



Jump In The 'Pool' For Population Management

Hunters may be randomly selected throughout the year to meet specific objectives.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is seeking to bolster its pool of hunters who apply to be randomly selected throughout the year for specific population management hunts.

Population management hunts enhance the department's ability to meet population and habitat management objectives when traditional harvest strategies are not meeting these objectives. At this time, two separate population management hunts for any antlerless deer are planned for January and February in a portion of Game Management Unit 41, east of Yuma. The dates for these hunts are Jan. 1-31, 2025, and Feb. 1-28, 2025.

Only those hunters who have submitted a Hunter Pool Application for population management hunts will have a chance to be drawn. Applicants should note that if they choose to participate in a population management hunt, and fill their annual bag limit for that species, they cannot take part in a general season for that species even if selected through the standard draw process. A successful hunter is still eligible to purchase a bonus point for elk in the upcoming general draw, however.

AZGFD encourages all interested hunters to complete a "Hunter Pool Application, which can be found — along with detailed information about population management hunts — on Page 51 of

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Sometimes a smaller PFD makes sense.

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Winter can mean big bass.



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Give the eagles their space.

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LAND CRUISING
Huzzah! It's Ren Faire time!



Enter To Win One Of These Coveted Arizona Special Big Game Tags!

NEW THIS YEAR – Conservation First USA received extra tags, enough to conduct two separate raffles. The first raffle ended in December, but wait, there's more! The second raffle campaign for ten more tags will run from January – June 2025.

Until August 14, 2026

Winners of these tags will have 365 days

to hunt almost anywhere in the state. The hunting season for all tags is August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2026.

100% of the proceeds from these raffle prizes will go to on-the-ground conservation of each of the species shown below.

'Great 8 Package'

For your convenience there is a "Great

8 Package" which includes one (1) raffle ticket for each of the following 8 hunts: Bison, Black Bear, Coues Whitetail, Elk, Javelina, Mountain Lion, Mule Deer and Pronghorn. Purchase this package for \$80 and receive a "free" entry for the Swarovski NL Pure 14x52 Binocular.

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ON THE COVER



Welcome 2025

BY CAROL L. ALLEN

It just happens. The old year slips away so quickly. Didn't 2024 just begin? Where do the days, weeks, months go? And, if you are enjoying the outdoors or life in general, they go by even faster. And, that's a good thing.

2025, continued on page 10

Hear Ye, Hear Ye: Celebrate 37 Years Of Cheers

The 2025 Arizona Renaissance Festival is here, huzzah!

Take a unique trip back in time to the Arizona Renaissance Festival. Not even in her wildest dreams would Queen Elizabeth have imagined a celebration such as this taking place in the foothills of the Superstition Mountains! One of the largest events of its kind in the United States, this special event is a place to revel in the atmosphere of a 16th-century European village! Join in the revelry every Saturday and Sunday from February 1 through March 30.

Non-Stop Entertainment

The Festival's 50-acre village is filled with 16 stages of nonstop entertainment, music, comedy, falconry, dance, mermaids,



and acrobatics. Foolish pleasures mix with artisan treasures as you shop, eat, and mingle

HUZZAH, continued on page 10



Ice Skating At The London Bridge

Get ready to experience a traditional winter favorite in the heart of the desert — Lake Havasu City. Ice skating is fun for the entire family, from young to the young at heart. Enjoy real ice skating under twinkling lights and a backdrop of pine trees at the London Bridge Resort.

London Bridge Resort brings ice skating to Lake Havasu City over the holiday season. Bring the family or come with your friends. Complimentary ice skate rentals are provided with paid admission..

ICE SKATING, continued on page 10



KELLY SIKKEMA/UNSPLASH

Cheers To A New year!

Arizona celebrates January in various ways, from automobile auctions to a hot-air balloon spectacular. Celebrate a fresh start in the Grand Canyon State by partaking in one or many of the January celebrations.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: JANUARY 1

We're ringing in 2025 and ready to take on whatever it sends our way. Fingers crossed for good times all around.



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SCOTTSDALE

Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction: January 18 – 26

Barrett-Jackson Auction Co. hosts this annual international car auction—the largest, most prestigious antique/classic car auction in the world—with an exciting and diverse selection of classic and collectible automobiles. Buyers from across the globe gather to bid on more than one thousand cars, including American and European classic, sports, and racing cars. The auction also features hundreds of vendors including one-of-a-kind collectibles and rare “automobilia.”
Info: (480) 421-6694, barrett-jackson.com, information@barrett-jackson.com



DANAE HURST

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Havasuballoon Festival and Fair: January 9-12

The sky fills with beautiful balloons during this “party in the sky!” Other activities include a pilot meet-and-greet, skydivers, dog shows, live music, a vintage/classic car show, carnival rides, kite displays, air shows, arts and crafts, an emergency vehicle display, balloon night glows and—of course—balloon rides (tethered and un-tethered).
Info: (928) 505-2440, havasuballoonfest.com, hbffhelp@gmail.com



Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 20

This day honors the legacy of the great Civil Rights leader.



FRANK SCHULENBURG

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Wings Over Willcox - Sandhill Crane Celebration January 16-19, 2025

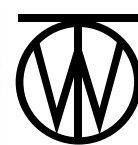
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Info: (520) 384-2874, wingsoverwillcox.com, info@wingsoverwillcox.com



Inauguration Day: January 20

What happens every four years on this day? Washington DC throws a big party to welcome a new administration. Tune in with your kids and watch history unfold. *Jan. 20*

Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events — "Downstream" — to editor@azbw.com. To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the tenth (10th) of the month prior to publication. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but we assume no responsibility for print errors or omissions. We also reserve the right to edit each item. Please include the name of the event, the date and time, the location, the organization, and contact information. You can also submit your event individually at westernoutdoortimes.com/classifieds.



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AWARDS



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Our waterways are ready, but are you?

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

**Wear a life jacket.
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Every time.**

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

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

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

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

Register Your Watercraft

Make sure your vessel's registration is current before heading out on the water! Skip the line and renew your watercraft registration online at www.azgfd.gov/boating



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Dear Friends Of BoatUS Public Affairs

I'd like to make you aware of a significant commemoration taking place in New York State in 2025 – the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal. There will be much to offer recreational boaters in this historic year as communities along the entire 524-mile New York State Canal system are expected to roll out the red carpet to boaters, whether they may be interested in cruising a length of the canal or just checking out waters by trailer boat for the day or weekend.

I am reaching out to you with this news tip as BoatUS is a sponsor of the celebration and our TowBoatUS Oneida/Rochester, Buffalo, and Oswego teams will be involved as well. I am also a New York State resident who welcomes boaters to my home state, perhaps looking to visit the canal for their first time. Nearly 200 years ago, the Erie Canal opened, forever making a monumental impact on the of growth New York State and even more

importantly, the entire nation.

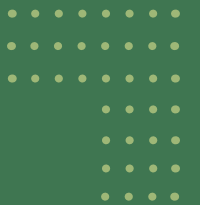
Today, the Canal system is a premier recreational boat waterway, with historic infrastructure that mostly still runs on simple waterpower, offering a ribbon of navigable canals, locks, rivers, and lakes across upstate New York connecting the East Coast with the Great Lakes and Canada that provide a cruising experience found nowhere else in America. The villages, towns, and cities that line her shores offer a wealth of tourism opportunities for visiting boaters, and I hope you have a chance to highlight this momentous year and incredible boating experience available to your readers and friends.

The culmination of the 2025 summer boating season will see the World Canals Conference [visit here to sign-up for information and updates: <https://wcc2025buffalo.com>] in Buffalo in September, along

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With the pull of its CO2 activation handle, the Super Belt instantly inflates into a full life jacket that provides 25 lbs. of buoyancy. A manual inflation tube can add an extra flotation. Once deployed, the PFD is easily repacked with a fresh 24gm



CO2 cylinder.

The Bombora Super Belt PFD is offered in Tidal light blue and Quicksilver royal and grey, and costs \$129. The CO2 Rearming Kit is \$25.

