



**High Desert
Chapter**

**Next meeting is
March 16th, 2010**

6:30 p.m.

**Apple Valley Gun Club,
16699 Stoddard Wells
Road, Victorville**

HIGH DESERT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

March 2010

Guzzlers A16 and A98 get the finishing touch in February



The dust flies as a work crew for Quail Forever's High Desert Chapter grind old tar patchwork off the rain apron on guzzler A98. Real conservation work isn't glamorous, but it is important. This guzzler is a hot spot for desert quail and chukar, and the work being done will last decades.

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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. 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
March 16th, 2010
General Meeting
6:30 p.m. Apple Valley
Gun Club, 16699
Stoddard Wells Road,
Victorville

March
Projects
A92 & A93
March 17 & 18

Work project at
Dave Smith's to
provide storage
for water tanks

April Project
A71

(no dates set yet for
April project)

This Month's Meeting

At this month's meeting we will be discussing a number of important projects. One of the most fun will be a work party that takes place at the Quail Forever Logistics Center (located in Chapter Vice President Dave Smith's back yard). We will be setting up to work on erecting a storage area for our large water tanks. These plastic 275 and 300 gallon water tanks and smaller 50 gallon drums are used to ferry water to guzzlers that require it during the scorching heat of a Mojave Desert summer.

Because these tanks are manufactured from plastic, they deteriorate in direct sunlight and need to be stored under a roof. Dave Smith suggested the original idea for the storage area and Habitat Coordinator John Shaver is working up a drawing for the project.

The best part of this work weekend is that we plan on having a barbeque for the workers. Jesse Gossett plans on cooking, and we all know that Jesse can cook with the best of them. This should be a good project, and one that you might want to bring your wife and kids to so they can see some of the work we do.

Also we will be discussing plans for the work schedule on guzzlers A92 and A93 in the Juniper Flats area south of Apple Valley. This is great quail habitat right on the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest. It is in BLM lands (Juniper Flats is part of the Grapevine Canyon Recreation Lands). There are three guzzlers in Juniper Flats. One was built in 1996 by Quail Unlimited's Riverside Chapter and is in great condition. The other two, A92 and 93 are much older and really need considerable work.

We also will be talking about a brand new project idea over in the El Mirage Dry Lake OHV area. There are several guzzlers there which were either destroyed or removed some years ago, and we along with the BLM are going to rebuild some or all of them in coming years. The first one is A71 and it will be a major project, involving a complete rebuild of the tank and the rain apron.

March-April Work Projects

We will be working on A-92 and A-93 in Juniper Flats this month. Both guzzlers need major repairs on the aprons. We will be patching cracks as well as repairing the curbs, and fences (the curbs are the raised edge of the rain apron which keeps dirt from washing over the apron in heavy rain). We hope to complete both of these guzzlers this month, weather permitting.

Eight to twelve volunteers should insure completion of both guzzlers in one or two days of effort. The first work day will be on Wed. March 17th (the day following our March general meeting), with follow-up work on Thur, March 18th if needed. Sat. March 20th will be for Merlex, remaining fence repairs, and installing signs. Six to eight volunteers will be needed for that work party.

We thank all the volunteers for the excellent work on A-98 and A-16 which we finished last month. Thanks to Chuck & Doug our weekend crew leaders and all those who showed up to complete work on these very important water sources. A special thanks to QF member Nick Rojas for building the brush covers that were installed on A-98 and also A-14. Over the last couple of years Nick has been busy checking water levels, cleaning springs, doing minor repairs where needed. His work schedule at times makes it hard for him to always participate in some of our work projects, however in his free time he is out there doing his part.

Please let Weekend Habitat Coordinators Chuck Richardson, or Doug Wilson or myself know of your possible participation in the coming work parties so we can set things up properly. Thank you all for your continued efforts in restoring these much need water sources.

