



August 2009

PO Box 601, Chandler, Arizona 85244
www.chandlerrodandgunclub.com

The mission of the Chandler Rod and Gun Club is to preserve the heritage of hunting and fishing through its volunteer efforts with family, youth and individual activities by providing opportunities that encourage the proud tradition of hunting, fishing, and their associated activities. Educational opportunities promoting safe and responsible use of wildlife and our natural resources by teaching wilderness skills, resource management, and conservation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mudbug Madness – August 8th and 9th
Annual Meeting – August 12th

AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting will be on Junior Dove Hunt by Phil Smith. It will be held in Chandler at the Community Center., 125 S. Commonwealth.

CALLING ALL CAJUNS

David Hoyle

Are YOU ready? Ready for Arizona's best, Arizona's original, the one and only Chandler Rod and Gun Club 7th annual **Mudbug Madness!** That's right it's time for **Mudbug Madness.** If you were there last year you know there was no shortage of crawfish and all the fixins. If you weren't, than you have no idea what you missed, and all you have heard are the rumors, than this year is the year you and your family need to come and experience a truly unique Chandler Rod and Gun Club event.

This event will consist of trapping thousands of crawfish, instruction on the easy ways to catch and clean the little lobsters. And, of course, eating crawfish then eating more crawfish and of course ... eating more crawfish. It is gaaaarooooonteeeed you **will** go to bed with a full belly. We will be cooking crawfish many different ways. Dinner (Crawfish), plates, utensils will be provided by the club. Sides on the other hand will be potluck style. So bring your favorite side dish/dessert or might I suggest you try a Cajun side dish of Jambalaya, Dirty Rice, Gumbo, Corn Bread, Red Beans and Rice, Crawfish Scampi and (if you're really brave some Crawfish Etouffe (my personal favorite)

Now I know you are wondering when and where. August 8th & 9th. We will be camping near East Clear

Creek. See the map, but please note we will be camping about 1.5-2 miles down the forest road on the left. The creek is 5-6 miles down the road.

I will be down by the creek most of the day Saturday and would be happy to help teach anyone how to catch crawfish. (Remember you need a fishing license to catch crawfish.) There will also be games for the kids (more info at the event)

This is a family friendly event as is all Chandler Rod and Gun Club events. What a great reason to get out of Dodge and beat the heat while you eat!

DETAILS:

Date: August 8th & 9th

Times: Friday: 7:00pm set traps. (Help needed)

Saturday: 7:00am go empty and rebait traps from Friday night. (Help needed)

9:00am-3:00pm (aprox) hangout at the creek and catch crawfish. Bring your fishing poles, homemade traps stick and string and bacon (the cheap "ends and pieces" work the best!

6:30pm TIME TO EAT!

DIRECTIONS

For those using GPS:

The turnoff from the 87 is at: 34°36'47.71"N, 111°11'12.82"W

The campsite is at: 34°36'30.54"N, 111°10'4.31"W

We will be at the same camp site as last year. From Phoenix take State Highway 87 north toward Payson, in Payson continue north on Hwy. 87 to Clints Well (approximately 34 miles), about 9-10 miles past Clint's Well turn right onto FR 95 (just after the Blue Ridge Ranger Station). Follow FR 95 for about 3 to 4 miles and the camp site will be on the left side (north side). We will have CRG signs up so please look for them. Some of us will be leaving on Friday morning to set up and secure the site. Anyone and everyone are welcome to come up early to help set camp up and set traps out. Last year we had rain but this time of year is

often very hot so **please come prepared for a variety of weather conditions**

HE'S COMING

James Brown

That's right 'he's coming, Squirrel Bob. Bob is going to speak regarding the trophy squirrel at the September Meeting. I am sure this will be a fun meeting. Bring your questions and your sense of humor to the September meeting. You won't be disappointed.

STRESSED? JUST RELAX....