Contact local dealers or Bombora, 243 Oak St., Pembroke, MA 02359. 508-789-6522. sales@bomborgear.com; www.bomborgear.com; www.instagram.com/bomborgear; www.facebook.com/bomborgear; www.tiktok.com/@bomborgear. ■

Registration Opens For 'Turning The Tide Online' Virtual Summit

Surfing icon, environmentalist, award-winning filmmaker and "Code Method" author Shaun Tomson to serve as keynote speaker at Feb. 25-27 event

Registration is now open for the BoatUS Foundation's "Turning the Tide Online" virtual summit, scheduled for February 25-27, 2025, with a focus on seeking and sharing responsible and sustainable disposal practices of boating-related waste. Early bird pricing of \$50 for general admission, \$25 for nonprofit and government employees, and \$5 for students, is available to attendees who sign up before December 31. Register at BoatUS.org/turningthetide

The three-day summit will give attendees an opportunity to come together to share their thoughts about existing and emerging technologies and best practices for responsible and sustainable disposal of boating-related waste streams. Topics include disposal of fiberglass, shrink-wrap, pyrotechnic flares and fishing gear.



Event participation is open to members of the boating industry, waste stream managers, academics, government officials, as well as individuals and organizations.

Shaun Tomson, a surfing icon, environmentalist, award-winning filmmaker, businessperson, author and former board member/first ambassador of the Surfrider Foundation, which is dedicated to protecting the world's oceans, waves and beaches, will serve as keynote speaker and kick off this event for the BoatUS Foundation.

At the summit, Tomson will speak to his "Surfer's Code" that incorporates 12 simple lessons for riding through life, applying those principles to the challenge of boating waste stream management. Named by *Surfer Magazine* as one of the 10 greatest surfers of all time and a staunch advocate for ocean conservation,

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TUG

Continued from page 4

with the transit from Buffalo to New York City of the historic, newly-launched canal boat replica, the 73-foot *Seneca Chief*, which will symbolize Governor Dewitt Clinton's historic opening voyage 200 years ago. Boaters will be welcomed to join a flotilla or regional parade(s) to accompany the *Seneca Chief*. More details will be fleshed out in the next couple of months.

If you'd like to start to know more, feel free to contact my friends at —

Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor: Jean MacKay, jean_mackay@eriecanalway.org

New York State Canal Corporation / New York Power Authority: Shane Mahar, shane.mahar@nypa.gov

I am positive a short discussion with Jean or Shane could help you flesh out a story or news item. Feel free to let them know Scott sent you and hope to see you in New York this summer!

Thanks,
Scott

Scott Croft
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Jim Jared And Ray Ortiz Fish Winter Bass

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

Cold-blooded critters like bass slow down in winter, and the colder the water gets, the slower the bass become. But they don't quit eating altogether, and if you know how, where, and what to fish, winter can be your best chance to bag a really big bass. Arizona Game and Fish biologist Bill Silvey explains: "As the air temperature drops, the water at the surface starts to cool off and become denser. Pretty soon it's colder than the water beneath it, and it starts to sink, while the warmer water below rises to replace it." This is what we call the fall turn over, and it really mixes up the fish.

Fish Behavior Becomes Unpredictable

The turn over, says Silvey, mixes oxygen all through the water, making almost anywhere in the lake suitable habitat for bass. They can move down to structure that was oxygen-free all summer, or come up shallow and stay. Fishing is difficult during the turn over because the fish are scattered all over, and they are difficult to pattern because their behavior is unpredictable.

It takes about a month for the lake to stabilize after the turn over, Silvey says, and once that happens, fish are more concentrated than ever because there are fewer suitable habitats for them. The water in the lake stratifies again, and the fish have to stay where the conditions make it possible for them to survive.

Fish Usually Shallow In Winter

Fish are not usually actively chasing food in winter, says Silvey, but if you can put something right in their faces, they'll take it. Surprisingly, Silvey states that winter is typically the best time for the Game and Fish Department to do their electrofishing, because fish in winter are usually relatively shallow. What is "relatively shallow"? Twenty feet or less, according to Silvey, and bass will be concentrated around structure in those depths. Steeper banks, ledges, bluffs, and points that drop off quickly are good places to start your search for winter bass, because bass on this vertical structure can easily move up and down to stay in their comfort zone.

For some reason, bass seem to prefer woody structure in winter, even if weeds are available. If you find good vertical structure with wood on it, such as a ledge with old stumps along it that drops off to a creek channel, you've hit winter bass pay dirt. On larger bodies of water, conditions and temperatures will vary in different parts of the lake. The water may be slightly warmer at one end than at the other, and other factors such as oxygen and pH may affect the fish. Keep in mind that if you are fishing unsuccessfully, a simple change in location may turn your luck around.

JIM JARED

Jim Jared agrees that winter bass can be found shallow. Jared is probably one of the best-known of the pioneer western jig-fishing pros, and he seldom fishes



Justin Welch with a nice winter bass.



John again - we actually prefer bass fishing in winter because the lakes aren't as crowded and we tend to catch bigger fish.

deeper than fifteen feet. Once the lake has settled down after the fall turn over, the water usually becomes very clear. Very clear water often makes fishermen turn to tiny lures and light line, but Jared sticks with the big stuff.

I Fish The Fish Houses

"I only fish the fish houses," Jared says, and this means he casts his jig only to places where he thinks a bass is likely to live. Jared's solution to the clear-water problem is pitching. "Stay back from the cover you're fishing and pitch the jig to it, making sure you don't make a lot of noise with the lure when it hits the water," he explains. Jim makes underhand casts of about thirty feet or so, keeping the jig just above the surface of the water until it is over the spot he wants to fish. When the lure enters the water, it hardly makes a sound.

"Watch the line as the jig falls," Jared emphasizes. "If it moves, reel down and set the hook." Jim doesn't turn the reel handle when the jig hits the water--he allows the lure to fall freely, keeping his fingers on the line to control the slack



John uses a lot of jigs in winter.

and feel for bites. If the jig hits bottom without being taken, he moves on without working the lure back.

I Only Fish Targets

"I only fish targets," he states. "If I thought there was a fish between me and that bush, I would have cast there in the first place." Set the hook on absolutely everything that feels different, he urges, because bites on a jig, especially in winter, can be anything: a mushy feeling, the lure stopping before it hits bottom, the line moving sideways, or even a good tap.

If you miss a bite, Jim says, don't reel in--let the lure fall again and many times the bass will come back and take the jig a second time. Jared drags a jig slowly when he fishes, bringing it carefully over every bump and branch on his target, and keeping his eyes and his fingers on the line. When his lure reaches the high point, he makes sure he's got the line loose enough to allow the lure to fall naturally, and this, he says, has made a big difference in his catch ratio.

Cover A Lot Of Water But Carefully

"I want to make sure I can cover a lot of water, but I still fish carefully," he says, "and that's why I cast only to what I consider to be fish-holding targets." He uses a stout, 6-foot Phenix boron rod for powerful hooksets, and a very fast reel. The reel not only lets him get his lure back fast once he's past his target, it allows him to take up line quickly to get control of a fish.

Jared uses every little trick he can to keep the odds in his favor. Rubber-skirted

jigs, he says, have a bitter taste and smell, so the night before he goes fishing, he puts the jigs in jug of scent. He usually prepares eight jigs this way, and changes the jig after every fish, or about every twenty minutes or so of fishing. The used jigs go into a different jug, also filled with scent. When the original jug is empty, he starts over with the used ones that have been soaking.

In Case Of Accidents

Jared also keeps an entire spare jig rod and reel handy in case of accidents, and even doctors up his pork frogs. The combination he uses most is a 3/8-ounce purple jig with a brown #11 Uncle Josh pork frog. If he's going to be fishing heavy cover, he'll trim the sides of the pork to make it move through branches more easily. He also makes vertical cuts through the fat side of the pork frog, almost all the way to the skin, so that the pork has a more natural flex to it.

"Bass are basically shallow-water fish," he says, "that's why most tournaments are won in fifteen feet of water or less." You don't have to go deep when fishing slows down, he adds, just look for better cover, concentrate on "fish houses", and slow down your presentation.