In April we will be working on A-71 in the El Mirage area. This will be labor intensive and will require plastering and possible fiber-glassing the water storage tank, replacing/repairing top of tank, as well as resurfacing the apron, and adding a new fence. Please plan on attending this project. Dates will be set at the end of this month. – **John Shaver**

A16, A98 completed in February



Above— First repair step is chipping away old tar patches from rain apron before new cement can be laid down to repair the apron. Below— Dave Smith and John Shaver repair fence and install walk-thru passage in fence.



Above— Keith Walton mans the cement mixer, first making cement for patching, and then Merlex to water seal the rain apron. Below— Cement patch work needs to be smoothed to a fine finish before Merlexing.



Below— Treasurer Phil Garro dons a dust mask and grinds old asphalt off the cracks in the rain apron. All this older patch material must be removed before the cracks can be filled with new cement and coated with Merlex sealer.



Below— Our hardy weekend work crew brooms Merlex waterproof stucco on finished rain apron on A16. This prevents rain water soaking into the concrete. All the rain that lands on the apron goes into the underground water tank.



Shotgun Raffle



The final step in repair of a guzzler is the protective coat of Merlex that gets brushed on the rain apron. This waterproof's the cement surface. The final coat is tinted a desert brown to match the environment and hide the guzzler.



**Dont Forget to visit
QF's High Desert
web site at:
www.highdesertquailforever.org**



The Chapter will raffle off a Remington 870 pump shotgun this spring. This is a fund-raiser for our water for wildlife work. Tickets will be \$10.00 each, and only 100 tickets will be sold, so your chances of winning this fine shotgun are high. We will be working through Bass Pro Shops in Rancho Cucamonga and the winner will process the paperwork through them and pick up the gun there.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the first meeting or the Christmas party after all 100 tickets have been sold. We hope to be able to do more than one of these shotgun raffles each year, as they are a great way to raise money for chapter wildlife projects. We are getting down to the end of this raffle, and hope to get it done during the February meeting. You do not have to be present to win, but you do if you want to buy one of the last tickets available.



East Mojave Project, March 5-7

We had 64 volunteers ranging in age from 6 to 84 who traveled from as far as Los Angeles, San Diego and Utah. They were from Quail Unlimited, California Deer Association, Quail Forever, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, Safari Club, Predator Callers of Orange County, Society for the Protection and Care of Wildlife, NRA and other groups concerned about preserving wildlife. There were several veterans along with a bunch of first timers that made this a successful project.

I was pleased when I drove up to the camp site and there was eight or ten campers already at the site. We got the cooks parked, leveled the trailers, unpacked the gear, set up the camp and started getting the volunteers together to make a run to the first guzzler. We left camp around 11:00 AM and headed out to the first guzzler. After five and a half hours of work, we returned to camp just in time to clean up a little and get some of Jesse's barbecued yellow fin tuna. After dinner we had our raffle, had some refreshments and hit the sack; it was a long day.

Saturday morning we woke up to cowboy coffee, breakfast was being prepared by our hard working cooks. After breakfast we planned our day and were on our way by 8:00 AM. After a good

eight hours of working, we returned to camp and the elk stew was on the fire. We stuffed ourselves, had our raffle and a few drinks to relax and tell stories.

Sunday morning we awoke again to cowboy coffee. All the volunteers were given a large tortilla which they promptly filled with eggs,

sausage, potatoes, cheese and salsa/hot sauce. After breakfast, we left camp at 8:00 AM; back at camp by noon.

Over the weekend we went through 360 eggs, eight pounds of sausage, six pounds of bacon, at least eight pounds of hash browns, 120 tortillas, one gallon of homemade

salsa, twenty pounds of beautiful hydroponic tomatoes (thank you Tommie Park), two very large cans of peaches and pears, two gallons of orange juice, two gallons of apple juice and two gallons of milk; and that was just for breakfast. For dinner we went through five Dutch ovens full of elk stew which consisted of five roasts, five pounds of onions, ten pounds of potatoes, and two #10 cans of green beans, four loaves of bread along with corn bread on Saturday night and on Friday night we had thirty pounds of Jesse's barbecued fish wrapped in six pounds of bacon and marinated in Italian dressing, four trout, along eight pounds of broccoli and coleslaw. Bob Burke provided a great



With a huge crew of 64, the work on these guzzlers went well despite uncertain weather. Here a crew cleans and prepares the surface of a guzzler for a new patch job and a fresh coat of Merlex.

shrimp boil as an appetizer to get the juices flowing. Dare I mention the carrot cake and brownies for desert? (thank you Jennifer) Can't say we didn't eat well and there wasn't a lick of stew left. Oh!, and Jim had hot dogs.

