



PRONGHORN

4th Quarter 2007



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

2007 Executive Board

President: Brian George
480-946-5209

Vice President: Tice Supplee
602-468-6470

Secretary: Position Open

Treasurer: Jim Mehen
928-699-7199

Immediate Past President
Dave Laird
623-936-3533

Directors

David Brown Paul Webb
602-973-0591

Scott Anderson Ken Langford
480-213-1611 602-290-2208

Kara Jensen Joe Bill Pickrell
602-741-6280 602-317-9435

Board of Governors

Pete Cimellaro '93
602-840-8749

Jim McCasland '94
520-445-3886

Mike Cupell '95
602-993-3803

Nancy Lewis '96
602-942-7682

David Brown '97
602-973-0591

Joe Bill Pickrell '98
602-943-0454

Don Johnson '99
602-278-3010

Bill McLean '00
480-671-7392

Warren Leek '01
602-494-0213

Bill Keebler, '02
602-433-9077

Jerry Guevin '03
480-946-3648

Jim Unmacht '04 & '05
623-570-0534

Ex-Officio Member

Richard Ockenfels
602-789-3379

LIFE MEMBERS

Art Pearce, Phoenix
Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City
Nina Gammons, Payette, ID
Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix
Harry Carlson, Phoenix
Art Boswell, Tucson
Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix
Mary Keebler, Happy Jack
James Stewart, Phoenix
Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada
George Welsh, Kingman
Don Parks, Peoria
Adam Geotl, Cottonwood
Don Davidson, Mesa

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Larry Audsley, Tucson
Tim Blank, Mesa
Bill Cole, Glendale
Paul & Joann Delaney, Flagstaff
Michael Domanico, Scottsdale
Brian George, Scottsdale
Richard Guenzel, Laramie, WY
Thom Hulén, Cave Creek
Bruce Johnson, Peoria
Paul Medina, Peoria
Peter Mertz, Phoenix
Derek Oyen, Anthem
Tice Supplee, Phoenix
David L. Wolf, Flagstaff

FAMILY MEMBERS

Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma
Robin & Billie Bechtel, Show Low
Randy, Ty & Kyle Brandt, Peoria
Steve Chevront/Vicki Allison, Scotsdl.
Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande
Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson
Dave & Debbie Fisher, Prescott
Walter George, Cave Creek
Bob & Marilyn Hanlin, Mesa
Brad Remfrey, Gilbert
Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Gilbert
James & Joyce Silvey, Scottsdale
Frank & Robin Tennant, Mesa

Jim Mehen, Flagstaff
James K. McCasland, Prescott
Nancy Lewis, Phoenix
Jerry Weiers, Phoenix
David Brown, Phoenix
Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale
Al Sue, Scottsdale
Bill Keebler, Happy Jack
Terry Schupp, Tempe
Mick Rusing, Tucson
Matthew Massey, Gilbert
Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler
Shane Stewart, Gilbert
Terry Petko, Mesa

Jim Babbitt, Flagstaff
Darren Burke, Cave Creek
William C. Cordasco, Flagstaff
Eugene & Linda Dightmon, Peoria
Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine
Hayes Gilstrap, Scottsdale
Roger Hailey, Flagstaff
David Hussey, Cave Creek
William H. McLean, Mormon Lake
Walt & Cookie Nicolson, Williams
Richard Ockenfels, Mayer
Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow
Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Phoenix

Scott & Jen Anderson, Scottsdale
Bruce & Ellen Bilbrey, Phoenix
Rob & Kelly Chabak, Phoenix
Calvin Curtis, Mesa
Don & Kay Davidson, Mesa
Douglas Feringa, Glendale
David Frampton, Gilbert
Sohnja & Roger Gibson, Glendale
Dave & Sue Laird, Peoria
Robert Macmillan, Scottsdale
Corky Richardson, Laveen
Barry Sopher, Tucson
Chris & John Vassel, Queen Creek



COVER PHOTO BY RICHARD OCKENFELS AZ GAME & FISH BIOLOGIST

Among Richard's many talents, he enjoys photography. This issue's cover is an example. Enjoy!

Pronghorn is a quarterly newsletter for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to:

Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 15501, Phoenix, AZ 85060, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am looking forward to the next year as president of Arizona Antelope Foundation! My thanks and compliments to the hard work done by the out going board and now past President Brian George. A lot was accomplished last year and more is planned for this year. Please join me in welcoming the new members to our board. The AAF also has the excellent administration talents of Tracy Unmacht plus her continuing excellent work as Web Master and editor of the Pronghorn.

Arizona Antelope Foundation has many projects and volunteer opportunities for members all around the state. We could really use help from members at the regional level. If you can contribute a few hours a month to help by attending Habitat Partnership meetings, visiting a project site, being an AAF member that local biologists and wildlife managers can contact, or showing up for a volunteer project that is in your area, you will Really Help AAF be successful for another year!

