sept. 25. Congress established the annual commemoration to recognize hunters and anglers for their leading role in fish, wildlife and habitat conservation.

More Than \$1.75 Billion Per Year

Sporting licenses and special taxes on certain gear generate \$100,000 every 30

minutes, totaling more than \$1.75 billion per year, for programs that benefit all who love the outdoors.

Denise Wagner of Wonders of Wildlife, the official home of NHF Day in Springfield, Mo., said, "American hunters and anglers are not only world-class conservationists; they have skills that help make world-class athletes." National Shotgun Coach Bret Erickson agrees.

"Most members of our shooting team grew up hunting and fishing," said Erickson, himself a four-time Olympian and lifelong hunter and angler from Bennington, Neb.

"Nobody starts hunting because they want to go to the Olympics, but it helps. The skills learned in hunting and, to a lesser degree, fishing—safety and comfort with firearms, basic shooting mechanics, patience, controlling emotions, concentration, ability to focus for long periods, persistence—can translate directly to competitive shooting."

A Fierce Contender

This deep and unrivaled connection to outdoor traditions helps make the U.S. a surprisingly fierce contender in all three shooting disciplines: shotgun, rifle and pistol.

Erickson explained, "In many countries, Italy for example, shotgun shooting is a premier sport. Everyone shoots. And, they shoot the international-style games that are relatively uncommon here in America."

"So, before a match even begins we know we're outnumbered and outmanned. Our athletes typically haven't had as much time in their sport. Our training budgets are often smaller. And yet, in shotgun events, the U.S. remains among the top one or two countries in the world."

He added, "Most nations don't enjoy the broad freedoms to hunt like we do in the U.S., and that unique tradition and rural lifestyle produce much of our talent. Hunters have always been a reservoir of natural shooting abilities that America has relied on and successfully developed for Olympic competition."

Decorated Athletes

Shooters are among the most decorated athletes in U.S. Olympic history. With 103 medals for shotgun, rifle and pistol marksmanship, only track and field, swimming, diving, wrestling and boxing have been



more prolific medal producers for Americans.

In fact, shooting ranks ahead of gymnastics, figure skating, volleyball and more than 30 other Olympic sports.

Buddy DuVall of USA Shooting, the national governing body for Olympic shooting sports, said, "Our team is thrilled to serve for National Hunting and Fishing Day. It's a great honor to recognize our roots in hunting and fishing, raise awareness of conservation and build appreciation for the sportsmen and women of America."

A Long List

The USA Shooting Team joins a long list of sports personalities who have served as honorary chair of NHF Day. Baseball stars have included Ron Guidry, Tom Seaver, George Brett and Wade Boggs. Football pros Bert Jones, Terry Bradshaw, John Riggins and Jay Novacek, along with golfers Tom Weiskopf, Johnny Miller, Arnold Palmer and Tom Lehman have also served.

Basketball legend John Havlicek, NASCAR's Ward Burton and tennis champion Roscoe Tanner round out the sports heroes who have helped spread the word about hunting, angling and conservation.

Since launching in 1972, NHF Day has been formally proclaimed by every U.S. President.

The growing list of sponsors for NHF Day 2010 includes Wonders of Wildlife, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Bass Pro Shops, Smith & Wesson, Sportsman Channel, Realtree, Cabela's, GunBroker.com, Yamaha, and Pope and Young Club.

Five Reasons Why Boats Sink In The Springtime

(Plus Commissioning Checklist Continued On Web Site)

It's a sad fact: Every spring, shortly after being launched and commissioned for the season, boats sink while safely tied up at the dock, turning what should be a good time of the year into a real mess. BoatUS' *Seaworthy* magazine, which combs through the BoatUS marine insurance claims files for important accident trends or lessons to learn, has identified the top five reasons for springtime sinkings, and created a free spring commissioning checklist to help boaters start the season right.

Main Causes Of Spring Sinkings

Missing or damaged hose clamps: These clamps are often removed in the fall to winterize the engine, and then forgotten about in the spring when the boat is launched. Tight spaces in engine compartments make it difficult to see some unsecured or deteriorated clamps.

Unsecured engine hoses: Over the winter, freezing water can lift hoses off seacocks (valves).

Spring rains: Combine heavy rains with leaking ports, deck hatches, cracked or improperly caulked fittings, chain plates and even scuppers clogged by leaves and your boat could be on the bottom soon.

