



**Next meeting is  
April 19**

**6:00 p.m. Apple Valley Gun  
Club, 16699 Stoddard  
Wells Road, Victorville**

**HIGH DESERT CHAPTER #759 NEWSLETTER**

April 2008

## **A4 gets finished in Oak Hills area**



**Week-end work crew lines up on guzzler A4 inside the San Bernardino National Forest. This guzzler is one of two re-worked by QU for the Forest Service. This area is excellent quail habitat but rugged to reach with equipment.**

At the end of March, the chapter finished off the last of the two guzzlers we were working in the San Bernardino National Forest. Guzzler A4 is located just a little South of Oak Hills, off the major power line road that runs down into the upper end of the Cajon Pass. We had previously

worked on guzzler A5, located near the mouth of Little Horsethief Canyon on the East side of I15.

On A4, the major problem was getting in there. It lies in a rugged ravine with nothing much in the way of a road, and it took some time and trouble to get the equipment we needed into the job site.

## Chapter Officers

**Chairman– Cruz Garcia (760) 949-6334**  
**e-mail : fathercruz@verizon.net**

**Vice Chairman- Dave Smith (760) 947-6947**  
**e-mail: oak1ridge1@aol.com**

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**Treasurer– Phil Garro (760) 241-9011**

**Events Coordinator- Freeman Hardin (760) 8451262**  
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**Habitat – John Shaver (760) 956-8169**  
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**Habitat Asst- Carl West 760-244-3303**

**Habitat Asst- Craig Tyson 760-2424417**

**San Bernardino Fish & Game Commission**  
**Representitive-- Dave Smith (760) 947-6947**  
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**Fun Shoot Chairmen-- Jim Brooks (760) 244-8377 & Curt Schreiter (909) 730-0821**

**Secretary & Newsletter, Membership –**  
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**Web Site Administrator- Laura Hardin (760) 981-5430. e-mail: laurahardinn@msn.com**

**MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES– Members who change their address, phone number, or e-mail address should send notice to Richard Bean, 7695 Kingston, Hesperia, CA 92345, or send an e-mail to him at ricbean1@verizon.net. That way we won't lose track of you and you will continue to get your newsletter on time.**

**Also, if you are presently getting the newsletter via regular mail, and you would rather get it as an e-mail or read it on the web site, please let the newsletter editor know.**

## This Month's Meeting

At this month's meeting we have a lot to cover. We will be talking about the chapter's response to the proposed Wind Turbine project in the Granite and Sidewinder Mountains Northeast of Apple Valley.

Gary Hatfield has been the driving force behind this and members of the chapter board Cruz Garcia and John Shaver took Andy Silva, Analyst for Brad Mitzelfelt, Supervisor, First District, San Bernardino County, on a tour of the Granite Mountains so he could see just what our concerns are.

According to Silva, County planning has agreed to extend the deadline for submitting comments during the scoping phase. New deadline is May 5. We are also going to set up another community meeting and do a more aggressive outreach.

We welcome input from our members. We all know that renewable energy programs are vitally necessary, but we don't think they should exploit critical habitat for wildlife, including quail, chukar and bighorn sheep, as well as other species in the process. According to Hatfield, DFG biologist Andy Pauli noted the Granites provide a vital corridor for Bighorn Sheep migration from the San Bernardino Mountains to the more northerly desert ranges.

If you wish to make a comment you can send it to the Bureau of Land Management's Barstow office until May 5<sup>th</sup>. You can write to Edy Seehafer Bureau of Land Management, 2810 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311. You can also call Carrie Hyke, Principal Planner with the San Bernardino County, Land Use Svcs Dept at (909) 387-4147. and tell her you want to be included on the list of "interested agencies, organizations, and individuals she will probably send to you two notices. One is eight pages long and has maps of the project which Gary Hatfield says are useful

We will also be working on the upcoming Snake Break dog training clinic which will be held in late May. Come and participate in this fund raiser for the chapter's Water For Wildlife Work.