Mark your calendars now for the 2008 AAF banquet. We will be at El Zaribah shrine on 40th street in Phoenix on Saturday, July 19th. We are always looking for quality and interesting items for the general and silent auctions. Contact me or Tracy Unmacht if you have a donation.

I am very excited about the new Arizona pronghorn antelope book written by long time board members Dave Brown and Richard Ockenfels. This is a Must Have book for anyone interested in pronghorn in Arizona or the west. Information about how to order the book is in this issue of the Pronghorn.

I recently visited one of the habitat projects approved by Arizona Antelope Foundation in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Arizona Elk Society. This project is on the Ohaco ranch, and the owner, Jimmy Ohaco, is a longtime supporter of the Arizona Antelope Foundation, not to mention he shot a world class pronghorn antelope in this area back in the 1960's. The work looks great for pronghorn, and more is planned to the west, near Chevelon Butte.

I believe these thoughtfully designed projects are a real benefit to pronghorn, elk and deer and are good partnership projects with the other big game conservation organizations. (I call all of us the "critter groups"). Wade Zarlingo with the Arizona Game and Fish Department is doing a superior job working with the ranchers and agency partners. We all should feel very good about the quality habitat work being accomplished with our conservation dollars. Check out the Arizona Antelope Foundation web site for some film clips of the brush eating machines in action!



I hope you have had a most Merry Christmas and the best to you and yours in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Tice Supplee



ABOUT TICE

Tice Supplee is no stranger to pronghorn antelope in Arizona. During her 28 year career with the Arizona Game and Fish Department she has always had a keen interest in pronghorn. While a research technician she learned about Don Neff's and Jim Woolsey's work on Anderson Mesa. The research they accomplished paved the way for all the great work Richard Ockenfels has done in the last few decades. While a Habitat Biologist in Tucson she collected the habitat information for two release sites in southeastern Arizona, the Empire Ranch and San Bernardino Valley. Her last 15 years with the Arizona Game and Fish was as the Game Branch Chief. During her tenure the Habitat Partnership Committees were created and partnerships with the big game conservation organizations were strengthened. She was the agency representative to the Arizona Antelope Foundation and attended board meetings during that time. Today she is still a working biologist, employed by the National Audubon Society. Although her "day job" is focused on birds, she retains a deep interest in big game animals and views the grasslands that pronghorn depend upon as critical to many Arizona bird species too.

She hunts with bow and arrow and rifle, and hopes to be lucky in the draw for 2008!

CONSERVATION

BY LARRY HEATHINGTON
SHEEP LTD

In 1991 Robert E. Petersen directed me to buy the Arizona Antelope Tag that was being auctioned at the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Fundraiser. It seemed like a pretty straight forward request at the time. Little did I know it would become part of my life's work. With the purchase of that first tag, we entered into an odyssey that would not end until his death in March 2007.



The Late Robert Petersen

I initially paid \$10,800.00 for the first tag we purchased and that buck was taken in Unit 17A, on the Long Meadow Ranch scoring 88 2/8's points. It was a fairly straight forward Antelope hunt with help from a few friends, Jim Mahac, Jerry Walters and others. The buck had been seen on earlier scouting trips was



relocated prior to opening day and was taken shortly after mid-day, on opening day of the season. But it would change both of our lives dramatically.

Petersen had so much fun on that first hunt that he continued to buy the tag for most of the next 15 years, pouring almost \$311,000.00 into the Arizona Antelope Program. Some

years we bought it twice and hunted the entire northern portion of the state from Kingman to Showlow. He even drew it once in Unit 9 so we hunted two that year as well.

This article is an excerpt of some of the most memorable of those hunts.

The Highway Buck: We had been hunting for 10 days for a couple of bucks in Unit 7 when I found one of them on the east side of Highway 64, about 6 miles south of the little town of Valle, Arizona. He was very contentedly feeding in a little pocket in the junipers about 150 yards from the highway with a number of does. Since I had been looking for him for quite awhile I immediately told Petersen to shoot him. I promptly received a "no way" in reply. Of course I asked him why and he told me there was no way possible that, even though it was legal, he was going to shoot that buck with all of the tourists coming and going from the Grand Canyon on the highway, and he was adamant about it. So we backed off and decided to retry him in the morning and perhaps he would move off the highway to a more suitable location.



At daylight the buck had moved a couple of miles into the unit, away from Highway 64, but he would not let us get anywhere near him. He would run at the mere sight of any vehicle and disappear in the juniper covered hillsides. So we hunted him day after day from daylight until dark. On the fifth day after he left the highway the buck made a fatal error and crossed out of a little juniper flat onto a small knoll allowing Petersen a 400 yard shot from a solid rest. He scored just slightly over 90 plus Boone and Crockett points, the first time we have ever broken 90 points with the tag.