Broken sea strainer: Glass, plastic and even bronze strainer bowls can be cracked or bent over the winter if not properly winterized, allowing water trickle in when the seawater intake seacock is in the open position.

Leaking stuffing box: If equipped, a steady drip from an improperly adjusted stuffing box (the "packing" around the prop shaft) has been known to swamp a boat.

Spring Commissioning Checklist

Before you launch —

- Inspect and lubricate seacocks.
- Hose clamps should be inspected and

replaced as necessary. Double clamping hose connections with marine-rated stainless hose clamps, or keeping seacocks closed when you are away, are wise moves.

- Inspect cooling hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking. Make sure they fit snugly.

- Replace deteriorated sacrificial anodes.

- Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure. Grip the prop and try moving the shaft - if it's loose, the cutlass bearing (on inboard drive systems) may need to be replaced.

- Check to make sure the rudderstock hasn't been bent.

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

- Make sure your engine intake sea strainer is not cracked or bent from ice, is free of corrosion, clean and properly secured.

- With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for looseness. A stuffing box should only leak when the prop shaft is turning, and needs to be inspected routinely.

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

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

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

Engine Outdrives and Outboards

- Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds), and replace if suspect.

Editor's Note: See continuation of this story on www.azbw.com. There is further information there on engine outdrives and outboards, engines and fuel systems, sailboat rigging, trailers, and more.



Curtis Clark

Coming Soon To A Park Near You

GET OUTDOORS!

County's Regional Parks Open For Business

As the fate of state and city parks continue to dominate headlines, the vitality of Maricopa County's park system has gone seemingly unnoticed. While Arizona State Parks staff prepare for looming closures, Maricopa County park staff respond to local and out-of-state residents who are eager to find out what will happen to the county's park system this spring and into the future.

"Out of respect for our sister agencies, we've tried to avoid touting the fact that all of the county parks are still open for business. However, we're discovering that our silence is feeding rumors that we're closing and further confusing visitors," stated R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director.

"There's no denying times are tough and we've all had to make deep cuts. While we empathize deeply with these agencies, we still have a responsibility to our customers and need to make sure that they know the county parks are open for business and are ready to provide visitors with services, programs and resources to connect with nature."

Over the past two years, Maricopa County's Parks and Recreation Department has experienced a 62 percent budget cut, which has resulted in postponed capital improvement projects, reductions in staff and stretched operating budgets. Although the department has taken a huge hit, Cardin continues to assure visitors that the system is structurally sound and does not anticipate closing parks.

With over 120,000 acres of pristine Sonoran desert, Maricopa County's park system is one of the largest regional park systems in the United States. There are ten parks in the County's park system that circle the metropolitan area and are within a 45-minute drive from downtown Phoenix.

Parks include —

- Cave Creek Regional Park,
- Estrella Mountain Regional Park,
- Lake Pleasant Regional Park,
- McDowell Mountain Regional Park,
- San Tan Mountain Regional Park,
- Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area,
- Usery Mountain Regional Park, and
- White Tank Mountain Regional Park

Each park offers a wide range of educational programming opportunities and trails for hiking, mountain biking or horseback riding.

"Right now, we're preparing for what we hope will be an impressive wildflower season. During the spring, some of the most beautiful palettes of blues, yellows and reds found in the Sonoran desert are in the County parks," Cardin added.

"We're also putting the final touches on several large scale events such as the *Day of the Spanish Horse* at Estrella and the *Dam Good Run* at Lake Pleasant."

The park entry fee is \$6 per vehicle and includes use of the facilities and most programming opportunities. Revenue generated from entrance fees is used to operate and maintain the parks. For additional information on Maricopa County's park system, contact (602) 506-2930 or visit www.maricopa.gov/parks.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!

Come To Verde Valley For A 'Feather Festival'

Publisher's/Editor's Note: At the suggestion of our mother Margie Allen of Rosciada, New Mexico, AZBW/WOT will be including more coverage of Arizona birds and bird-watching opportunities.

The 2010 Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival is celebrating its 10th Anniversary April 22 through 25 at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood. Registration is now under way. Although some most popular trips have already filled up, there are still many available, so make your plans and register now for the events you want. It's an excellent destination for RVers.

Our keynote speaker this year is Bill Thompson III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest* and a truly fun and entertaining speaker. His talk on "The Perils and Pitfalls of Birding" is a humorous narrative about the many mistakes, accidents, and embarrassing situations Thompson has experienced in his 30+ years as a bird watcher.

The reception is held at the Cottonwood Civic Center in Old Town on Friday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Tickets are available at the door for \$15.