## Work Projects

This month's work will include working on Stoddard Well north of Apple Valley and a little East of Stoddard Mountain. Habitat coordinator John Shaver says we will be installing a big piece of plastic pipe a couple of feet in diameter to shore up the opening into the well so it doesn't collapse, and create a better situation for the birds that use this watering hole. Craig Tyson is working on some additional refinements to this project which will be added as well. This work project will be done on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Members of the weekday crew will be notified via e-mail or phone calls, and-or posted on the web site for this project which will have been done by the time you get this newsletter. If you can get away during the week, and want to take part in any of these weekday work parties, please let John Shaver know so he can add you to our notification list. Call John at (760) 956-8169. Note that we usually have a weekday crew out working on the Wednesday following our monthly meeting at Apple Valley Gun Club.

On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, our weekend work party will be at Dave Smith's house in Hesperia. We have purchased a trailer to haul all of our equipment, cement mixer, generator, air tools and compressor, etc, to work sites. Please come out and help us get this trailer ready for use.

On Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the weekday crew will again be in the field working on guzzlers in the Black Canyon area West of Opal Mountain Spring. There are four guzzlers in this area, A 96, A 104, A105, and A106. Probably most of the work this time will be concentrated on A105, which is located inside the Black Mountain Wilderness Area.

In May, we will be working on guzzlers, A107, A44, and A63. Repair was funded by the San Bernardino County Fish & Game Commission. A107 is just West of Lucerne Dry Lake, while A44 is a little West of that in the Granite Mountains. A63 is out on the East side of the Fry Mountains and out far enough we may make it our first overnight outing and work party.

## Shotgun Raffle

Our Chapter is holding an internet raffle for the Quail Unlimited shotgun we won for our habitat work. Proceeds from this raffle will go back into our habitat fund for more work on guzzlers and springs in the Mojave Desert and the San Bernardino National Forest.

The shotgun is a Browning Gold Superlite engraved with California quail and hunting scenes. It is one of ten. It is a gas-operated semi-auto equipped with 28 inch back-bored barrel chambered for 3 inch shells. Tickets for this raffle are available on line by going to our web site at: [http://www.hdqu759.org/store\\_shotgun.html](http://www.hdqu759.org/store_shotgun.html) .

Prices of tickets are one ticket for \$10.00, or six tickets for \$50.00. You can order tickets via PayPal. You can also get tickets from Chapter Treasurer, Phil Garro. Contact him at (760) 241-9011 or send your request for tickets to the chapter Post Office box at: QU High Desert #759, P.O. Box 401397, Hesperia, Ca 92340-1397.

This shotgun will be raffled off at our Dove Season Tune-Up Sporting Clays event in August 2006.

### QU HATS AND T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

The Chapter has a number of Quail Unlimited Hats in tan or Hunter Orange and silk-screened T-Shirts with the QU Logo on them for sale. We also have Fun Shoot hats and T shirts available. Hats are \$20.00 ea, and shirts go for \$15.00 each, or three shirts for \$40.00. The money raised goes to support our habitat work on guzzlers in our area. Purchase some and advertise our chapter





**Guzzler A4 has a rather small rain collection apron, so Assistant habitat coordinator, Craig Tyson, thought up the idea of building more rain collection space right on top of the tank. This tank was built with no removable lid, so this worked perfectly to create more rain collection area without enlarging the footprint of the guzzler beyond it's original design.**

Craig Tyson and John Shaver spent a couple of days on this part of the task just so we could work on A4. Along with patching cracks in the rain apron and putting down a tan tinted coat of Merlex on A4, it was felt that we should increase the size of the rain apron to make A4 a more efficient collector of rain water. The Forest Service said they didn't want the size of the guzzler enlarged, so Craig Tyson thought up an additional 45 square feet of collection surface that uses the top of the buried water. This worked very well, as this guzzler was built without a tank porthole to gain access to the inside of the tank. We were able to build new apron right on top of the tank.

The initial work was done by the weekday crew, and the final Merlex, fence repair, and sign installation was handled by a Saturday work crew that also had a little fun in the process. We got to stand around

and watch chairman Cruz Garcia work to free his jeep from a nasty little gully on the weekday outing, and on the Saturday work event, we all stopped at the Outpost Café following the work, and the Oscar



Mayer Weiner Mobile was there getting gas. Most of the crew was able to get their picture taken in front of this famous vehicle, and we even got old fashioned Weiner Whistles as a souvenir.



Chairman Cruz Garcia digs to free the rear body of his Jeep while getting advice and council from a bunch of not to helpful onlookers on the goat track that leads to guzzler A4. After a bit of digging, the Jeep was successfully rescued by towing out. One member of the party said it looked like a Cal-Trans Crew. One guy digging, and three “supervisors,” watching the work.