The Sale Buck: Robert E. Petersen had the Auction Tag and we were concentrating on one particular buck in the southern half of Unit 9. Mr. Petersen flew into the Grand Canyon Airport the day before the season opened on September 10th. When he got out of his airplane and into my truck he said "I have some business tomorrow morning and I need to be done with this hunt by 10:00am." He had hunted with me for over 10 years at that point so I just flat told him there was no guarantee

that that was going to happen and he just grumbled something about “ It better. “

We started hunting at the crack of dawn under slightly overcast skies and hunted relentlessly in and out of the Cedar pockets that exist in Unit 9 over the next four hours, until 10:00am with out a single sign of the buck.

At precisely 10:00am he borrowed my cell phone because it worked better than his locally. He dialed a number from memory and began talking to an attorney in New York City, in a conference room full of attorney’s, accountants, and business men. Much to my dismay he was negotiating the sale of Petersen Publishing to a British Corporation on my cell phone, while he was hunting Antelope in Arizona. The numbers being bandied about were staggering to say the least and while he negotiated I kept driving and looking for the buck. Sometime in the next hour I was looking through my Zeiss 10 x 40’s and the buck, with his full accompaniment of does, magically cleared a juniper thicket headed for the water hole. I calmly tapped Robert E. on the shoulder and pointed at the buck. He politely told who ever was on the other end of the line that he would have to call him back, and disconnected. We cut the distance to the buck with the truck, completed a short stalk threw the junipers and Mr. Petersen made a great shot on the buck at 175 yards. He looked at me and winked before saying “I have to get back on the phone.” The Sale Buck scored 88 plus Boone and Crockett points and was taken while Robert E. Petersen was negotiating the sale of his company for in excess of one billion dollars. He promptly flew off to New York and we never discussed it again. I had to learn in the written press that he had sold his company for 1.2 Billion dollars.

The Monster: We had been staying at my house on Garland Prairie in Unit 8 for the last five days, scouring the country for a buck that I had last seen in late July. This monster had somehow given us the slip over the five day period and I had lost total contact with him in a relatively small area. That, in and of itself, is not surprising since Unit 8 is heavily forested and the Antelope often use the trees as much as they use the open prairie.

We were having fun none the less. We shot Coyotes every day, listened to the bull Elk bugle in the

mornings and watched an abundant array of wildlife in and around the prairie, but the goal remained the same day in and day out – find the “monster”. We walked patches of timber, open prairies, Pinion Juniper benches all to no avail.

Day six broke with a cold wind out of the Northwest and we started in the prairie as was our norm and then pressed on into the trees. Pocket by pocket we worked our way across the southeastern portion of the Unit. About four o’clock that afternoon I decided to check a little section of the unit that we hadn’t been to in several days along an old power line. We slowly drove up the power line to the east constantly looking when the buck we have been looking for burst out of a pine thicket and left the meadow. We were amazed at how fast he had left the clearing and were contemplating what to do next when he miraculously ran back into the clearing he had just left. Robert E. Petersen got a solid rest and shot him at 300 plus yards. He scored in excess of 94 Boone and Crockett points and is the largest buck that we ever took on a permit.



Those days are at a close as my friend, mentor, and hero passed away March 23, 2007. The people of Arizona will surely miss his contributions to wildlife and I will miss the time spent in the field with him... But I have very special memories of the country that we hunted and got into over those years and every time I get into one of those pockets now I smile with memories that will last me a lifetime.

Thank you Mr. Petersen, your contributions to Arizona Pronghorn have made an indredible difference!



HORSESHOE RANCH PROJECT REPORT

On October 20th the AAF sponsored its second biannual Adopt-a-Ranch project for 2007 with the Horseshoe Ranch in Unit 21.



We modified about 1.5 miles of fence, removing the bottom strands of barbed wire and replacing with one smooth strand positioned 18" above the ground.

We had a great turnout of volunteers from the ASU

Conservation Biology class, Friends of the Agua Fria, Boy Scout Troop 738, Ranch owner Dale Longbrake, Ranch manager Jimmie Pederson, along with a few AAF members and other volunteers that heard about the project on the AGFD website.



Wire Roller



Stretching Wire



Dale Longbrake (l) Jake Fousek, AZGF



Many thanks to our hosts, Dale Longbrake and Jimmie Petersen.

And thanks to the following volunteers: Ray Blanchard, Art Boswell, Mark Boswell, David Brown, Josh Cederstrom, Michael Chiega, Cole Cook, Denise Cook, Michael Corieca, Jim Corieca, Matthew DiBiase, Reaghan Fletcher, Michael Galvez, Josh Gamble, Manuela Gonzalez, Hillary Hoffman, Ryan Howell, Kara Jensen, Paul Marks, Randy Marks, Camise McNichols, Jimmy Mehen, Richard Ockenfels, Janet Oldak, Andrew Oldak, Brittany Pettengill, Heather Ray, Michael Siegert, Payton Sirkiwitz, Paul Snyder, Jonathan Snyder, Cynthia Soria, Shane Stewart, Jodi Stewart, Cacle Stewart, Maci Stewart, Daniel Ward, and Ken Ward.