Special Events Each Day

Other special guests include Rod "Bird Man" Villemare, creator of a national bird rescue network, trainer and educator. He brings his trained feathered friends to the Free Family Nature Fair on Saturday of the event along with kids' activities, games and exhibitors.

On Sunday we will be offering a Lunch and Learn with Villemare as he shares his knowledge of caring for and training pet birds. We are also pleased to have Rich



Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival

BIRD THE VERDE — The 2010 Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival is celebrating its 10th Anniversary April 22 through 25 at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood. This is an extraordinary festival, with something for everyone — from birding beginners to experts, lovers of nature and lovers of learning. Visit www.birdyverde.org for more information.

Bailowitz, world-renowned butterfly and dragonfly expert. He will be offering a workshop and leading a field trip in search of these flying jewels.

In order to "give back" to the environments we explore during this event, we have added a short clean-up opportunity during the Fossil Creek Field Trip. As usual, the group will be driven to the creek for excellent birding and a box lunch. We will leave the area better than we found it by picking up any trash we encounter.

Continue On The Train

Luxury more your style? You can still

sign up for the First Class on the Verde Canyon Railroad trip. This year the Verde Canyon RR is celebrating their 20th Anniversary as the Festival celebrates its 10th.

They will host an open house by Liberty Wildlife at the station at 11a.m. on Thursday. This beautiful canyon is only accessible by railroad or on foot, but the trip offers you a seat in a luxury train car furnished with soft couches and edible treats.

You can join a local naturalist on the open gondola car where natural and man-

See **FESTIVAL** on page 12

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[LAND CRUISING]



FESTIVAL

Continued from page 11

made features will be pointed out along the way. Black-hawk and bald eagle nests in the canyon and are often seen from the train.

This year Pink Jeep of Sedona is supplying their very special Trekker to carry passengers on the Gap Creek. If the birding and scenery wasn't spectacular enough, riding in these luxury high clearance vehicles is a treat in itself.

Yes, Birding — And More

It's not just birding. There are also trips available to explore the geology of the Flagstaff Volcanic Fields, or the Verde Valley, all with knowledgeable guides who will describe to you the processes that created the amazing and unique areas of central and northern Arizona.

The festival also offers workshops that expand the learning experience. Subjects include desert plants, success stories of the condors and black-footed ferrets in Arizona, dragonflies, the basics of binocular use, and *There's a Bear in My Backyard*,

which talks about dealing with wild creatures near our homes.

Let's not forget the vendors who will be offering birding supplies, art and the opportunity to try out optics before you buy at the Birdy Bazaar. Exhibitors display interesting information, Game & Fish will have live birds and critters, and it's all free and open to the public.

Something For Everyone

This is an extraordinary festival, with something for everyone — from birding beginners to experts, lovers of nature and lovers of learning. Saturday is a free "Family Nature Fair" with activities for children and parents alike.

Go to www.birdyverde.org and you'll find more information about all the planned field trips, workshops, seminars and more. Remember, events are filling quickly, so register as soon as possible to insure that spaces will be available. Stop by the Cottonwood Chamber for a booklet or to register.

Call Barbie at (928) 282-2202 for more information.



Off-Highway Vehicle Fund Monies Are Now Ready To Help

In 2009 the Arizona Legislature authorized a new Off-Highway Vehicle "Sticker Fund" which started collecting fees in January 2009. This new Off-Highway Vehicle Fund is generated by a \$25 fee for an indicia that is attached to the license plates of all-terrain vehicles and other types of smaller off-highway motorized vehicles. This new fund now has accumulated \$309,000 for projects.

These monies will help manage recreational activity on Arizona's public lands by motorized vehicles. The Arizona State Parks-OHV Recreation Fund (gas taxes) historically have been used to print an OHV map guide, provide riding facilities, OHV education, trail signage, rural maps, mitigation and enforcement on trails.

This new "Sticker Fund" will provide funding for projects that meet the legislative requirements and priorities established in the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Plan. In the first phase of the program, priority projects will be funded and built to meet the heavy demand of off-highway vehicle users in Arizona. A new feature of this program is that there are no application deadlines. Project applications will be accepted by the State Parks Board and reviewed periodically as funds become available.

The second phase of the grant program, open in the fall, will seek projects involving historical and cultural clearance and compliance near trails. And finally, the fund applications will be available for education projects/programs and long-term funding arrangements with managers of OHV use areas.

