



November 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.

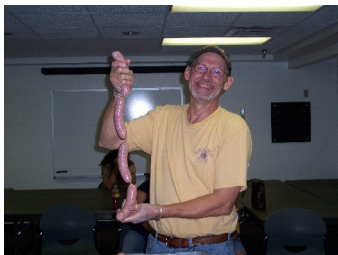
IMPORTANT DATES
General Meeting – November 11th

NOVEMBER MEETING

Mary Hurst

This month we will be holding our general meeting at the Arias home on November 11th. The topic and demonstration will be "How to build your own hand-washing stations". The address is 12521 E Via De Arboles, Chandler, AZ 85249. I tried to attach a map, but no luck. Hope to see you all there. (NOTE: The map will follow the newsletter in a separate email.)

OUR OCTOBER MEETING



Thank you to Jack Justice, our resident game butcher, and Brian Anthony from AZGFD for a fantastic October meeting on hunting and processing deer!

TAKING KIDS HUNTING: HOW TO TIPS

By Johnathan O'Dell

More often than not these days you here from various groups or the Department "Take a kid hunting," but as simple as that sounds, it can be more complicated than we think. None of us have become hunters just because someone just took us out to do it. You won't

make a sportsman out of someone just by giving them the tools. It is a process over time that you have to learn. Those of us that wish to pass on these sports as our heritage to the next generation also have to learn how to teach it. Here are some important things to consider when you take a kid hunting.

Start before they can hunt. Kids like to spend time doing things they can be involved with. Hunts with a high rate of success in a short time, or where they can see lots of the animals you intend to harvest are great. Examples of this are dove and squirrel hunting. Don't make it strenuous by lots of hiking or spending too much time out there, but keep it exciting for them by asking them to be your spotter or make sure to show them everything you see out there.

Then build them up into a big game hunt, preferably one where you are willing to take the first thing that comes along (antlerless hunts are perfect). Research suggests that some kids are lost to non-hunting because the first harvest they witnessed was their own. You probably remember the first big game animal you took and what a range of emotions take over your whole body. It can be very confusing for a kid to take a large animal for the first time. Now if they watch someone else (like someone they admire, respect, or look up to) take something, they are more likely to be hooked and want to do it themselves. The added bonus is to let them see that shooting the animal is only part of the process and get them involved with cleaning, dressing, and packing out the game.

Another absolute must is to get them eating it. Anytime you eat something new you are a little apprehensive, but if it is included in a dish you already eat it's not as scary. Just replace the meat in a dish with game meat and don't make a big deal about it being something new. Adding venison or elk to a Hamburger Helper dish is an easy start. Be sure to tell them what it is, but making a big deal about it may bring up the tension. Make sure to follow the rule of not over cooking it as it can make the game meat tougher to chew and thus less enjoyable. Processed

meats like pepperoni sticks or jerky are an easy introduction as well.

Go small. Small game hunting is an ideal choice for a kid's first hunt, but there are a few things to remember. You need to go to an area with lots of what you're after. You want to make their first hunting experience a success, but even if they don't take anything they need to at least see what they are trying to harvest. This is extremely important because many people are turned off from hunting because of a lousy first experience. That is why I recommend squirrel hunting. The numbers of squirrels in the woods vary from year-to-year kind of like a boom and bust. If there is an area that you have seen squirrels in recently, you would be hard pressed not to find even one in a whole day. Squirrel hunting is also very forgiving since most mistakes and missed shots can be rectified with a little time and patience. It also helps you to teach the fundamentals like sitting still, listening to and reading the forest, and watching for the slightest movements.

Watch the weather. Do your homework on those early days of developing a hunter. If you know anything about kids is the first thing they can and will usually complain about is how cold or hot they are and this is no fun for you or them. Pick days to go out where both of you will be comfortable with very little gear.

Be prepared. This old boy scout motto was never truer than right now. Bring lots of food, snacks, and drinks to occupy some of the slower times. It will pay big dividends in the end of the hunt since they won't remember the hunt as a day of fasting or how hungry they were. Don't throw out the handheld video game just yet. Bring it along but be clear that it can only be used on the ride up and back, not in the field. Chances are if they get something, the ride home will be filled with meaningful conversation and not trying to get to the next level of the game.

Keep your expectations at zero. It's nice to think that you should want to take your firearm with you to bag something too, but in reality your focus needs to be on the kid and them getting their first. They need all of your time and attention right now and it can frustrate you if you have hopes of getting something too. Bring your gun along so they can see you practice firearms safety, but have no illusions of using it. It is also a great story for them to recount that they got however many and you got skunked! Just smile and agree as you gave them their first great hunt and hunting story.

Get excited. When the young hunter does bag something, make sure to get excited with them and for them. They need to know no matter the type or size of the harvest that they have done something great. Be sure to brag on them in the field and to make sure they hear you brag on them to others outside the field. It will go a long way with them to have you reinforce the positive nature of their accomplishment.