WHY I DO IT

BY JIMMY MEHEN
AAF LIFE MEMBER & TREASURER



The Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) helped me harvest my first buck antelope in 1996. I attended the AAF Annual Hunters' Clinic. The knowledge I was freely given by AAF members that night severed me well that year by coming home with my buck. The night of the Clinic I joined the AAF as an Individual 1-year member and thought no more about it until the first quarterly newsletter The Pronghorn arrived in my mailbox. I was reminded of the many things I had learned and the fun and excitement of the successful hunt. Later the next year, I received the annual renewal notice.

Well by then I had received and read all four quarterly Pronghorns. I noticed on the renewal form that AAF had a "Sustaining" membership category. So I upped my membership to thank them for helping me with the knowledge to successfully harvest my buck. I kept getting the Pronghorn and notices of the AAF's many "Field Work Projects". I continued to read the Pronghorn but never attended a Project. In 2000 I



received a notice of a Project near Flagstaff (my home) at the Raymond Buffalo Ranch. I thought what the heck-I'd go to this one and so I did.

I met wonderful people with the AAF, some Game

& Fish personnel and other volunteers. We removed miles of unwanted interior fencing and support posts. It was hot and dusty but we all pitched in and "got 'er done". On Saturday evening the AAF hosted a wonderful steak dinner with all the trimmings. Needless to say, I really enjoyed myself. I was invited

to come to a Board meeting a month or so later and I did that. I was later invited to serve on the Board and I'm glad I agreed.

I've served on the Board for 7 years now, the last 3 as Treasurer. It has been a pleasure and an honor. I've seen AAF grow in excess of 150 new members or so and from barely able to make ends meet to having contributed in excess of \$50,000 for Antelope research and habitat restoration and improvement from its own treasury. AAF now has 28 Life Members and adds new ones each year. AAF works closely with Game & Fish in selecting worthy projects for the money raised by the Special Tag auctions each year. Over the years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been put to beneficial use for Arizona's antelope.

SO, WHY DO I DO IT? I do it because 11 years ago I was freely given something of value by AAF that was a benefit to me. I do it because I am trying to return something to AAF. I do it because I have met and associated with wonderful people in AAF, Game & Fish, as well as other organizations. I do it because I believe in the conservation of Arizona's wildlife and their habitat. I do it because I hope to preserve some opportunity for future hunters. I do it because it is fun and a pleasure. Most of all, I do it for Arizona's antelope so that they may always have "Freedom to Roam"!



Jimmy & Susie Mehen
2005 Banquet

"LIBERTAS ad VAGOR"

LAST STAND OF THE PRONGHORN

BY EDMUND JAEGER

FOREWORD BY DAVID BROWN

You had to love *Desert Magazine*, I sure did. It was a great little publication that reported on desert discoveries in the 1950s, before modern access roads and ATV's made desert travel mass recreation. Owning only war surplus jeeps and two-wheel drive pickups, a cadre of eager readers sought out information on palm oases, ghost towns, old mines and other places to visit the Mojave, Sonoran (Colorado), and Great Basin deserts. The editor, Randall Henderson, was only too eager to oblige, and each issue was filled with desert exploration and adventure.

Edmund Jaeger, then a botanist at the Riverside Municipal Museum, did nearly as much to popularize the desert as did Henderson, not only in *Desert Magazine* but in several best-selling field guides of his own. In this, the November 1956 issue of *Desert Magazine*, Jaeger tells us of the last of California's desert pronghorn while describing what he thought to be the precarious status of buro deer and other desert wildlife.

Jaeger's pessimism was unfortunately well deserved and the antelope sighted in the Milpitas Wash area were the last desert pronghorn in California. Another population near Randsburg had disappeared around World War II, and transplants to the Fort Tejon Ranch in Antelope Valley were primarily in grassland. And now even this population is imperiled due to heavy livestock pressures and impending development. The fate of the three javelina, if that is what they were, is also a closed book.

Jaeger may well have been correct in his assessment that it was the usurpation of most of California's Colorado and Mojave deserts to bombing and tank ranges that led to the pronghorn's demise. General Patton did not tread lightly upon the land. Nonetheless, desert mule deer, or buro deer, are now relatively common along Milpitas Wash, and this desert variant of the mule deer is doing relatively well. Moreover, desert pronghorn are now being raised in pens in Arizona and Lower California, and a future transplant of these antelope to their historic California desert range might someday be possible. If so, the coffeeberry, buckwheat, Mormon tea, and other desert browse plants are there to await them along with game catchments to provide them with water.