RAY ORTIZ

Not all of our lakes have a lot of wood cover, and even in those that do, there are usually still large areas of water that have rocks as their only cover. Does this mean that there aren't any bass there in winter? No way, says Ray Ortiz.

WINTER BASS, continued on page 9

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

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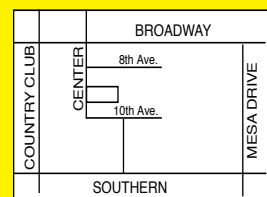
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AZGFD Asks Hunters To Help Keep Chronic Wasting Disease At Bay

Arizona remains CWD-free due to surveillance efforts.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is asking hunters to continue doing their part to help keep Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) at bay. CWD is a fatal wildlife disease that affects the nervous system of deer and elk.

All successful deer and elk hunters are encouraged to bring the head of their harvested animal — especially bucks and bulls — to any department office statewide between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The department is requesting that hunters call in advance before delivering a head for sampling.

The preferred method for storage is to place the head in a heavy-duty plastic trash bag, and keep it cold or frozen until it can be sampled. The department also requests hunters to provide accurate hunter information (name, telephone number), as well as hunt information (hunt number, game management unit in which the animal was harvested, state, and hunting license number). This information is crucial should CWD be detected in a sample.



As an alternative, hunters can view an instructional video on how to collect their own samples on AZGFD's website (www.azgfd.com/healthy), then bring those samples to any department office statewide.

AZGFD is hoping to sample 1,500 deer and elk this season.

Department officials have not detected any cases of CWD in the 750-plus deer (mule and white-tailed) and elk that have been harvested by hunters and voluntarily submitted for testing this fall. Game and Fish has been testing for the presence of the disease in Arizona since 1998. While CWD has been found in the neighboring states of Utah, New Mexico and Colorado, the disease has not been detected in Arizona. CWD has not been documented

to cause disease in people.

CWD is transmitted and spread by animal movement and direct contact, which means the illegal importation of a cervid carcass or parts with brain or spinal column tissue of an infected animal could introduce the disease into Arizona. For that reason, AZGFD urges hunters who return to Arizona with a harvested deer or elk from another state to follow these guidelines:

- Boneless portions of meat, or meat that has been cut and packaged.
- Clean hides and capes with no skull or soft tissue attached.
- Antlers, clean skull plates or skulls with antlers attached with no meat or soft tissue remaining.
- Finished taxidermy mounts or products (hunters may ship their harvested animal to a taxidermist).
- Upper canine teeth with no meat or tissue attached.
- Do not bring the brain, intact skull or spinal column of a deer or elk harvested in another state back into Arizona.

It may take longer than a year before an infected deer or elk develops symptoms of CWD, which can include drastic

HUNTERS, continued on page 10



AZGFD Conducts Aerial Winter Wildlife Surveys Through January

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) will conduct its aerial winter wildlife surveys for deer and javelina through January 2025. The department routinely conducts big game surveys with aircraft in Arizona's game management units (GMUs). These flights are an important tool used by wildlife managers to accurately set annual hunt permit numbers to ensure the health of big game populations. While AZGFD attempts to minimize these flights during hunting seasons, hunters are advised that some surveys may overlap with an ongoing hunt.

WINTER BASS

Continued from page 7

Ortiz fished western bass tournaments with great zest as well as great success. One of his favorite baits for winter bass is a football head jig with a Yamamoto Hula Grub trailer.

Big Doesn't Necessarily Mean Heavy

"Big doesn't necessarily mean heavy," Ray explains, "and I usually fish a 3/8-ounce jig, especially when I'm fishing water less than ten feet deep." A big bait falls slower because there is more surface on it to resist the water, he says, and sometimes that slow fall is the key to success when winter has the fish in a sluggish mood.

"I start in the text book places," Ray says, "like points with good drop-offs, ledges, and channels." He uses a long medium-heavy rod and a 6:1 reel and makes his casts right to shore. Dragging the lure is the key to winter fishing, he states. "I keep the rod tip low, and I keep the boat as still as I can," he says. "I want to move the jig as slow as I can, and I need to feel every move it makes." Keeping the rod tip low gives him more room to swing when he sets the hook, and he's been experimenting with braided line. "It only takes half the effort to set the hook with this stuff," he says.

Using The Reel To Move The Jig

Ortiz uses the reel to move the jig, turning the handle slowly and keeping his fingers on the line the whole time. He drags the jig over every rock and hump, and pays special attention when the lure starts to fall down the structure--this is when the bites usually happen, he says.

"It's important to let the lure fall right next to the rocks," he emphasizes. "If you start hopping it over, or pulling it so it moves away from the rock, you're probably jumping it right over the fish. In winter, you have to let it get right on their nose or they won't take it."

Set The Hook Hard

A lot of times the bite is simply the lure stopping. You'll be cranking the handle, feeling the jig move, then it suddenly

doesn't move any more. When this happens, don't think about it, he says--just set the hook, hard. "A lot of people are really too shy about setting the hook," says Ortiz. "Since the bite can feel like almost anything, you should set the hook hard whenever you feel something different about the jig."

And you need to set that hook with authority, he adds, snapping the rod up as hard and as fast as you can, and reeling hard at the same time. This is when the stiff rod and fast reel pay for themselves. You can't let a fish get slack when you have him on a jig, Ray says: if you give him a chance to jump, he'll most likely jump right off.

Catching Means Finding First

"People get discouraged when they're fishing if they don't catch anything for a while," Ortiz says, "and usually they just need to slow down." They also need to remember that catching fish is a matter of finding them first, and in winter you can be as little as ten feet off where the fish are and not catch anything. You have to find likely looking structure and fish it thoroughly before moving on.

Changing colors also helps sometimes, he says, and Ray uses the KISS method for choosing colors: Keep It Simple, Stupid. He uses shad and crawfish colors like smoke/sparkle, dark green, and pumpkin. Another of his tricks is to fish uphill sometimes, keeping the boat shallow and pulling the jig up the rocks toward the shore. He also uses Smelly Jelly scent abundantly, and says he thinks that rather than make the lure taste good, its main function is to cover the unpleasant (to bass) smell of human hands.

More And Bigger

"When people think of fishing shallow, they usually think of lures like spinnerbaits and crankbaits," Ray says. "These lures, even if they get close enough, usually go by too fast for winter bass. You can fish shallow and still fish slow with a jig, and you'll catch more fish. Bigger fish, too."

Some final words of wisdom about fishing big jigs for winter bass: if you spot good structure on your graph, even if you can't see fish around it, stop and

fish. Fish that are eating will go right to the structure, and you may not be able to tell if they're there or not. In fact, seeing fish out from structure is not necessarily good. Those fish are suspended and can be almost impossible to entice into biting.

Bottom Line

Bottom line: just because the fish have slowed down a bit when the water turns cold doesn't mean they aren't eating. Put a big jig right where they live and you'll soon discover that when it comes to winter bass, bigger is better. ■



FISHING



HUNTING



CONSERVATION



NEWS

HUZZAH

Continued from page 1

with a cast of nearly 2,000 colorfully costumed characters. Explore the village marketplace with over 200 storybook shops, studios, and galleries filled with unique arts and crafts, handmade wares, kitchens and pubs, games, and people-powered rides.

Kids love the interactive games and people-powered rides: Da Vinci's Flying Machine, The Slider Joust, Piccolo Pony—a rocking horse bigger than an elephant! The Dragon Climbing Tower, Castle Siege, the Maze, Archery Range, and much more!

Jousting Tournaments

The live jousting tournaments are one of the festival's most popular attractions. Armored knights on charging steeds take up their lances and battle for the Queen's honor. Cheer on your favorite armored knight at one of the three daily jousting tournaments in the 5,000-seat arena.

Food, Drynk Fit For A King

In addition to the revelry, the festival offers food fit for a King. Attend the Pleasure Feast and be treated like a true Royal while you savor five courses of fine food, ample drynk, and enjoy an hour and a half of raucous Renaissance entertainment at its best! The Pleasure Feast: 12:00 pm and 2:30 pm, includes admission to the Festival and a special



edition Pleasure Feast goblet. Reservations required in advance.