Picture time. You will need to take lots of photos of them afield and with their harvest. The outdoor media will do its best to try and change them into a trophy hunter, but you and they will want photos from a simpler time when everything they took was a trophy, including their first.

Know when to take them. Did you like it when your parents would force you to go somewhere or do something you didn't want to do? Sometimes it was necessary or for your own good, but other times it made no difference or made you dislike it even more. Remember this when you take a kid hunting. If they don't want to go, then don't force them. If you go or someone else they know goes instead and they hear about all the fun, you can bet they'll be more eager next time. Sometimes with kids, all it takes is time.

Be patient. You didn't become the master of every art of the hunting sport your first time afield, and they won't either. Things will come in time and this is only their first time out. Remember your teaching someone to hunt and become a hunter. Expand their knowledge a little more each time and soon you may find they will hunger for more.

I hope these tips make it easier for you the next time you want to take a kid hunting. It is important for us to pass along this heritage to the next generation so we can continue to conserve our great resources into the future. We'll see you in the field!

DEER CHILI

- 1 Lb. Deer Burger
- 1 Medium Onion, Diced
- 1 Pkg. Chili Seasoning
- 2 Qt. Tomatoes
- 1 Bell Pepper, Diced
- Salt and Pepper to Taste
- 1 Tsp. Cayenne Pepper
- 1 Tsp. Cumin
- 1 Tsp. Ground Red Pepper
- 2 (16 oz.) Cans Chili Beans
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese
- Fritos

Brown meat and onions in large Dutch oven. Salt and pepper to taste. Add chili seasoning, tomatoes, green pepper, beans, and seasonings. Let simmer about one hour. Serve over Fritos and top with cheese. Depending on the age of your deer, you may want to use garlic salt instead of regular salt.

SMALL GAME CAMP

Small game camp will be held possibly the first weekend in December if we can get enough

volunteers. We need at least ten volunteers. Volunteers will need to set up camp, cook two meals, and be mentors for the hunter. It is an overnight thing with set up at noon on December 5th. Hunters will arrive at 2:00 PM with hunting in the afternoon/evening and on December 6th, we will cook breakfast and have more hunting and leave at noon.

Please email Info@chandlerrodandgunclub.com as soon as possible if you are willing to commit to this weekend.

U.S. SUPER SLAM OF TREE SQUIRRELS: UPDATE

By Johnathan O'Dell

By the time this gets sent out, I will be on the Kaibab Plateau working the opening weekend of the early general deer hunts on 12A. For most, the word Kaibab evokes images of monster non-typical mule deer. To those that have hunted this area, it means mule deer hunting heaven on earth. For me, it means the chance to hunt the most devilish of looking squirrels: the Kaibab Abert's squirrel aka the Kaibab squirrel. This black and white squirrel has the most dramatic color change from its cousin (the Abert's squirrel) that can be found in the Western United States. Squirrels with many color phases can be found primarily with Eastern gray and Eastern fox squirrels, but species in the West do not exhibit this phenomenon with such regularity. The Abert's tree squirrel is one that does and it is certainly worth a long distance trip in my book. The high elevation mixed conifer forests found on the Kaibab also lends itself to finding red squirrels, so they are on my list of things to do there as well.

On the other fronts, October found me hunting Arizona gray squirrels on the Mogollon Rim. I bagged a couple, but due to the extended warm weather we've had, their fur was not in the best of conditions. I will wait until later in the season to take one for mounting reasons. Since Arizona grays are our namesake squirrel, I'm being a little more selective on the one I will mount. This past month also found me elk hunting on the Rim which gave me a good chance to observe a lot of Abert's squirrels. Half of what I saw did not have ear tufts yet which is common for females. The ones that did have ear tufts were males, which is not surprising since they tend to put on their winter coat earlier than females. Overall with numbers, it looks like a good squirrel year for the Rim.

My November breakdown looks like Kaibab Abert's and red squirrels to start, Eastern gray, and Eastern fox squirrels in the middle of the month, and Mexican fox squirrels near the end. Busy month if I do say so myself. Just to recap my U.S. list so far:

(X) Western gray squirrel

- () Eastern gray squirrel
- () Arizona gray squirrel
- () Eastern fox squirrel
- () Mexican fox squirrel
- () Abert's squirrel
- (X) Douglas squirrel
- () Red squirrel

As confident as I am, I know that this is easier said than done. Wish me luck as there are only two months left in my goal.

MY FIRST SQUIRREL HUNT

Jermy Zelko

I really had a good time at the trophy squirrel hunt. We got to the camp about 7:00 A.M. just in time for the great breakfast of eggs and sausage. After that I got to go out squirrel hunting; Randy from the club took me out. At first I didn't see any squirrels then all of a sudden one was running. We chased him up a tree and took one shot at him with the 20 gauge shotgun. Then somehow I missed him and took six more shots at him before he came down and I hit his back legs, the 7th shot I took at him. Then 15 minutes later he died and I got my first squirrel. Then my second squirrel I was sitting at the bottom of a tree and I looked to my left and I saw a squirrel. Then I took one shot at him with the .22 and missed him. Then I took one shot at him with the 20 gauge shotgun and hit him the first time and he ran than fell out of the tree and I got my 2nd squirrel. I got one squirrel and then later I got my other squirrel. I owe a lot of thanks to Randy. He took me out to go squirrel hunting. And I also want to thank James he was nice enough to give me his .22 rifle so I can use for future hunts.