State Parks develops the OHV recreation plan every five years with input from land managing agency staff, OHV user organizations, individual OHV users, and the general public. The 2010 State Trails Plan can be found on the State Parks website:

See MONIES on page 19

SUPER RAFFLE

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Port of San Diego

DAY AT THE DOCKS®

It's Fun! & It's Free!

Sunday, April 18th, 2010: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
San Diego Sportfishing Landings in Point Loma

It's All About San Diego Sportfishing

This is the 31st year the San Diego Sportfishing Council has sponsored its special showcase of San Diego sportfishing. We hope you'll take this opportunity to join us and discover a bit more of what the Port of San Diego holds for you. Here's what's happening this year:

- Fishing Seminars
- Kid's Fishing Adventure
- Catch, Prep & Cook Center
- Casting Contests
- Izorline Knot Competition
- Fishing Videos
- Boat Rides Around The Bay

- Gourmet Galley
- Hot Tackle
- Lots of Boats
- Marine Art
- Open House on the Boats in the Fleet
- Entertainment All Day on Stage

Come join in the fun and help us celebrate the season's official start! There's plenty more to see and do at The Port of San Diego's Day At The Docks 2010. We hope to see you there on April 18th and often through the Year 2010 season.

Many thanks to our event Sponsors, including:

DOWNSTREAM™ Events Calendar Beginning Mid-March 2010

BEYOND ARIZONA

DAY AT THE DOCKS: April 18 — Sportfishing landings, Point Loma, San Diego; (619) 234-8791

WHITE SEABASS & HALIBUT TOURNAMENT: May 21-22 — Santa Catalina; United Anglers/Western Outdoor News

CABO MARINE SHOW: April 16-17 — Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; <http://cabo-marineshow.com/>

BOATING

TEMPE TOWN LAKE OUTRIGGER CANOE ASSOCIATION REGATTA: April 10, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. — www.tempe-outrigger.net/

TALL CACTUS RACE: April 24 — Humbug Cove, Lake Pleasant; Arizona Yacht Club

DESERT STORM: April 21-25 — Annual poker run at Lake Havasu; www.lakeracer.com

SCSC SPRING POWERBOAT CLASSIC: April 17-18 — BlueWater Resort & Casino; Parker, Ariz.; (928) 669-6511; www.parkerareatourism.com

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL: March 27-28 — Tempe Town Lake; www.azdba.com

U.S.C.G. AUXILIARY 2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE (NACON): Aug. 24 — Marriott Camelback Inn, Scottsdale; Tom Nunes: (602) 617-1979, tomnunes1@gmail.com, <http://www.news.auxpa.org/>

HIGH SCHOOL SAILING: School year — Tuesday afternoons; (480) 948 3814; <http://www.arizonayachtclub.org/Education/hsclass.shtml>

AZ YACHT CLUB MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of every month 7 p.m. — 19th Tee, Rolling Hills Golf Course, 1415 N. Mill Ave., Tempe; www.arizonayachtclub.org

PORTSMOUTH (SMALL BOATS) SAILING: Nearly every Saturday, 2 p.m. — Tempe Town Lake; check the AYC Web site calendar

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).

SAFETY TIPS FOR BOATERS: Ongoing — Visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/news/releases.asp> before you go.

HIGH SCHOOL SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP: April 17 — Tempe Town Lake; Arizona Yacht Club

CAMPING/RVING/ AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

For more information on camping, RVing, outdoor activities, see "Land Cruising" in each issue of AZBW/WOT.

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

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN: April 9-11 — Camp Friendly Pines, Prescott; (480) 644-0077 or www.azwildlife.org

CLASSES/SEMINARS

AZGFD, CG AUXILIARY, PHOENIX POWER SQUADRON BOATING CLASSES: Ongoing

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY NAS-BLA COURSE: March 20, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. — AZGFD headquarters building; Ed Huntsman (602) 363-9395; a second class will be held on March 27 at Cabella's in Glendale.

COMMUNITY

BARROW NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE DAY ON THE LAKE: May 30-31; Bartlett Lake Marina; seeking participants

RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENT 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS: Through May 30 — Events throughout the spring until May 30; visit their Web site for schedule and details.

PHOENIX SISTER CITIES WORLD FEST: March 26-28 — For more information, please call 602-534-3751

CHANNEL 8 BE MORE AWARDS: May — azpbs.org/bemore

ation are great ways to spend quality time with family and friends.