Below: It isn't all hard work on a QU outing. After finishing A4, crew headed to the Outpost Cafe to have lunch. When we came out, we found the Oscar Mayer Weiner Mobile gassing up at the service station. Left to Right: Phil Garro, the co-driver of the Weiner Mobile, Freeman Hardin, Herb Drury, Cruz Garcia, and Dave Smith. We got Weiner Whistles as a souvenir.



## Wind Turbine project for Granite and Sidewinder Mountains



**Left to Right: John Shaver, Habitat Coordinator for QU 759, Adam Silva, assistant to Brad Mitzelfelt, Supervisor, First District, San Bernardino County, and Gary Hatfield on outing to the Sidewinder Mountains**

We have learned that there will be a second public meeting on the wind turbine project for the Granite and Sidewinder Mountains to be held at Granite Hills Elementary School in Apple Valley from 6 to 8 pm on April 29th. We urge members and other concerned citizens to attend this meeting to share their feelings about building this kind of energy project in an area that is critical habitat for a number of wildlife species.



## Snake Break to be Held on May 17-18. Come and Help



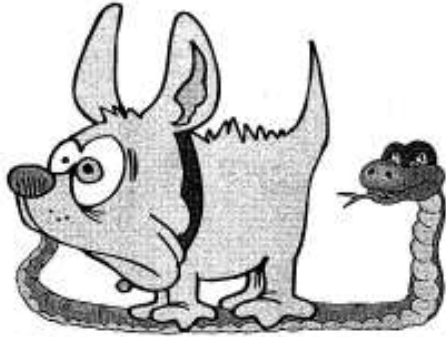
The chapter's next fund-raising event will be our annual Snake Break, a training seminar for dogs that teaches them to avoid snakes and the consequences of snake bites.

The event will again be held at Kingston Middle School in Hesperia, and we are looking forward to it. Volunteers to help in the booth and also to act as dog handlers for the event will be appreciated and you can do some good work for your chapter by coming out and volunteering. We will discuss this upcoming event at our February 19th meeting at the Apple Valley Gun club.

Also, members with dogs that haven't yet been trained to avoid snakes should sign up to get their dog trained. This simple training can avoid death or severe injury and the vets bills that go with a snake bite. .

### Visit our Web Site

If you have not yet visited the chapter's new web site, you are missing a lot. Associate member Laura Hardin, wife of chapter member Freeman Hardin, has built a great web site You will be able to find up to date information on work projects, upcoming shoots and events, past issues of the chapter newsletter, and of course, our annual Christmas Party scheduled in December. Make sure you bookmark this site on your computer and check it frequently. <http://www.hdqu759.org/index.html>



# **SNAKE AVOIDANCE CLINIC FOR DOGS 2008**

**IT COULD SAVE YOUR DOGS LIFE!!**

The High Desert Chapter (#759) of Quail Unlimited will be hosting its 2nd annual Snake Avoidance clinic for dogs on May 17 & 18, 2008. Veterinarians still say the best protection for your dog is not to get bit! Even with the vaccinations, avoidance is the best way to protect your dog against a snakebite. **Bob Kettle**, an expert in snake avoidance training, has been conducting clinics for Quail Unlimited for 12 years. Mr. Kettle will again be conducting the clinic. Training sessions will be 15 minutes in length and are designed to prevent your pet or hunting dog from becoming a snakebite victim and to warn the owner of impending danger. All monies raised for this event will be used to maintain and improve wildlife habitat in the High Desert.

**DATES: SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 17 & 18, 2008**

**TIME: 7 AM TO 6 PM AT SPECIFIC INTERVALS**

**PLACE: KINGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
7473 Kingston Ave., Hesperia, CA  
From Main St. in Hesperia, go southbound on "P" Ave. to Fairburn  
(approx. 2 miles) and turn left (E.B.) to Kingstone Ave. and turn right.**

**COST: \$55.00 PER DOG**

**The training sessions will be done by appointment only! Register early. Space is limited and we will sell out!  
Contact John Shaver at (760) 956-8169 for reservations and additional information.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed of Dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (for confirmation date & time): \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time (am or pm): \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Payment Payable to:  
High Desert Quail Unlimited #759  
P.O. Box 401397, Hesperia, CA 92340-1397**



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P.O. Box 401397  
Hesperia, Ca 92340-1397**