Pub Hops And Diverse Menu

Don't miss The Hops, Get ready for fun and games as HOPS Masters Rowland & Florian of The Renaissance Men take you on a journey to four select Village pubs! Must be 21 to partake. Limited spots-reserve your pub crawl spot today! 11 am and 2 pm daily.

Food is plentiful and available throughout the village. The menu is diverse with delectable offerings such as steak-on-a-stake, vegetable and meat pies, pastas, bread bowls filled with hearty stews, and more. And who can forget the smoked turkey legs?! The desserts are decadent. Be sure to try the crepes, the chimney rolls, or a variety of other sweet treat surprises!

See Thee There

There is something for EVERYONE at the Arizona Renaissance Festival! Visit Arizona.RenFestInfo.com for more information and Like us on Facebook for



special offers, information, and contests. Tickets are available online at www.Arizona.RenFestInfo.com OR at Bashas' and Food City throughout the state.

See thee at the Faire-HUZZAH! February 1 thru March 30 Saturdays

and Sundays including Presidents' Day Monday February 17 10am – 6pm Rain or Shine Arizona Renaissance Festival 12601 East Highway 60 Gold Canyon, AZ 85118 (520) 463-2600 Arizona.renfestinfo.com ■

HUNTERS

Continued from page 9

weight loss (wasting), stumbling, being unaware of its surroundings, and other neurological symptoms. CWD can infect deer and elk animals of all ages, although

it's most frequently noticed in older animals. CWD is fatal, and there are no treatments or vaccines.

All hunters are advised not to shoot, handle or consume any animal that is acting abnormally or appears to be sick. Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing deer or elk. All hunters are asked

SUMMIT

Continued from page 5

Tomson's high-impact and transformational self-development program will focus on the power of purpose to improve well-being, engagement and performance. Additional conference speakers are expected to be announced later this month.

"Boating-related waste is an issue that

affects all communities and this unique summit will spark meaningful conversations to protect our waters for years to come. We hope to uncover best practices in industries such as agriculture, construction, packaging, waste management and recycling, fishing, wind power or any industry that may have an impact on these waste streams," said BoatUS Foundation Director of Outreach Alanna Keating. "We're really looking to advance actionable solutions."

POOL

Continued from page 1

the "2024-2025 Arizona Hunting Regulations."

Applicants should mail their completed application and nonrefundable application fee of \$13 for residents or \$15 for nonresidents, per species, to: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Attn.: Drawer FAB, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, Ariz., 85086-5000. Do not send

cash.

A few points about population management hunts —

- AZGFD will purge the Hunter Pool Application list Dec. 31 each year. An application may be submitted at any time during the year (do not include the Hunter Pool Application with a hunt permit-tag application. Each application must be sent separately.)

- If selected during a random drawing for a population management hunt, the department will attempt to contact the

applicant within a 24-hour period. If that applicant cannot be contacted, their application will be returned to the pool for inclusion in future population management hunts that year.

If a successful applicant agrees to participate in a population management hunt, it is likely that person will be asked to arrive in the field to hunt within a few days of being contacted. The purchase of a restricted nonpermit-tag and applicable hunting license prior to hunting is required.

An applicant will not gain or lose bonus points when applying for, or participating in, a population management hunt. ■

This first-of-its-kind summit is made possible by a four-year, \$10 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program with funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The funding is also fueling a national competitive grant program for the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs), and the creation of a first-of-its-kind national database to pinpoint locations of ADVs and track their removal. ■

to contact the department at 623-236-7201 if they see or harvest an animal that appears to be sick.

For information about importation of harvested animals in other states, contact that state's wildlife management agency. For more information about CWD, visit www.azgfd.com/healthy. ■

ICE SKATING

Continued from page 1

- When: Through January 12th, 2025
- Where: 1477 Queens Bay, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
- More: iceskatehavas.com or (928) 855-0888
- Price: The admission rates are per hour and include skate rental. ■

2025

Continued from page 1

Speaking of good things, just around the corner is one of the first harbingers of a new year: the annual Renaissance Festival -- one of our favorite events. The jousting, the artisans, the Pleasure Feast, the entertainers are all part of the "raucous revelry" we have come to expect and enjoy in the Village of Fairhaven. Be sure to visit this year.

(By the way, at the Faire, in keeping with our interest in wildlife, a variety of *birds-of-prey*, some endangered, *display* the unique skills that enraptured nobles long ago and made falconry the sport of kings.)

Continuing the favorite traditions of Arizona hunting and fishing, the Arizona Game & Fish Department offers some new and exciting ways to get involved. And, fishing is in good hands as the Andersons remind us of some ways to enjoy winter bass fishing: the bigger, the better!

Whether we begin the year outdoors at the Ren Faire or hunting, fishing, boating, camping, or hiking, may we remain thankful for all the resources we enjoy here all year long.

Best wishes to you in 2025! ■

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GAME TAGS

Continued from page 1

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Avian Flu Detected In Scottsdale Park Geese

The Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has detected avian influenza in a free-ranging domestic goose and a Canada goose found by personnel at a Scottsdale park and submitted them for testing by Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel. While strain identification is pending, this is likely the same Eurasian strain of the virus (H5 clade 2.3.4.4) that has been circulating in North America and has recently caused mortalities in other locations across the state.

Avian influenza (AI) viruses are identified by two groups of proteins: hemagglutinin or “H” proteins of which there are 16 and neuraminidase or “N” proteins of which there are nine. AI viruses are further classified by the ability to cause disease



in chickens (“high path” or “low path”). Low path AI viruses are often found in waterfowl (ducks, geese, and shorebirds). Occasionally these low path viruses infect a chicken, or other bird where they mutate and become pathogenic.

Generally, wild birds are resistant to high path AI. However, the Eurasian H5N1 strain currently circulating in



North America is different and has caused the death of a large number of wild birds.

Bald eagles, great horned owls, Canada geese, snow geese, waterfowl, and raptors have been among the species affected.

The Game and Fish Department will be reaching out to falconers and wildlife rehabilitation facilities about the detec-

tion and will advise them of precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Birds with AI are not considered a health risk for people under normal circumstances. The Game and Fish Department is continuing to investigate reports of sick and dead birds, especially those involving raptors, or significant numbers of birds. Reports of sick wild birds can be made by calling 623-236-7201. For reports of sick domestic birds, the public should contact the Arizona Department of Agriculture at 602-542-4293. The public should wear gloves when handling any dead birds. See the Arizona Game and Fish Website at <https://www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/Diseases/> for more information. ■

Seasonal Restrictions In Place As Bald Eagle Breeding Begins

Arizona’s bald eagles are back, and they will soon be preparing for the next generation of eagles at breeding sites statewide.

To assist with the state’s continued bald eagle population growth, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) encourages outdoor recreationists, aircraft pilots, drone operators and motorized paragliders to do their part by not disturbing the state’s 104 eagle breeding areas.

To protect breeding attempts, some portions of public land and water areas will be temporarily closed to help these majestic animals and ensure even more young eagles take to the skies this spring.

“Arizona’s bald eagles are hard at work preparing their nest for what we hope will be a productive breeding season,” said Kenneth “Tuk” Jacobson, bald eagle management coordinator. “The birds nest, forage and roost at rivers and lakes that are also popular recreation spots. That’s why we must be vigilant to help protect the birds and ensure their populations statewide continue to flourish. That success wouldn’t be possible without the cooperation of outdoor recreationists who respect the closures during the breeding season.”

During the 2024 breeding season, 96 young hatched, and 77 reached the important milestone of their first flight, known as fledging.

Pilots are reminded to maintain the FAA-recommended 2,000-foot above ground level advisory when flying over bald eagle habitat, while drones and paragliders are asked to avoid the areas completely. Bald eagles are sensitive to even short durations of low-flying aircraft activity near their nests, and just a few minutes of disturbance can lead to a nesting failure.

Airspace Advisory Statewide

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established a 2,000-foot above ground level (AGL) advisory along the Salt and Verde river drainages and lakes such as Lake Pleasant, Roosevelt Lake and Alamo Lake. These areas are designated on the Phoenix Sectional Aeronautical map and also include Alamo Lake, Ashurst Lake, Greer Lakes, Crescent Lake, Luna Lake, Show Low Lake, Chevelon Canyon Lake, Woods Canyon Lake, Lake Mary, Dogtown Reservoir, White Horse Lake and the Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge. Special brochures for pilots regarding this advisory can be obtained by calling the Arizona Department of Transportation or AZGFD’s Terrestrial Wildlife branch at 623-236-7506.