MY ELK HUNT

Bob Dickinson

The luck of the draw was with me this year and as everyone knows it's not easy getting drawn for an archery bull, especially for 5B north. This unit is known for big bulls. After a few scouting trips, we knew where we wanted to set up camp and we would be right in the middle of our hunting area. With a lot of preparation and much anticipation, the hunt came quicker than I was ready for.

My hunting partner, Tony, and I left on Thursday, September 10th. With a day to set up camp and get some shooting in, we were ready for opening day. Four o'clock came and with some coffee and instant oatmeal we were off well before first light. As we were still hunting through the area, I caught a whiff of an unmistakably strong odor. The wind started to swirl and we heard crashing on the other side of a clump of junipers. We just got busted by a bull. Several days went by with some sightings and close encounters but

it was tough. Windy and warm, a little rain thrown in and hardly any bugling made it tough to locate the elk. They would bugle as soon as it got dark, then suddenly like someone turned off the switch, they would stop. At first light you might hear a couple of bulls but as soon as you figured out where they are they would go silent. I did get to stalk within 35 yards of an antelope and that was exciting. We were waiting for the rut to get underway, they just weren't as active as we had hoped.

The first week went by fast and we had heard there was going to be a cold front moving in at the beginning of the next week. Freeze warnings were going to be in effect for the Flagstaff area on Tuesday night. We decided to hunt together on Tuesday; Tony wanted to show me a new area. It was a mile and a half walk in the dark to the area we wanted to hunt. As we were working our way up the ridge we busted out a herd of 12 elk. We split up to cover more ground and would meet back in camp later. I walked into camp around 10:30. Tony was grabbing the shovel and his pack. He was going to dig a pit blind at an isolated waterhole. By 3:00 he was not back yet so I headed toward Diablo Canyon. The area between the canyon and camp was covered with fresh tracks. I had pulled back on a nice 6X6 only to be busted by his cows the week before,

As the sun was dropping, so was the temperature. I had three long sleeve shirts on and I was getting cold. As I was sitting in the sun to warm up I checked my GPS for the time, 5:45 maybe an hour of light left. I got up to put my pack on and took a couple of steps. Something catches my eye to my left; it's a cow elk with a calf behind her. The cow moves out of the opening, as I'm watching the calf feed, antlers cover my view of her. He is so close I don't even use my rangefinder, 30 yards maybe 25. I draw back; put the pin behind his shoulder, and release. He lunges and runs 30 yards to the right; he is just standing in some scrub juniper. I knock another arrow but it's too thick to get another shot. I pull up my binoculars, now I'm shaking, I can see just my fletching showing. It was a little high but it got both lungs. He is breathing hard and having trouble with his balance, he's going down!

I look back at the cow and calf, they are staring at me. Suddenly crashing where the bull was standing, he went down but I can't see exactly where. I try to find him in my bino's but there's too much brush. I take a few steps for a better view and the cow and calf run off. With the noise, the bull jumps back up and tries to run. He is running sideways and goes down after 40 yards. Now I'm really shaking, I watch as he drops his head. I start to work my way up behind him, as I get within 20 yards he moves his legs and tries to raise his head. I pull back and put a second arrow behind his shoulder in the heart. As soon as it hit, he drops his head for good. I can't believe it, my first bull a 5X5.

Now the work starts! After a short prayer and a couple of pictures, I open him up to cool down the meat. I mark the area with florescent tap and plug the location into my GPS. I put the liver in a game bag and head for camp to get Tony and the truck. It was only a half mile to camp but it didn't take long when your walking on air. I tied the game bag up in a tree and jumped in the truck. While driving down the road to wait for Tony, I texted my son and called few good friends to share my good fortune with. He finally shows up around 7:30 and he thinks I'm kidding. I show him my hands and he becomes a believer. We get back to camp and load up the truck with knives, sharpening stone, game bags, and lanterns. Using the GPS we drove right to the bull, except for one stubborn tree. The dents will come out! The temperature couldn't have been better; it must be 45 degrees and dropping. A few more pictures and a bunch of high fives, we get to work with the knives. With the quarters, tenderloins and backstraps in game bags we start trimming the scrap meat. We got as much as we could until fatigue was setting in. We get back to camp and hang the meat. It's cooling down real well. I couldn't have asked for a better night. I thanked Tony for all his help, he got me into bow hunting 30 years ago and I couldn't have shared this with any one more special to me.

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 |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|
| November | | |
| 11 th | General Meeting at Arias Family Home | |
| 18 th | Board of Director's Meeting | |
| | | |
| December | | |
| 5 th & 6 th | Small Game Camp ? | |
| 9 th | General Meeting- Christmas Beast Feast | |
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