Johnathan O'Dell

When I wasn't looking, somebody turned on the busy switch and now I can't turn it off! Summer is coming to a close, the kids are getting ready to go back to school, the fall draw results are out, I've got to plan my vacation days for hunting, there are a lot of banquets coming up I'd like to attend, and there are no signs that anything is slowing down. For people who love and enjoy the outdoors, this is what every August looks like. While most of us can say we relish this time of year and are excitedly welcoming the fall, it still remains a shock to the system. So stop what you're doing, take a few deep breaths, and relax. We just need to take the long view, and go one step at a time. Let's take a general look at the hunting calendar in order to prioritize your time better.

August marks the opening of black bear, archery deer, and statewide mountain lion seasons. These are over-the-counter tags for all three species, and this provides a unique opportunity to hunt even if you missed out in the draws this year. If you were lucky in the draw, then you know August begins the pronghorn antelope seasons which carries into September. All species listed as predators and furbearers open statewide as well.

September 1st is the dove opener and it is a Tuesday this year. Unlike when it opens on a weekend, there aren't as many people afield until the weekend. So if you can get out there, you may be able to get a limit before the crowds hit later in the week. September also starts some early elk hunts and the staggered buffalo seasons. You can also take advantage of the opening of grouse, chukar, and band-tailed pigeon in mid-September.

October is a big, big, big month. Can you say deer, turkey, javelina, duck, geese, squirrel, and quail? I knew you could. Juniors and adult opportunity collide in October. With so much to do, be sure to plan this month carefully.

November is a continuation of many species already mentioned having openings. We are now sliding into home with only one more month left in the year.

For most of us, we can slow down and look forward to spending the holidays with family and friends. For sheep hunters, December is the long awaited month they have dreamed about.

There now, doesn't your fall hunting schedule seem to fall into place and you can relax about it? No? Me neither. Now that I brought it up, I don't know how I'm going to fit in all my outdoor time in! Well, I better get started right now! We'll see you in the field!

JUNIOR DOVE HUNT

Phil Smith

Juniors, doves and hunting are the main ingredients to this wonderful event, but on September 5th & 6th, 2009, several other additions will be added, resulting in a lasting recipe of success.

Members of Chandler Rod and Gun Club have been involved in cooking up this exciting, filling and, in some cases, life changing event at the very first one and ever since some 18 -20 years ago.

I laughed when asked why it seems I never know just exactly the number of years Arizona Game and Fish Department employees and volunteers from CRG have helped make youngsters and oldsters alike smile, laugh, talk, and share. Over those years there have been programs come and go, ease or splash onto the scene and fade away. But this one has been different; there has been no ribbons or boards with tic marks chalking another one up. There has been just the sound of burning powder, compliments, and shared tips on hunting or shooting skills. There has been many families of volunteers going home exhausted and yet still talking about the next year's event.

I laugh because I can count the years working here or there, I can count the days till season opens but I cannot seem to distinguish the memories I have enjoyed as a parent with all three of my daughters, as a cook at breakfast or now as the Wildlife Area Manager of the areas this event is held at. The memories' all run together in the smile that comes, the decades can be counted more easily now.

Each year is better than the one before, the WOW factor is still there, and one of the few things that does get counted – hunters – keeps growing. CRG has had a long history of providing cool outings for folks to enjoy the outdoors, invite your friends to come participate, help with this year.

Pick up some Hunting Regulations for the specifics on legal stuff and all that. You need to know that stuff

anyway, but the basics are that CRG volunteers provide the best meal ever with all the eggs, pancakes, sausage and home camp style cooking. Many CRG members help prior to the event in set up and during the event with help in some of the jobs away from the griddle, driving, gate watch, check in and out and stirring things up. The event starts at 4:30 each morning and is officially done at noon.