Seasonal Closures Verde River

• Verde River near Chasm Creek is closed to foot and vehicle entry from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed. Contact the Prescott National Forest, Verde Ranger District, at 928-567-4121.

• Verde River upstream of the East Verde confluence is closed to vehicle and foot entry from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed, but no stopping in the river or landing is allowed. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District, at 480-595-3300.

• Verde River near Mule Shoe Bend allows watercraft to float through but no stopping in the river or landing is allowed from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District, at 480-595-3300.

• Verde River at the Needle Rock Recreation Area is closed to foot and vehicle entry on portions of the west side of the river from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District, at 480-595-3300.

Tonto Creek

• Tonto Creek from Gisela to 76 Ranch is not planned to be closed to vehicle, foot entry, and floating through from Dec. 1 to June 30, unless the eagle pair resumes nesting within the closure area. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Tonto Basin Ranger District, at 928-467-3200.

• Tonto Creek inlet to Roosevelt Lake is closed to vehicle and foot entry within 1,000 feet of the nest on land and to watercraft within 300 feet on water from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Tonto Basin Ranger District, at 602-225-5395.

Salt River

• Salt River from Horseshoe Bend to Redmond Flat allows watercraft to float through, but no stopping in the river or landing is allowed from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Globe Ranger District, at 928-402-6200.

• Salt River near Meddler Point is closed to vehicle and foot entry within 1,000 feet of the nest on land and to watercraft within 300 feet on water from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Tonto Basin Ranger District, at 602-225-5395.

• Salt River below Stewart Mountain Dam is closed to vehicle or foot entry on the south side of the river from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Mesa Ranger District, at 480-610-3300.

• Salt River near Goldfield-Kerr Fire Station is closed to foot and vehicle entry on the north side of the river from Dec. 1 to June 30. Floating through is allowed. Contact the Tonto National Forest, Mesa Ranger District, at 480-610-3300.

Crescent Lake

• A portion of land west of the lakes is closed to all entry from March 1 through Aug. 31. Contact the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Springerville Ranger District, at 928-333-6200.

Fool Hollow Lake

• A portion of the shoreline may be closed to foot entry from Dec. 1 through June 31. Contact the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Lakeside Ranger District, at 928-368-2100.

Greer Lakes

• (Tunnel and River). Depending on the nesting location, portions of the lakes may be closed to watercraft and a portion of the shoreline may be closed to foot entry from March 1 through July 31. Contact the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Springerville Ranger District, at 928-333-6200.

Horseshoe Lake

• Depending on the nesting location, a portion of the lake may be closed from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact AZGFD at 623-236-7506.

Lake Pleasant

• No vehicle, watercraft or foot entry is allowed into a portion of the Lower Agua Fria Arm from Dec. 15 to June 15. Contact Maricopa County Parks and Recreation at 928-501-1710.

Luna Lake

• Depending on the nesting location, the portion of land to the north or south of Luna Lake may be closed to vehicle and foot traffic from Jan. 1 to June 15. Contact the Apache National Forest, Alpine Ranger District, at 928-339-5000.

Lynx Lake

• A portion of the trail on the lake’s east side is closed to vehicle and foot traffic from Dec. 1 to June 30. Contact the Prescott National Forest, Bradshaw Ranger District, at 928-443-8000.

EAGLES continued on page 14

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Endangered Mount Graham Red Squirrel Population Increases Substantially

The endangered Mount Graham red squirrel, a subspecies of squirrel found only in the Pinaleno Mountains of southeastern Arizona, has been surveyed at higher population numbers than anticipated.

The annual interagency population survey, conducted jointly by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), Coronado National Forest, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, resulted in an estimated 233 squirrels. This is an exciting increase from the 144 squirrels estimated in 2023.

“We all knew that we were seeing a lot of squirrels and middens during this last survey,” said Holly Hicks, the AZGFD small mammal project coordinator, “but I don’t think any of us expected such a dramatic increase.”

The current survey method, first implemented in 2019, involves systematically searching for active middens within survey plots to census the majority of red squirrel



habitat in the Pinaleno Mountains. Typically, one squirrel will maintain one midden, which is considered active if there are signs of feeding and/or stored pine cones. Active middens are then used to estimate the population size.

“This survey process allows us to obtain a more accurate picture of the population numbers,” said Coronado National Forest Supervisor Kerwin S. Dewberry.

“We are excited to see that current land management practices being implemented . . . are proving to be beneficial for the Mount Graham red squirrel population.”

- Coronado National Forest Supervisor Kerwin S. Dewberry

“We are excited to see that current land management practices being implemented in the Pinaleno mountain range are proving to be beneficial for the Mount Graham red squirrel population.”

The Mount Graham subspecies was listed as endangered in 1987. These red squirrels live only in the upper elevation conifer forests of the Pinaleno Mountains and feed primarily on conifer seeds. They are highly territorial and have lower reproductive rates than other red squirrels. Long-term impacts on Mount Graham red squirrel’s population size and habitat include wild-fire, insect infestations, competition with non-native Abert’s squirrels, and poor pine cone crops caused by drought.

The Mount Graham red squirrel population peaked at approximately 550 in the late 1990s. Typically, the squirrel population ranges between 200 and 300 individuals. After the 2017 Frye Fire, however, much of their habitat was destroyed and the population plummeted to approximately 35 squirrels.

“We were all extremely concerned for the subspecies after the 2017 Frye Fire caused the squirrel’s population to drop drastically,” said Marit Alanen, lead Mount Graham red squirrel biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “So seeing a number now over 200 is really fantastic news.” ■

EAGLES

Continued from page 12

Show Low Lake

• A portion of the lake may be closed to watercraft and a portion of the shoreline may be closed to foot entry from Jan. 1 through July 31. Contact the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Lakeside Ranger District, at 928-368-2100.

Woods Canyon Lake

• A portion of the shoreline is closed to foot entry from March 1 through Aug. 31. Contact the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Black Mesa Ranger District, at 928-535-7300.

Tips for visiting eagle areas

If you are visiting bald eagle country,

an advance call to the local land management agency, such as the local U.S. Forest Service district office, or the Arizona Game and Fish Department may help to plan your trip to avoid disturbing bald eagles. By following these simple guidelines, we can all help to ensure that our living wildlife legacy will last for generations to come:

- Enjoy bald eagles from outside the closures, which are marked with signs and/or buoys. Watch from a distance using a spotting scope, binoculars or telephoto camera lens. If the eagles are persistently watching you, observation at a greater distance is advised.

- Anyone approached by a nestwatcher and asked to cease an activity or leave a closed area should comply. A few good places to see bald eagles without disturbing them (during December and January)

are at Lake Mary and Mormon Lake near Flagstaff, on the Verde Canyon Train in Clarkdale, or Roosevelt Lake.

- Bald eagles protecting an active nest will let you know if you are too close. If a bald eagle is vocalizing and circling the area frantically, you are too close and need to leave the area quickly. Bald eagles incubating eggs or brooding small young should never be off the nest for more than 15 minutes.

- Help from anglers is especially needed. Fishing line and tackle have killed two nestlings and been found in two-thirds of all bald eagle nests in the state. Biologists remove these lethal hazards from nests and/or entangled nestlings every year. Discard any fishing line properly in specially-marked recycling containers or at fishing stores. Also, use fresh line that isn’t old and brittle. Use the correct test

line for the fish you are trying to catch. Also, do not cut the line when an undesirable fish is caught and return it to the water with the hook and line attached.

- Duck hunters should scout out their hunting area to ensure that bald eagles are not nesting nearby.