So you don't miss a thing, trolley transportation is available throughout the 1,650-acre shooting facility, which is located on Carefree Highway, 1/4 mile west of I-17.

Admission to the Expo and parking are free, but bring a little cash for snacks and drinks at the food court or to purchase ammunition (nominal fee) if you want try out firearms on the range.

us at the *Arizona Boating & Watersports/Western Outdoor Times* booth. We'll be there!

See page 12 of this issue for complete information on Day at the Docks 2010.

HOMELESS PROGRAM NEEDS: Ongoing — new underwear, socks, sun screen, razors, feminine hygiene products, hats and backpacks; e-mail I-Help for more details: ihelp@tempeaction.org.

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

RAISING MONEY FOR ANIMALS: Ongoing — Heather L. James-Davis; www.azanimalassistance.com

ARIZONA GAME & FISH WEBCAST RE: HERITAGE FUND: On-demand viewing — Considers impacts to the state if it were to be lost; available at www.azgfd.gov/heritagefund.

FISHING

For more information on fishing, please see "Tight Lines" in each issue of AZBW/WOT.

DAY AT THE DOCKS: April 18 — Sportfishing landings, Point Loma, San Diego; (619) 234-8791

ARIZONA FLYCASTERS CLUB MEETINGS: Second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. — Sunnyslope Community Center; <http://www.azflycasters.org>

SRT BASS PHOENIX CHAPTER MEETINGS: Ongoing — Shake, Rattle & Troll Bass Club; volunteers needed; new members (boaters and non-boaters), families, children, friends are welcome; (623) 221-7655

HUNTING

For more information on hunting, please see "Game Bag: Write On Target" in each issue of AZBW/WOT.

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY: Sept. 25 — Wonders of Wildlife, Springfield, Mo.; www.nhfd.org

SHOWS/EXPOS

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT EXPO: March 27-28 — Ben Avery Shooting Facility 602-942-3000 or www.azgfd.gov/expo

PHOENIX BOAT AND RV SHOW: March 26-27 — Arizona State Fairgrounds; www.greenband.com

ICAST 2010: July 14-16 — Las Vegas Convention Center; www.ICASTfishing.org

ATHLETES

Continued from page 1

rience and an even greater story. The unsuccessful reporter will receive a visit to the bottom of the pool!

The Arizona Desert Dolphins Synchronized Swim Team, in conjunction with the 2010 Synch into Spring Water-show, issues a formal challenge to any and all media outlets to try synchronized swimming (under the close supervision of lifeguards, of course). Swimming alongside participants will be several local top-rated athletes.

Even the most confident reporter who scoffs at any athletic event that does not involve helmets or physical contact will become a new person after swallowing a few gallons of water. Just ask Matt Lauer

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 Diving & Sports, 908 E. Impala Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480) 507-3988 or sales@saguarosports.com

Frozen Watersports:

ARIZONA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: March 20-21 — Arizona Snowbowl; ski and snowboard races for all levels; (928) 773-9707 or www.flagstaffskiclub.org

MINI CURLING LEAGUE: March 20, 27, April 3, 9-10 p.m. — carlnelson@coyotescurling.com

ANNUAL DESERT ICE BONSPIEL: April 23-25 — Alltel Ice Den, Scottsdale; 24 curling teams from Canada and the U.S. will participate in the tournament; www.coyotescurling.com

Swimming:

HOLUALOA TUCSON TRIATHOLON: March 21, 6:30 a.m. — Includes 825-yard pool swim; www.tritucson.com

USAT COLLEGIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIATHLON/ANNUAL LAKE HAVASU TRIATHLON: March 20, 6:45 a.m. — Includes 1,500-meter swim; www.tucsonracing.com

WILDLIFE-RELATED

VERDE VALLEY BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL: April 22-25 — Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood; www.birdyverde.org

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 15th 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 a contact number and/or e-mail address

EXPO

Continued from page 1

and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services.

This is a great event to experience or learn more about the amazing outdoor recreational opportunities in Arizona. Activities such as camping, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, shooting sports, off-highway vehicle recreation and boating recre-

DOCKS

Continued from page 1

you'll take this opportunity to come west and discover a bit more of what the Port of San Diego has to offer.

While you're there, please come see



AT THE AZGFD EXPO

Bone-Up On Boating Safety

LIFE JACKETS

Wear Them And Live!

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

All life jackets must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.