Oh yeah what about the hunting you say. Well, knock on my wooden skull, this year looks like the best in recent history, I have to swat the doves out of my way to get out to the fields that will have the juniors shooting stations set up in them and, by the way are closed to general hunters. Only the kids get to pull the trigger on these birds, allowing the parents and other adult's ample opportunity to brush up on the retrieving skills. Contact your CRG lead to sign up for duties, call me for more info or to find how you can help in set up around here. Above all please plan to attend, bring some kids and lots of ammo, they either get a limit or run out of ammo. Check the regs regarding legalities and plan to enjoy a great time. A hayride to the stations and back, great food, great hunting and great people! If in the outdoors and you find Food and Fun you'll most certainly find Chandler Rod and Gun!

Directions –

Head west on I-10 to Highway 85 (watch for the photo radar), South on 85 to mile marker 148, at the Robbins Butte Wildlife Area Sign turn west, follow the signage (or long file of vehicles) to the registration / headquarters area.

The following two articles were run in last month's newsletter but thought we would run them again to remind everyone with the busy fall season coming up. Thanks.

WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN?

Tammy Vidana

Do you know how to flip a pancake? Can you pick up trash? Do you know how to shop? Can you haul a trailer? Do you make a mean dessert in a Dutch oven? Can you gather firewood? Do you know how to catch Bluegill like a pro? Have you ever shown anyone how to shoot a 22? Do you have an idea for a new event? Do you like to have FUN?

If you answered yes to ANY of these questions we have some amazing opportunities for YOU in the upcoming months!

When you volunteer to help out with events such as Mudbug Madness, Trophy Squirrel Hunt, or the Jr. Dove Hunt just to name a few, you are creating memories and building friendships that will last a lifetime.

Please sign up to volunteer during a general meeting or contact a board member.

Remember this is your club and suggestions are always welcomed.

LOCATIONS WANTED!

Tammy Vidana

Attention all fishing rods, rifles, crawdad pots, software, and all other CRG equipment, we need to know where you are.

If you are storing or have been kind enough to transport home any CRG equipment, please let your board know. We are working to update the CRG inventory list and to consolidate where everything is located. A current inventory list will help us streamline packing for events along with helping us to avoid purchasing duplicate items. Thank you in advance for your help!

You Missed That Dove!

By: **Robert Ohmart**

Now that most of us have received our rejection slips on our big game applications, we can start thinking about other game species where only a hunting license is required. Obviously, one species that comes to mind are doves and these provide some of the most exciting pass shooting there is.

With your attention gained, I want to tell you about this family of birds which are as fascinating as any group of birds in the world. The scientific name of the family is Columbidae or the pigeon family. There are approximately 300 species in this family and though the species vary greatly in size ranging from that of a sparrow to near turkey-sized, they share an extremely large number of similarities.

Nest building, clutch size, food habits, and care of young have remained extremely consistent throughout the species in this family. They are virtually worldwide except for the north half of North America, northern Asia, extreme south in South America, and some isolated oceanic islands, yet wherever you find them as the saying goes, a dove is a dove is a dove. They all strut around bowing and cooing and build flimsy nests of sticks on ledges, in trees, in shrubs, or on the ground. They lay one to three white eggs with the normal clutch being two. The adults feed on everything from fruits, nuts, to berries and seeds. None intentionally seeks out insects but may accidentally eat a bug or two in fruit or berries.

We all know that for any young animal to grow and be healthy they must be fed a diet rich in protein or amino acids, the latter being used to build protein chains.

Since most fruits, berries, and seeds are usually low in protein but high in sugars where do the young get the protein to develop into the meaty mass that we inevitably miss as they whistle by us? The answer is relatively simple once explained, and it appears to be the glue that has held this group's behavior and reproduction so close as species evolved and spread throughout the world. Most of you have probably heard of pigeon milk but have given little thought to why it's termed that. Part of the milk is made up of the seeds, fruits, etc. that has been eaten while the bird was foraging and drinking when away from the nest. All this material is ground up in the crop as it imbibes water and is moved around against small rocks and bits of glass that has been intentionally eaten for this very job. The building blocks or protein itself comes from the inside lining of the crop. To better understand the process, imagine yourself being in a giant ball built of bricks like those used to construct a home. The innermost layer of bricks begins growing tall like a column until they become 40-50 times their original height and filled with proteins and amino acids. When the timing is right, the column layer will slough off the underlying layer to be mixed with the other crop contents. This mixture is pigeon or dove milk and contains the essentials of protein, sugars, and water which are necessary for survival and growth of the squab.