Today the deer and the antelope no longer roam over much of their former range. Man is slowly crowding out the former and has come fairly close to annihilating the latter. This month Dr. Jaeger tells of these and other dwindling species of Desert Southwest mammals who are threatened with the fate of the bison and passenger pigeon.

During the autumn of 1941 Dr. D.C. Clark, Paul Walker and Frank Wilkins of Redlands, California, were camping on the south side of the Chuckwalla Mountains of the Colorado Desert of California. On the mesa one mile southeast of Williams Mine and four miles

southeast of Chuckwalla Springs they reported seeing a small band of pronghorn antelope and were able to get within 600 feet of them. The animals were down-wind and were approached from behind a small intervening rise which explains how they were able to come as close to the herd as they did.

These men are competent observers and know well the pronghorns because of previous experience with them. I cannot doubt the authenticity of their account – the last record of pronghorn on our Colorado Desert.

These interesting animals were able to maintain their stand up to the time of World War II because this was an exceedingly wild area, practically without roads and little visited by man. Through it runs the large Milpitas wash whose numerous fan-like branches drain most of the northeast slope of the Chocolate Mountains and the broad fans of alluvium between these mountains and the Colorado River. Here was a place of abundant food, shelter and opportunity to successfully evade predators and hunters.

It is very doubtful if any of that original group of

Continued on page 12



SONORAN PRONGHORN

UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
DECEMBER, 2007

As reported in the last *Pronghorn*, we were planning to conduct a range wide pronghorn survey in Mexico, which occurred December 6-14. We saw 360 pronghorn on transects and estimate 404. That is down by about 1/3 from the last survey in 2006 when we estimated 634 pronghorn. Most of the habitat was very dry down there, likely leading in part to the decline.

We also assisted the Mexican biologists in capturing and collaring 4 pronghorn in the Pinacate subpopulation with downloadable GPS collars. This should provide valuable data to help manage the pronghorn in Mexico.

Everything in the captive breeding pen is going good. We have received over 2 inches of rain there so far this month, so the forage is starting to green up. We plan to release 5 more juvenile males from the pen in January, all with GPS radio collars.



Photo by Loeta Clifford

RIFLE RAFFLE

Going on right now, another win-win situation...Your chance to win a rifle and at the same time, benefit Arizona's Pronghorn. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Winner will be drawn at our 5th annual Fundraising Banquet, July 19, 2008. (Need not be present to win). To purchase tickets, watch for a flyer and tickets in your membership renewal mailing soon, or visit our website where you can print the ticket order form.



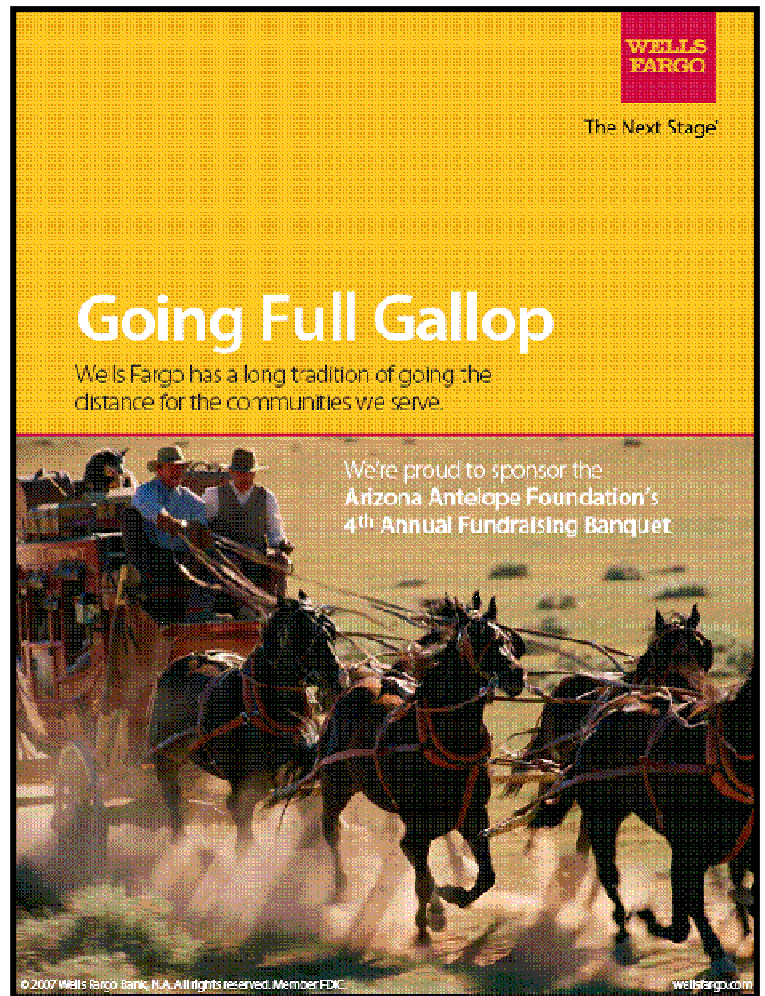
Remington Rifle
Model 700 Synthetic Stock 300
cal. WSM
Includes:
Bushnell Elite 3200 5x15x40
Rifle Scope
Harris Ultralite Bipod
Winchester Lockable Hard
Case

Thanks to Bruce Gibson and Sportsman's Warehouse for once again donating this beautiful rifle and for being a corporate sponsor again this year!