In addition to the above requirements, **vessels 16 feet in length or longer**, except a canoe or kayak, **must have on Type IV**

USCG Approved Flotation Devices				
USCG Type I	USCG Type II	USCG Type III	USCG Type IV	USCG Type V

USCG-approved throwable flotation device on board and readily accessible.

All children 12 years of age and younger must wear a USCG-approved Type I, II, III life jacket while underway **on any vessel**. The life jacket must be fastened according to the manufacturer's recommended use and must fit the child properly.

Each person on a personal watercraft such as a jet ski must wear a USCG-ap-

proved Type I, II, III life jacket and all closures must be fastened and secured according to the manufacturer's design or recommended use and must be adjusted for a snug fit.

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

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

You May Not Realize You Are Being Killed

Carbon monoxide poisoning is also known as the "silent killer." It is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is very toxic even in small quantities.

It is produced when a carbon fuel such as gasoline or diesel is burned.

Carbon monoxide disperses freely through the air and will travel readily throughout a boat. It is discharged as engine, generator, or appliance exhaust may re-enter your boat through any opening.

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

Protect yourself from the silent killer and download and take with you the carbon monoxide brochure from the Arizona Game & Fish Department's Web site.

Boat Fires Require Quick Response, Ready Extinguishers

Fires can be extremely dangerous in a marine environment due to limited response time, indication of situation and the containment of high temperature burns. It is important to know how to respond to the complications presented by boat fires.

Today, a number of fire extinguishers and fire suppressant systems are available to combat this dilemma whether you are present to activate them or not.

Fire Extinguisher Coding System

The universal coding is depicted in a pictorial manner along with an alphameric class designation:

[A] Wood, paper, cloth, trash, plastics, solid combustible materials that are not metals. (Class A fires generally leave an Ash.)

[B] Flammable liquids: gasoline, oil, grease, and acetone, any non-metal in a liquid state, on fire. This classification also includes flammable gases. (Class B fires generally involve materials that Boil or Bubble.)

[C] Electrical: energized electrical equipment, as long as it's "plugged in," it would be considered a class C fire. (Class C fires generally deal with electrical Current.)

[D] Metals: potassium (K), sodium (Na), aluminum (Al), magnesium (Mg).

Since all fire extinguishers inhibit fire at the fuel-oxygen inter-

See **EXTINGUISHERS** on page 17

Renew Online

Renew your vessel registration online at www.azgfd.gov/watercraft. There you will find links to renew your registration online, boating fees, rules and regulations, forms, and facts (FAQs).

For questions call (602) 940-3000.



IT'S THE LAW: REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Visual Distress Signals (VDSs)

Visual Distress Signals (VDSs) allow vessel operators to signal for help in the event of an emergency.

Vessels on federally controlled waters must be equipped with visual distress signals that are U.S. Coast Guard—approved, in serviceable condition, and readily accessible.

All vessels, regardless of length or type, are required to carry night signals when operating between sunset and sunrise. Most vessels must carry day signals also; exceptions to the requirement for day signals are:

- Recreational vessels that are less than 16 feet in length
- Non-motorized open sailboats that are less than 26 feet in length
- Manually propelled vessels

If pyrotechnic VDSs are used, a minimum of three must be carried in the vessel. Also, pyrotechnic VDSs must be dated and may not be carried past their expiration date.

The following combinations of signals are examples of VDSs that could be carried on board to satisfy U.S. Coast Guard requirements:

- Three handheld red flares (day and night)
- One handheld red flare and two red meteors (day and night)
- One handheld orange smoke signal (day), two floating orange smoke signals

See **SIGNALS** on page 17

U.S. Coast Guard—Approved Visual Distress Signals

Pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signals



Orange Smoke:
Day Signal



Red Meteor:
Day and Night Signal



Red Flare:
Day and Night Signal

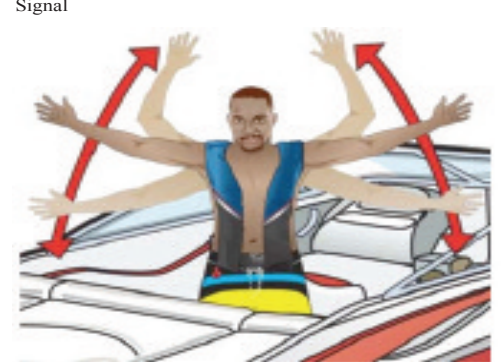
Non-Pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signals



Electric Light: Night Signal



Orange Flag: Day Signal



Arm Signal Although this signal does not meet VDS equipment requirements, wave your arms to summon help if you do not have other distress signals on board.