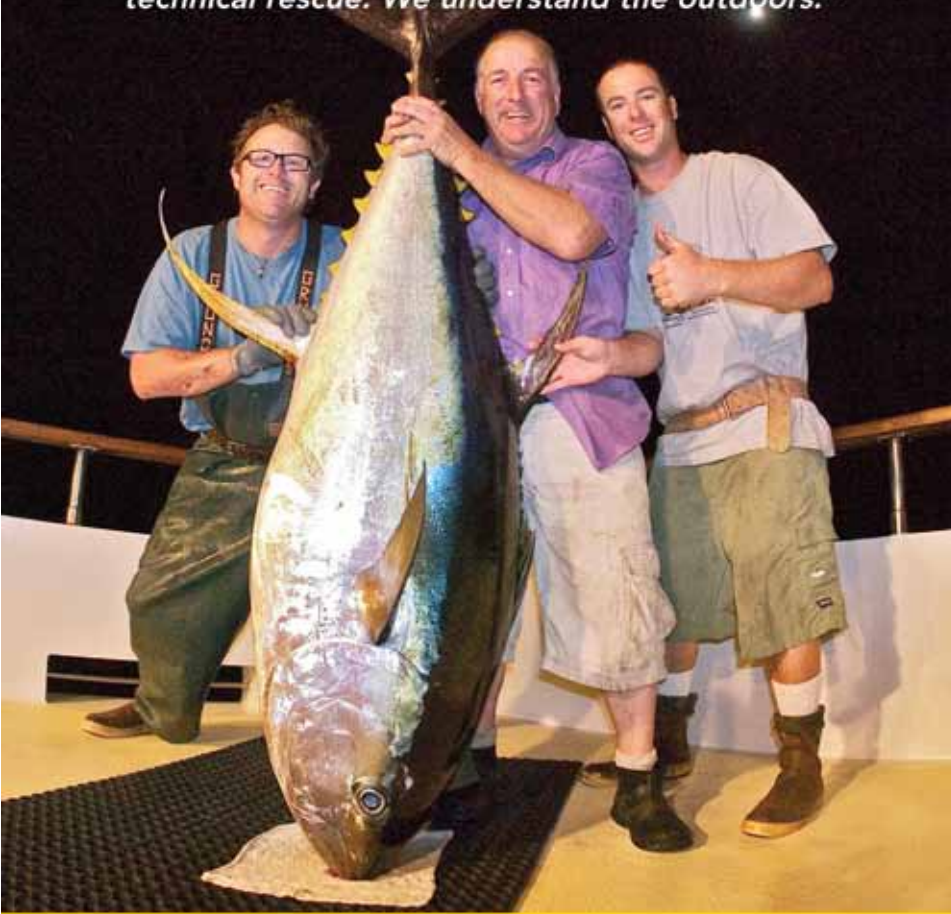
Help conserve and protect bald eagles and conservation research and recovery efforts by reporting any harassment or shooting of bald eagles. Call the Arizona Game and Fish Operation Game Thief Hotline at 800-352-0700, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement at 480-967-7900.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives no general fund tax dollars. The majority of funding to manage more than 800 native wildlife species comes from Arizona’s hunters and anglers. ■

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Tickets donations only

\$5



A new raffle and pot will commence at 12:00 am on the first of the month. Buyers through 11:59 pm on the last day of the month will have a chance to win before the pot is closed and reset.

There are no limits on the number of tickets sold or the number any one person can purchase. Winner will be drawn Sat random and announced on or before the 5th of the month. All purchasers must be at least 21 years old.





GMRS Radio For Outdoors Is A Great Idea

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

I got my ham radio operator’s license last year and I’ve been enjoying talking to people all over the state. Once I get my antenna built, I’ll be able to use frequencies that allow me to reach all over the world!* But what if you only need to be able to talk to someone who is just a couple of miles away – like a fellow hunter or an off-road buddy? Getting a ham license just for that is overkill, especially since you have to take a test for each license level – and those tests aren’t easy. That’s where GMRS radio comes in!

Amateur Radio Clubs

One of the best benefits I’ve gotten from being a ham is getting to know other hams. There are Amateur Radio clubs all over the state. The one I belong to is WVARC, and I’ve also joined the West Valley Radio Shack, which hosts classes and much more. In fact, I learned about GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) in a class at the Shack. The class was given by Frank K7SD, whose GMRS call sign is WRVG584.

You do not need a license for GMRS, but there is no test. You simply go to the FCC website, pay a \$35 fee, get your call sign, and you’re good to go. Once you have your GMRS call sign, which is assigned to you after you pay your fee, you can start transmitting and receiving immediately. There are 22 channels available for GMRS communications, including 8 repeater channels, which is super cool.

How To Get Your Call Sign

First you need an FCC Registration Number, or FRN, which you can get at



Many inexpensive walkie talkies will do FRS and GMRS. You can see this one has it right on the radio. You can’t use the GMRS channels without a license, but FRS channels are open to anyone.

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores> Once you have your FRN, go to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp> and enter your FRN. Select apply for a new license, and choose ZA -General Mobile Radio and pay your \$35. It’s that simple. You’ll receive an email from the FCC with your new call sign. The GMRS call signs are a bit longer than ham radio call signs, so I wrote mine down and taped it to my GMRS radios. You can’t use a ham call sign on GMRS or vice versa.

Using your call sign is required by the FCC whenever you communicate on the radio. You just identify yourself when you call. I’d say “This is WREL895” when I first start talking on GMRS channels. If

your whole family is sharing your license, you can identify with the call sign then a number or name or letter to let your family know which person is calling. You should give your call sign at first, at the end of your communication (“WREL895 out”) and every fifteen minutes during long communications.

What’s A Repeater Channel?

A GMRS repeater is a communication system that receives the signal from your handheld radio and retransmits it at a different frequency, allowing for extended communication range. These repeaters are typically placed at high elevations with efficient antennas, enabling them to cover much larger areas than handheld radios alone. What this means is that by using a repeater channel, you can reach someone much further away than the typical ½ to 3 miles using a handheld GMRS radio.

Benefits Of GMRS Radio Over FRS

There is also a service called FRS, which is Family Radio Service – basically walkie-talkies. No license needed, no station ID, and the radios can be super cheap. But they have limited range and no repeater access. Your transmit power is only 2 watts with an FRS radio, the antenna isn’t removable, and battery life is typically limited to a few hours. If you

are always within sight of the person you need to communicate with, a walkie talkie is fine, but for longer distances, GMRS is the way to go.