We'd also like to thank our other corporate sponsor, Wells Fargo. Their sponsorship of our 4th annual Fundraising Banquet is greatly appreciated!

The AAF would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions in 2007! Many individuals and businesses donated time, goods, services, and money to our organization throughout the year. You've helped us make a difference for Pronghorn in Arizona!



CONTACT US

Mailing Address

**P.O. Box 15501
Phoenix, AZ 85060**

Visit us on the World Wide Web

**www.azantelope.org
info@azantelope.org**

MEETINGS

Board meetings are held at 6:30 P.M on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Phoenix Zoo. Visitors welcome!

“Last Stand of the Pronghorn” Cont. from page 8

pronghorn survived the war period since the district was widely over-run by military men on maneuvers. Old roads and jeep and tank trails literally run everywhere over this once remote region.

The last written account I know which specifically mentions pronghorn on the Colorado Desert is in a letter written to the author by C. Hart Merriam, long chief of the United States Biological Survey, in response to an inquiry about the validity of a report of a recent (about 1900) observation of antelope as far north as Coachella Valley. Dr. Merriam wrote: “I am sure this is an error for I had previously traveled much in this area and surely would have heard of them if not actually seen the animals. It is quite possible that this statement is based not on personal experiences but on accounts of prospectors or other travelers and the only antelope were those of the Milpitas Wash area some 60 miles southeast of Indio”.

At one time pronghorn antelope were widely scattered throughout the southern Mojave Desert which has those wide open spaces so necessary for their survival. The last bands I have heard of were along the Mojave River near Cave or Afton Canyon, around Antelope Valley (hence the name), and on mesas near Randsburg; but these are gone now. In the high *Artemisia* deserts of southwestern Nevada this fleetest of all American game once roamed the broad valleys in great numbers. Such Nevada place names as Antelope Mine and Antelope Spring attest to their former presence in comparatively recent times. Even as late as 1930 I picked up cast-off antelope horn-sheaths at Antelope Mine.

This beautiful creature of sprightly manner, swift-getaway and abounding curiosity, once occurred in millions from the Mississippi to California. But hunters, slaughtering them right and left as they did the bison and the settlement of the country which led to the loss of much of their range, soon decimated the pronghorn to a point near extinction. Today, they are found only in well-protected herds in game refuges, national parks and monuments, and on some private ranches where they are gradually staging a come-back, increasing to nearly 200,000 at the last count. (See *Desert*, April '56, p4)

The passing of the antelope in the Southwest is a deplorable loss to our arid-land fauna. The only other animals near its size and form that occasionally still may be seen are the desert bighorn and the mule deer. I once was lucky enough to see a mule deer near Canyon Spring to the north of Salt Creek Wash, which runs

eastward from the Salton Sea. A surprise it was, indeed! It was early winter and the animal was probably a stray from the Santa Rosa Mountains on the west edge of the Colorado Desert.

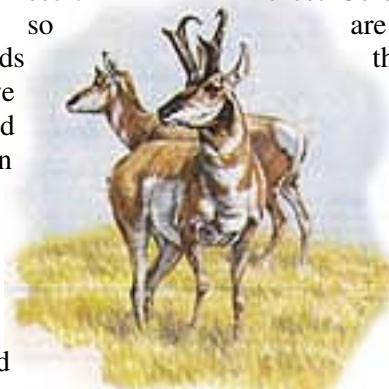
Recently in the very early morning I have seen burro deer in the Wiley Well vicinity at the south base of the Little Chuckwalla Mountains. Much more commonly they are found roaming along the banks of the Colorado River where they feed on willow twigs on the bottom-lands. The burro deer is larger and paler in coloration than the mule deer of the mountains, and get their name from their very large burro-like ears. They formerly ranged into the Imperial Valley north along the Salton Sea as far as Indio; some are also known in northeastern Baja California. As a rule they never wander many miles from water, especially in warm weather when daily drinks are consumed and generally occur in small groups of four or five but sometimes in bands of eight or 12.

They are more common in Sonora, Mexico, and these Colorado River animals in California and Arizona are probably only strays northward. Up to about the beginning of the century travelers quite often reported seeing them but as the river bottoms are more and more being given over to agriculture the chances of glimpsing these interesting and rather rare deer are becoming less and less.