Your Best Chance To Learn About Boating Safely

From Ed Huntsman

Arizona Game & Fish Department

It's boating season again and one of the best ways to get ready is to take an "About Boating Safely" class from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The first is offered March 20 at the AZGFD headquarters, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, 55086. A second will be held March 27 at Cabellas, 9380 W. Glendale Ave., Glendale, 85305.

For reservations and more information, (602) 559-1440 or USCGAUX@Q.COM

IT'S THE LAW: ON THE WATER

'Unlawful And Dangerous Operation' Includes Many Points

Arizona law designates these dangerous operating practices as illegal.

Negligent or Reckless Operation of a vessel is operating in a manner that causes danger to others or their property, such as:

- Operating in a restricted area, such as a marked swimming area
- Operating while passenger(s) are positioned in the bow such that the operator's

view is obstructed

- Weaving through congested waterway traffic
- Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife
- Teak surfing or platform dragging

"No Wake Speed" or "Wakeless Speed" means a speed that does not create a wake and is never in excess of five miles per hour.

Speed Restrictions require the operator to maintain a proper speed while operating a vessel. Specifically, it is illegal to —

- Operate a vessel at speeds greater than are reasonable or proper given the existing waterway traffic, persons in the water, and weather conditions.



See **OPERATION** on page 17

WHERE ARE YOU FLOATING?

Before Going Out, File Your Plans

Before going out on a vessel, it is always a good idea to leave a float plan with a relative or friend, or at least with a local marina.

A float plan should —

- Describe the vessel, including its registration number, length, make, horsepower, and engine type.

• State where you are going, the detailed route, your planned departure time, and your expected return time.

• Give the name, address, and telephone number of each person on board and an emergency contact.

• Include the description and license plate of the tow vehicle and trailer, and tell where they will be located.

Notify the person who has your float plan when you return or if you decide to extend your time on the water.



57th ANNUAL ARIZONA BOAT & RV SHOW & SALE

www.greenband.com

March 26-28

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1-800-657-3050

*Must be accompanied by paid adult

Phone: 480-833-6561
Fax: 480-833-6508



CURLING (THE 'FROZEN WATERSPORT') — Due to the interest — especially after the Vancouver Olympics — shown by many regarding further curling opportunities, the Coyote Curling Club is offering a three-week mini-league for beginner curlers. The league, which began March 20, will run March 27 and April 3 from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. Teams consist of three or four beginner curlers and one Club curler. Games are four ends in length and standings are kept. The league winner will be invited to play one of our club teams in a regular eight-end game from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. on April 10. The deadline to secure a spot in the league has passed, but there is still a possibility that you might be able to participate and if not, at least to come to the Altet Ice Den in Scottsdale to observe and learn. Please send Carl Nelson any questions you may have at carlnelson@coyotecurling.com. Thank you and good curling. See you on the ice!

EXTINGUISHERS

Continued from page 14

face the force of the expellant should be directed at the base of the fire. This will effectively "coat" the fuel and reduce the burn.

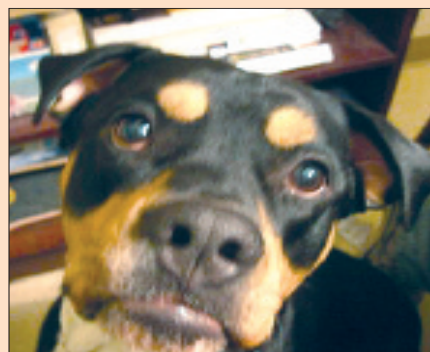
Safety on a boat is the number-one priority. Steps should always be taken to ensure the protection of its passengers and crew before expending effort on the fire: life-jackets should be donned, Coast Guard contacted, and other nearing vessels warned.

When confronting the fire, try to separate combustibles or obvious fire fuel if possible. With the gasses produced from plastics, fiberglass and foam found on many boats, you might have very little time before inhalation becomes a problem.

DO NOT spend large amounts of time trying to out think the fire. If you can, properly discharge the fire extinguisher and move on to safety issues. This is where a properly installed suppression system is ideal.

Manual or automatic, the system is

Good Company



PLEASE? — This is Slag. He needs a new home as his father person is being deployed and his mother person, who has to move, will not be able to take Slag with her. Slag, a rottie/lab mix, is three years old, weighs 85 pounds, is neutered, micro-chipped, up-to-date medically, is housebroken and crate-trained. Slag gets along with cats and female dogs; he has not been aggressive with humans. Please consider adopting Slag. If you need more information, contact Maggie Horning: (804) 920-0156 or maggiemorning@gmail.com.