As fascinating as the above process, is also the regimentation of the adult behavior to feed and care for the young. When the male arrives at the nest about 5:00 PM to relieve the female, he has previously sloughed the intercrop lining and is ready to feed the nestling's as needed until he is replaced by the female the next morning. When she arrives about 8:00 AM the next morning she too will be replete with dove milk to feed the young.

In Arizona, with Mourning Doves this creates a dilemma in hunting this species since it has such a protracted breeding season which extends from January to September and sometimes October if the weather is mild. When hunting season begins, a small segment of our breeding population is still on eggs or young. The female is most vulnerable to hunting loss since she is free from her duties and must feed in late afternoon and early morning. In all probability, the nest would not make it if either parent were lost since both parents are needed to produce enough milk for the

young. Because Mourning Doves are so plentiful and have a high reproductive rate, this small nestling loss can be tolerated by the population.

The specialization of producing pigeon milk has not hampered the evolution of species and their distribution throughout the world except in the coldest climates. It has and will always limit clutch size with the normal being two eggs. Not having to rely on insects for protein for the young allows species such as the Mourning Dove to produce clutch after clutch up to nine or ten months a year. Young hatched early in the year can mature and produce young before the breeding season ends.

The names pigeon or dove is given to this group strictly based on size. The smaller species are called doves and the larger ones pigeons.

Confusion can exist as we see in our introduced species which we call a common pigeon. Its true name in the Old World from whence it came is Rock Dove.

All species in this group have a strong power of flight, must drink water twice a day, and have a saddle-shaped bill with the fleshy portion of their upper bill (the cere) unfeathered. The bill shape allows the young to grasp the beak and hold on while the pigeon milk is being pumped into their crop. The absence of feathers on the cere is sanitation to prevent food accumulation and bacterial buildup. Since the species can pump with the crop they can also create a vacuum with it. Therefore, of all the 8,000+ birds in the world only this group sucks water to drink and rapidly fill and flee. Other birds fill the lower mandible and lift the head so the water gravity flows to the crop.

Some species breeding in very arid portions of the Old World and because of the temperature, aridity, and distance to water have evolved some very interesting ways to transport water to their young. After the adults fill up on water they will rub their breast feather against the tank bottom in shallow water to cause the feathers to roll into small straw-shaped tubes. These small round feathers now will hold and carry water by adhesion and cohesion during the flight back to the nest. At the nest the adult presents its breast to the young so the water can be sucked out of each feather.

Chandler Rod and Gun Club

Calendar of Events for 2009-2010

The Chandler Rod and Gun Club host numerous events and supports many opportunities for club members and for the public. Members are always invited to participate or to assist with any of our events. General club meetings/seminars are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Chandler Community Center at 7:00 PM. For more information on any of these events, please visit the web site calendar at <http://www.chandlerrodandgunclub.com/cgi-bin/crg-events/calendar.pl>.

***RSVP denotes activities/events where club member assistance is requested for camp chores and/or to staff a booth. See the details of the event for specific contact information or call 480-829-1264 to sign up.

| Date | Event | RSVP |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| August | | |
| 8 th & 9 th | Mud Bug Madness | |
| 12 th | General Meeting | |
| | | |
| September | | |
| 5 th & 6 th | June Dove – Robin's Butte | |
| 9 th | General Meeting | |
| | | |
| October | | |
| TBD | Trophy Squirrel Hunt | |
| 14 th | General Meeting | |
| | | |
| November | | |
| 11 th | General Meeting | |
| | | |
| December | | |
| 9 th | General Meeting | |

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