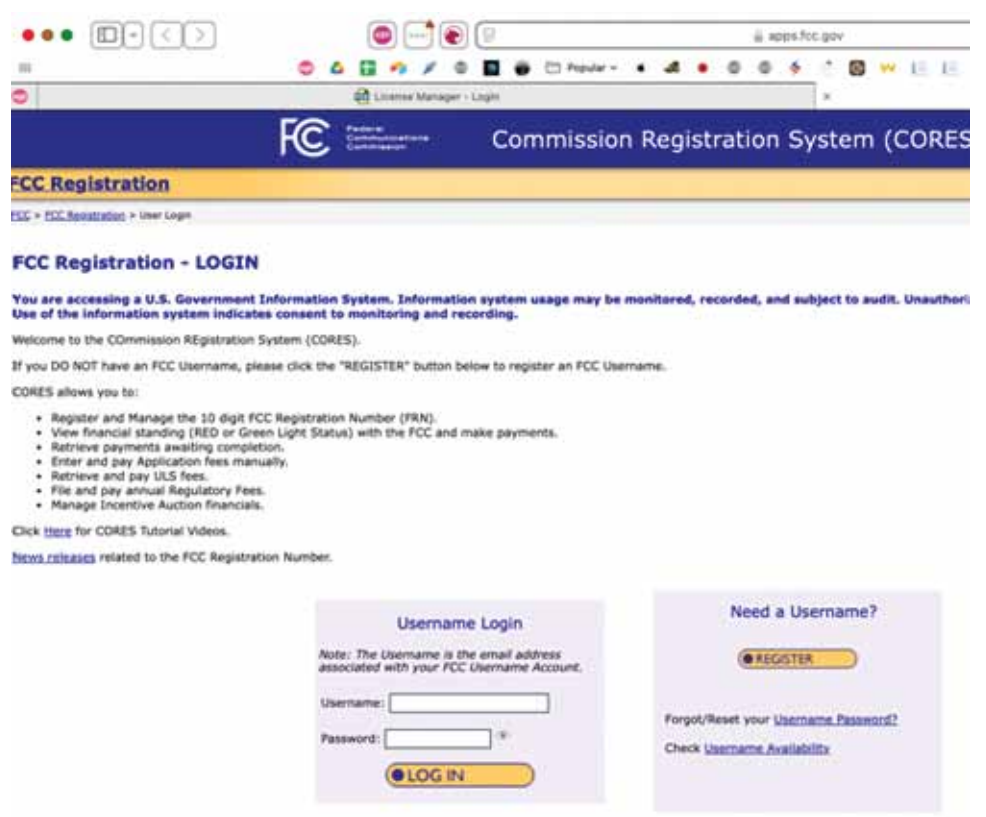
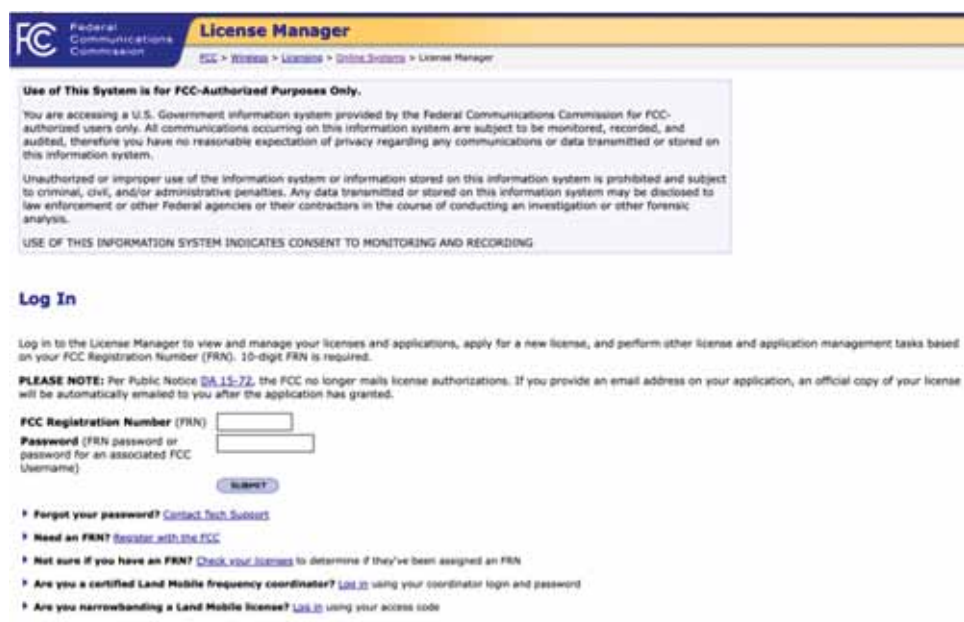
GMRS lets your whole family use the one \$35 license you buy from the FCC, and you can get both handheld models and mobile models for your vehicle. These let you transmit at up to 50 watts, and more power means better reach. The access to repeaters extends that range even more. Some mountaintop repeaters have a range of over 100 miles. Plus, with a mobile or base radio, your run time is unlimited.

Radio Only As Good As Your Antenna

A GMRS mobile or base radio is a larger unit that you can install in your vehicle or your home. They usually have a separate microphone and can run on a car battery or the AC in your home with the right accessories. You can also use much better antennas on a mobile or base radio, and as I’m discovering with my ham radio license, your radio is only as good as your antenna.

IMPORTANT NOTE: GMRS communications are NOT encrypted. Encryption is not allowed on GMRS. It isn’t allowed on ham radio frequencies either, so no using a secret family code on the radio. Ham radio can seem encrypted at times, but the use of Q-codes

RADIO, continued on page 19



Once you have your FRN, you can apply and pay for a GMRS license.

Get an FCC username, then get a GMRS license. The FCC will email you your call sign.

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Grand Canyon National Park Seeks Public Comment On Proposed Campground Increase

GRAND CANYON, AZ. — Grand Canyon National Park is seeking the public's input on a proposed increase for front-country camping fees. This increase would begin April 1, 2025.

Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA) collects campground fees from visitors for overnight stays. GRCA is seeking public comment on proposed fee increases for standard tent and RV sites at Mather, Desert View and North Rim campgrounds. The current camping fees have remained unchanged for the past 20 years.

Under the authority of the Federal Lands and Recreation Enhancement Act, GRCA retains 80% of the recreation fees it collects. These fees are used in projects to improve the visitor experience, services, facilities and safety.

In 2023 Grand Canyon welcomed 159,019 overnight tent stays and 84,332 RV overnight stays. Currently, standard tent/RV users are charged \$18.00 per night to stay at Mather, Desert View and North Rim Campgrounds. A 50% discount is offered to Senior and Access pass holders.

The proposed prices for standard tent



and RV sites is \$30.00 per night and \$15.00 with the Senior and Access pass discounts. Rates for Equestrian, Group and Walk-up sites will remain unchanged for the 2025 season.

Interested parties can provide feedback on the proposal online at: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/GRCA_Campground_Fee_Increase through December 15, 2024.

Written comments should be submitted to this address by December 15, 2024:

Grand Canyon National Park
Attn: Visitor Resource and Protection
PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

For information about camping in Grand Canyon National Park, please visit the park's website.

In 2023, more than 4.7 million people visited Grand Canyon National Park and spent \$768 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 10,100 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$1.0 billion. ■



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We Shall Miss Our Friend Mike!

And thank him for his service.

MICHAEL L SWEENEY, JR., 88, of Scottsdale, passed away peacefully November 26, 2024. He was born July 4, 1936, in Detroit, Mich., to Evelyn and Michael L Sweeney, Sr. As a young child he moved with his family to San Diego, Calif. He was the second eldest of what became a family of eight children. He was educated at St. John's Elementary and St. Augustine High School, San Diego.

U.S. Army Paratrooper

He was 17 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne and was stationed at Ft Bragg, N.C. His intelligence and work ethic were rewarded by often receiving Soldier of the Month and Commander's Orderly recognitions. After his honorable discharge for his three years of service, he returned to San Diego to attend San Diego State University where he received a degree in Real Estate. He later married Christine Cowell and raised their three children in San Diego.

Passion For Outdoors

He had grown up loving the outdoors and developed a lifetime passion for

deep-sea fishing, lake fishing, snorkeling and boating. He nurtured those interests in his three children taking them on many camping and fishing trips off the Baja California Peninsula in Mexico. Although his marriage ended, he was always a devoted father.

Successful Business Man

He was successful in the field of commercial real estate and development in San Diego and in the San Francisco Bay Area. A position with Dunkin' Donuts landed him in Phoenix in 1983, where he handled the commercial real estate acquisitions for the company and its franchisees, establishing many Dunkin' Donuts locations in the Valley. Later he joined Coldwell Banker in Scottsdale as an agent and broker. An entrepreneur and businessman at heart, he started his own company, Michael L Sweeney and Associates, where he experienced more success as a broker and developer of a condominium project in Scottsdale.

The Man We Knew

He was outgoing, energetic and competitive—with a comedic bent for storytelling and banter. Always pragmatic, he was highly intelligent, well-informed, well-read and opinionated — and to the surprise of many, he loved opera and classical music.

A NASCAR Fan

A competitive tennis player and avid

sports fan, he bet in football pools and on horse races, etc. But his favorite was NASCAR! Every Saturday during racing season, a group of racing buffs gathered at the neighborhood bar for an auction where they bid each other up on potential winners. He was good at it!

Quality Time At The Post

Over the past several years, as a Veteran of the 82nd Airborne, he spent "quality time" at the VFW Post 3513 in Scottsdale, where he enjoyed the camaraderie.

He Will Be Missed

A faithful, practicing Catholic, Michael Sweeney was a kind and generous man, donating to causes to help the disadvantaged and homeless. He en-



joyed life to its fullest and was fun to be around. He was much loved and will be greatly missed.