OPERATION

Continued from page 14

- Exceed any posted speed limits.
- Operate a vessel at greater than "wakeless speed" in a posted no wake zone.
- Operate a vessel at speeds that may cause injury or damage to any other person, another vessel, or the property of others. This includes causing damage or danger from the wake of your vessel.

Riding on the Bow or Gunwales is allowing passengers to ride where there may be a chance of falling overboard while un-

derway at greater than "no wake speed" on a powerboat. Specifically, this means allowing passengers to ride on the covered bow, transom, swim step, or gunwales unless these are designed for carrying passengers at all speeds.

Overloading is loading the vessel beyond its safe carrying capacity or the recommended capacity shown on the capacity plate. Take into consideration the weather and other operating conditions when determining if the vessel is overloaded.

Failure To Follow Navigational Rules is operating a vessel in violation of the

ready to be triggered, leaving you time to deal with other safety issues. Systems that are automatic have the additional benefit of being triggered without going below deck or even being on the boat. These systems can also be installed with distribution hoses that deliver the needed retardant directly to the fire related incident.

Remember to have your fire extinguishers, suppressant systems and detectors checked regularly. It's also an important to keep those service tags attached and up to date.

navigational rules of Arizona waters.

- Specifically, operators of vessels —
- Must follow the navigational rules.
- **Must follow a counter-clockwise traffic flow.**
- Leaving shore must give way to approaching vessels.

An exception to these rules is waterways where power-driven vessels are prohibited.

SIGNALS

Continued from page 14

(day), and one electric light (night only)

It is prohibited to display visual distress signals while on the water unless assistance is required to prevent immediate or potential danger to persons on board a vessel.

VDSs are classified as day signals (visible in bright sunlight), night signals (visible at night), or both day and night signals. VDSs are either pyrotechnic (smoke and flames) or non-pyrotechnic (non-combustible).

Federally Controlled Waters

Vessels must observe federal requirements on these waters:

- Coastal waters
- The Great Lakes
- Territorial seas
- Colorado River and Lake System
- Waters which are two miles wide or wider and are directly connected to one of the above

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Harris Appointed To Commission

John Harris, police chief of Sahuarita, Ariz., and a veteran reserve Arizona game ranger, was appointed to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission by Gov. Jan Brewer in mid-February.

A 35-year law-enforcement veteran, Harris will be filling the commission seat of outgoing commissioner Bob Herbrode, who lives in Tucson.

Harris said he has had phenomenal opportunities during his lifetime to experience the outdoors and participate in wildlife-related recreation and hopes that his daughter and her future children will too.

Harris will have plenty of opportunity to learn and have input. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission establishes policy for the management, preservation, and harvest of wildlife. The commission also makes the rules and regulations for managing, conserving, and protecting wildlife and fisheries resources, and safe and regulated watercraft and off-highway vehicle operations for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona.

Harris has been a police chief for 15 years, serving two years in Pleasant Hill, Mo., eight years in Springfield, Ill., three years in Evanston, Wyo., and currently three years in Sahuarita.

Harris started his law enforcement career with the Tucson Police Department; he retired in 1993 after achieving the rank of assistant police chief. For 10 of those years he volunteered as a game ranger for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. On returning to Arizona in 2006, Harris was reinstated as a reserve game ranger

and serves in that capacity in southern Arizona.

Wildlife and wildlife issues have been a lifelong passion for Harris. Along with professional experience and education, he has been very active in the conservation field. He is a life member of the National Rifle Association, the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, the Wild Sheep Foundation, the Grand Slam Club, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

He is a member of the Arizona Antelope Society, the Safari Club International Arizona chapter, and the Mule Deer Foundation.

Harris is past president of both the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and the Wild Sheep Foundation. While serving as president of the Wild Sheep Foundation, Harris partnered with Warren Parker from Safari Club International and helped to start the United States Congressional Sportsman Caucus.

Harris holds a Master of Arts degree in criminal justice from Western Illinois University and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona in public administration with the major field of study being law enforcement. He attended the 151st session of the FBI MLEEDS Executive Development program, the Illinois Law Enforcement Executive Institute, and the FBI's Southwest Command College.

Harris will serve a five-year term on the Game and Fish Commission. The commission is comprised of five members (serving staggered five-year terms) appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

MONIES

Continued from page 12

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