Speaking of animals seldom seen on the west side of the Colorado River, which acts as a barrier to many plants and animals such as the Harris ground squirrel and the gila monster, I must mention an observation made by my friend Stanley Phair of Santa Monica, California, a trustworthy observer. Very much to his surprise he saw in the brightness of his auto headlights a small band of javelina or Mexican wild pig, also called peccary, running alongside the road some miles southwest of Wiley Well. This is the only record of the peccary I know of in California. How they got here I am at a loss to explain. Javelina are fairly common in southern Arizona (Organ Pipe Cactus Nation Monument) and from northern Sonora southward to Sinaloa in Mexico. On rare occasions one may see a wild pig in northeastern Baja California. I well remember my surprise when a small herd of them ran through our camp just as my companion and I were getting into our sleeping bags in the hills east of the Ojos Negros Ranch.

Collared peccaries are “salt and pepper” colored, long-haired, pig-like creatures with arched backs and stubby tails. The boars are equipped with long protruding tusks that can lash out when attacked and

Continued on page 13



“Last Stand of the Pronghorn” Cont. from page 12

deliver deep cuts. An aggressive herd of javelinas is nothing to take lightly. They emit a musky malodorous scent from glands on the neck and back, especially when they are surprised or excited, and because of this they are sometimes called musk-hogs. Their food consists of anything edible, from roots to lizards and insects.

Keep your eyes open. You, too, on your Desert Southwest travels may see a burro deer or one or more of the quick-moving native pigs with grizzled coat. An exciting day it will be for you. But, we can no longer promise you the sight of a pronghorn antelope on our Colorado or Mojave deserts. You must travel through the sagebrush deserts of southeastern Oregon or northwestern Nevada to see in numbers this graceful

creature which is not a true antelope, as its common name a family of animals called Antilocapridae. Like the true antelope it has horns consisting of a core of bone with a horny covering, but unlike the old world antelope, this horny sheath is shed annually; moreover the horns of the pronghorn have a single fork or prong, whereas those of a true antelope are unbranched. It is indeed unfortunate that this noble and unique American mammal is gone from much of its former range. Perhaps we can profit from this loss by taking strong steps now to preserve the remnants of desert bighorn, burro deer, and javelina and other swindling species from total extinction. I am sure you feel as I do that too many of our animals have gone the way of the bison and the passenger pigeon

GREAT IDEA, BAD TIMING

BY JIMMY MEHEN

AAF LIFE MEMBER & TREASURER

Some ideas are great & some not so great. Sometimes the timing is great & sometimes it's not. Predator control is a great idea to increase Pronghorn fawn survival rates. Volunteer groups, such as the Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc. (PVICI), to control predators are a great idea. Scheduling anything other than a Deer hunt on “Opening Weekend” of Deer season is not a great idea. It is just plain bad timing! So what started out as a great idea ended in only a minor gain in Predator control!

Scott Anderson, AAF's Field Work Project Coordinator, agreed to provide an AAF hosted steak dinner for PVICI members who would attend a Predator control weekend on October 27 & 28, 2007. Great idea! Unfortunately, that weekend was the “Opening weekend” of Deer season. Bad timing! Eight hardy souls showed up on the CO Bar Ranch, owned by Babbitt Ranches and managed by Billy Cordasco (AAF Sustaining Member), north of Flagstaff for some Predator control, fun and an AAF sponsored Steak dinner. The results:

- The CO Bar is minus 1 coyote, 1 bobcat and 1 fox
- 8 souls had a lot of yuks and a fun outing
- AAF is minus 15 steaks
- Jimmy met some wonderful folks, enjoyed the whole experience
- AAF welcomes a new member-Paul Coulter of Phoenix

We often learn as we go. So while the idea is still great, next time we will be sure to check the calendar before we schedule another sponsored dinner. We will also be sure we bring lots of steaks with this crowd!





SHORT SHOTS

2008 BOARD ELECTIONS

The following individuals agreed to serve and were elected to the 2008 Arizona Antelope Foundation Board of Directors at our annual meeting on November 12th.

OFFICERS

President – Tice Supplee
Vice President – Ken Langford
Secretary – Kara Jensen
Treasurer – Mary Keebler

DIRECTORS Term Ending 12/31/09:

Dave Verhelst,
John Vassel,
Jim McCasland

DIRECTORS Term Ending 12/31/08:

Jimmy Mehen
Dave Brown
Shane Stewart

2008 PROJECT SCHEDULE SET

January 18 & 19 - Pronghorn Capture near Valle/Grand Canyon

March 15 & 16 – Unit 21

May 17 & 18 - Anderson Mesa

July 26 & 27 - White Mountains

October 18 and 19 - Unit 21

NEW EMAIL NEWS

We have recently launched a new email notification service. Our hopes will be to keep you informed of upcoming issues and events pertinent to the AAF, conservation, and other sportsmen and sportswomen issues. If you would like to receive these periodic email updates, visit our website and sign up on our home page. Your email address will be used only for this purpose and will not be shared with any other organization or institution. You will also have the option to opt-out of the program at any time.