Preceded in death by his brother,

SWEENEY, continued on page 19

Mission 22 Heals 'Full Circle'

FROM STARS AND STRIPES

To help veterans overcome their health challenges, Mission22, recommends "full circle" healing. A circle serves as the perfect illustration for the type of healing veterans need. It is a complete loop with no gaps, representing the interconnectivity of all things.

Combat takes a toll on soldiers. Those serving in the military often return home with physical scars they received while serving their country. However, physical injuries are just part of what veterans must deal with. Often, a soldiers' wounds affect them physically, mentally and emotionally. To be effective, healing for those wounds must involve an integrative and comprehensive approach. It cannot focus solely on physical or mental issues. It must understand that those elements are interconnected.

For example, physical injuries can affect a veteran's mental and emotional health. Post-traumatic stress disorder, which is considered a mental health issue, can have physical manifestations. Because of the complexity of these issues, a single-faceted approach to healing is not enough. To help veterans overcome their health challenges, Mission22 recommends what they call "full circle" healing.

Read more at: <https://tinyurl.com/3atfjt5m>.

Business Directory

BOAT TRANSPORT

Hale's Marine Service
(623) 879-7236
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halesmarineservices.com
22241 North 24 Avenue
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bartlettlake.com/index.html
info@bartlettlake.com

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pleasantharbor.com

PUBLICATIONS

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iTrade Pay

<https://itradePAY.com>

TRAILERS

Kokopelli Trailers
kokopellitrailers.com

WEB SITES

**Arizona Boating & Watersports/
Western Outdoor Times**
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jim@azbw.com
azbw.com
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SWEENEY

Continued from page 18

Damon Sweeney, he is survived by his life-partner Patricia Bezunarte; daughters, Maureen Conrad (Steve), Suzanne Sweeney (Dave McNichol), son, Michael L Sweeney III (Lindsay Chandler); grandsons Christian Wiseley (Lauren), Sean Wiseley, granddaughter Ashley Reising (Andrew); great-grandchildren, Wesley, Rory, McKenzie; sisters and brothers; Sandra Luce, Connie Alexan-

der (Marty), Paul Sweeney, Diane Sweeney, Mark Sweeney (Marsha), Suzanne Horgan (Jerry); and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

In His Memory

A Memorial Mass in his honor was held at St. Patrick Catholic Community, on December 11, and a celebration of Mike's life at VFW Post 3513 was on December 22.

The family requests donations to Hospice of the Valley. ■

RADIO

Continued from page 15

is a list of short cuts that are commonly used among hams, and a list of them is readily available on the internet.

Now Start Practicing

Once you have your GMRS license and your radio, start practicing. You can find the channels for the repeaters at mgmrs.com – there are 45 in Arizona alone! There are also GMRS clubs and most of the off road clubs use GMRS to communicate during rides. The Arizona GMRS Repeater club is a Phoenix-based club with access to the White Tank repeater. Membership is \$36 per year.

Want to know more about GMRS and other radios? Frank says Not A Rubicon Productions is a YouTube channel with lots of info about GMRS and various radios. To find a GMRS radio to buy, check out <https://buytwoawayradios.com/consumer/frs-gmrs-radios.html>.

GMRS Useful In An Emergency

Although John and I usually go off-roading alone, sometimes our son David and his wife Elizabeth like to come along, and it's nice for each vehicle to have a radio so we can talk to each other even when there is no cell service. GMRS can

also be very useful in an emergency.

I hope you're inspired to learn more about GMRS radios, or even ham radio – it really is a lot of fun, and in the case of ham radio, those operators are known for helping in all kinds of emergencies when other communications are down. I remember when I was a kid and my uncle died, my mom called a ham radio club in Texas and they were able to locate my other uncle within an hour or so!

Fun And Useful

Communicating with radio is fun and useful – there's even a guy who comments live about traffic conditions on I-10 during his commute! GMRS is a fantastic way to stay in touch outdoors, but it can also be useful in urban situations. My granddaughters and I use GMRS on hikes, at fairs and festivals, etc. I think you'll really enjoy GMRS, and at just \$35 for a license, what have you got to lose?

**Note: only General level operators and Amateur Extras can use the HF bands that allow world-wide communications. Those are the second and third level ham license and there are separate tests for each level, that must be taken in order. The three license classes are Technician, General, and Amateur Extra. Extra's have shorter call signs, like Frank. To learn more about testing and Ham Radio, go to arrl.org. ■*



Post 720 celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2021.



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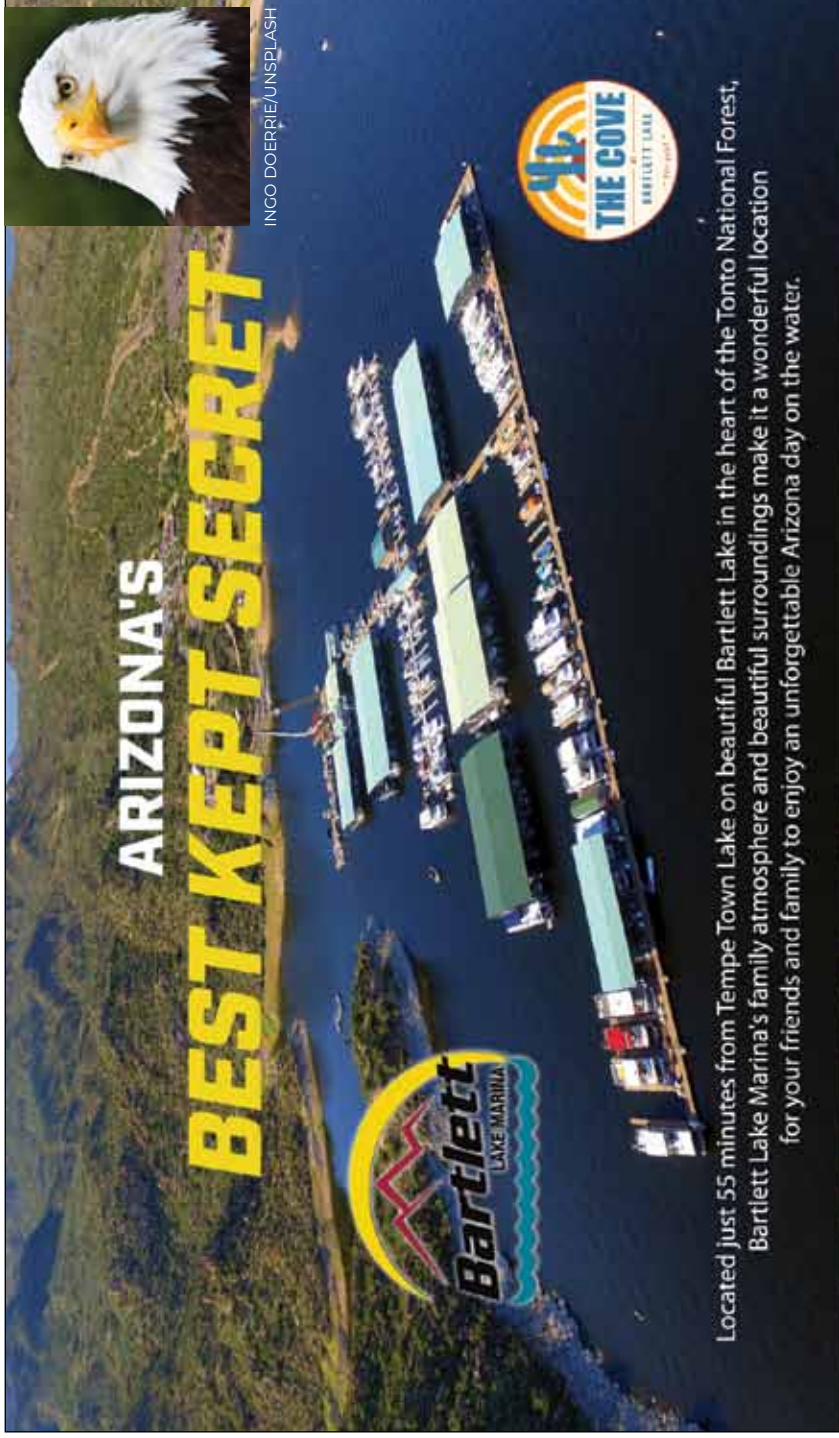
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