COMMISSIONER'S TAGS

There are three Commissioner's Tags again this year for Antelope. The first will be auctioned at the Arizona Elk Society fundraiser on March 22nd at the Mesa Convention Center. The second tag will be part of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle to be drawn in July. And the third will be auctioned at our Fundraising Banquet on July 19th at El Zaribah Shrine in Phoenix.

ANNUAL HUNTER CLINIC DATE SET

Mark your calendars for the 16th Annual Hunter Clinic which will be held June 17th at the Sportsman's Warehouse at I-17 & Yorkshire in Phoenix. Last year nearly 80 hunters and their guests were treated to a wide variety of presentations on subjects important to the outcome of their upcoming hunts. We plan on having another great slate of speakers again this year to give you pointers on what to do, and why! Watch future editions of the *Pronghorn* and our website for more information in the coming months.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renewal notices should be in mailboxes any day. Your dues help us cover the cost of project mailings, newsletters, tools and supplies. All of these provide much needed help to our Arizona pronghorn herds. Your membership benefits include voting rights, eligibility to hold office, decal and quarterly issues of this publication. Please renew and help us help antelope!

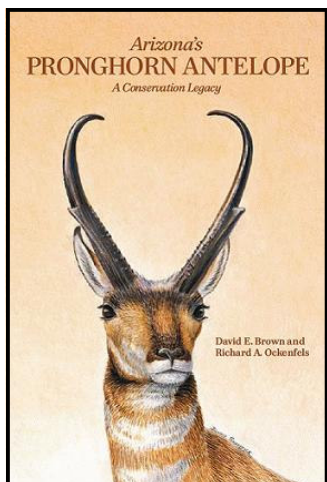
TRAILER IMPROVEMENTS

Next time you are on an AAF project, take a look inside our cook trailer. Life member Art Boswell and his son Mark did a wonderful job installing shelving and storage bins. Now all of our supplies and equipment are organized and securely stowed for travel. Many thanks Art & Mark!

WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

“ARIZONA’S PRONGHORN ANTELOPE—A CONSERVATION LEGACY”

BY DAVID BROWN & RICHARD OCKENFELS
COVER DESIGN BY BONNIE SWARBRICK



Arizona’s Pronghorn Antelope is a book that has been needed for some time. It is a complete presentation of the animal’s life, history from prehistoric times to the present, and habitat requirements as well as a documentation of the early conservation efforts put forth by hunters and researchers who sought to retrieve the species from the brink of extinction. The abundant photos and graphs illustrate habitat scenes, fences, foods, pronghorn artifacts, management data, and habitat alterations. And although the authors state that their intention is not to publish a technical work, the book contains topics found nowhere else.

The book’s narrative equips the reader with the basic knowledge needed to understand the pronghorn in Arizona. These passages will lead you through the pronghorn’s development over the past 14 to 18 million years to arrive at its present-day form—an animal of long standing. And, as told, the pronghorn’s story makes one wonder about the animal’s future and speculate on what past and present activities have done to its numbers and distribution.

To order your copy, complete the following information and mail to:

**AAF Book Order
PO Box 15501
Phoenix, AZ 85060**

If you are not yet an AAF member and would like to join now to take advantage of the Member discount, please select the type of membership below and include the dues with your book payment. For Life Membership pricing, call 623-581-0534.

	QTY	Unit Price*	Subtotal
Softcover AAF Member	_____	\$20	_____
Softcover Non-Member	_____	\$30	_____
Hard Cover Signed by Authors	_____	\$60	_____
Regular Membership	_____	\$40	_____
Family Membership	_____	\$60	_____
Sustaining Membership	_____	\$100	_____
Life Membership	_____	Call for pricing	_____
*All prices include shipping.		Order Total	_____

Ordered by:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

Please include any special shipping instructions on back.

Method of Payment:

Check or Money Order enclosed

VISA

Master Card

Discover

Credit Card #

Expiration

Signature



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION

P. O. BOX 15501
 PHOENIX, AZ 85060-5501

NONPROFIT
 ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PHOENIX, AZ
 PERMIT NO. 318

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation	January 14 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo
Board Meetings	February 11 6:30 PM	455 N. Galvin Parkway
	March 10 6:30 PM	
AAF Work Projects	March 15-16	Unit 21
	May 17-18	Anderson Mesa
	July 26-27	White Mountains
	October 18-19	Unit 21
The Wildlife Conservation Council	January 22 6:30 PM	AZ Game & Fish Department
Board Meetings	February 26 6:30 PM	5000 W. Carefree Highway
	March 25 6:30 PM	
AAF Hunter Clinic	June 17	Sportsman's Warehouse I-17
AAF Banquet	July 19	El Zaribah Shrine

Would you like the Pronghorn via email....let us know! Or if you have an upcoming event, send us the information at info@azantelope.org.