Over the weekend, we completed three guzzlers and the fourth was 75 percent complete when the rain forced us to head back to camp. Actually, we were very fortunate with the weather. We had no rain until after dinner on Saturday night. It lasted a short time thereby letting us also have our raffle and relaxation time around the fire.

I personally would like to thank Jim, Lyle, and BJ for their hard work scouting and locating all these drinkers. Special thanks to Marie and Debra for putting on the raffle, all

the cooks for preparing the food (Judy, Jenette, Kippy, Jesse, Debra, Lyle) and Christina and Shirley for policing the camp area and filling up



The old surface on this guzzler is typical. Cracked concrete has been patched with asphalt. All this must be removed and replaced. Then the finish coat of Merlex can be brushed on and tinted.

One of the great things about a Cliff McDonald project is the world famous raffle. Without volunteers, none of this would get done. Thanks to Marie and Debra for handling the raffle tickets.



four very large plastic bags with other people's trash. And last but not least, thanks so much to Lyle, for building the Merlex trailer.

What can I say about how great you volunteers are? I never dreamed that there were so many dedicated people, so willing to help with contributions of labor, time and financial help in order to make Water for Wildlife as successful as it has become. At this point I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your help. I wish I could do more to express my gratitude.

We had 64 volunteers traveling 18,950 miles round trip. Total travel time for all the volunteers was approxi-

mately 315 hours. We spent 375 labor hours on the ground working and preparation time had to be close to 100 hours for a total of 790 volunteer hours. Cost for materials, equipment and food runs close to \$2000.00 per project weekend.

It looks like we are getting bigger. In March last year at our Goff's project, we had 62 volunteers. This project has been the largest with 64. It looks like maybe I should consider setting up another Water for Wildlife equipment trailer. I will



Hungry workers need plenty of hot food. The cooks work hard to provide good meals. Here they are working on a hot breakfast in the desert.

do my best to get contributions in order to get this accomplished.

Our next project will be April 16, 17 and 18. This project will be 15 miles south/east of where we were this weekend. There are several guzzlers located in and around the Old Woman Mountains. The specific location and driving directions will be sent within two weeks.

I would like to thank the BLM, Needles Field Office, for their help in making this project possible. In the future we will be working close with the BLM as there a couple hundred drinkers located within their jurisdiction.

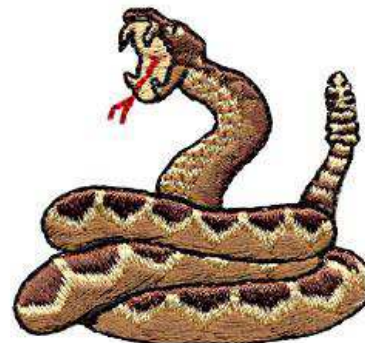
Cliff McDonald
760-326-2935
760-449-4820

Snake Break On

One of our chapter's major fund-raising efforts gets underway in April. One of the most important services (other than working on Water for Wildlife projects in the Mojave Desert) is providing a place where dog owners can get their dog(s) trained to avoid snakes. This year it will again be held at the Etiwanda Game Association site Southeast of Hesperia.

What is different this year is that instead of being held on a single weekend, it will be held on a series of Fridays. The dates in April are: April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. In May the clinics will be done on Fridays also: May 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. This will allow dog owners many dates to choose from to get their dog trained. Our trainer is Andy Anderson the manager of the Etiwanda Game Association grounds. Andy is an experienced trainer and did a great job last year.

This training is absolutely essential for owners of field dogs. Hunting and working in the Mojave Desert puts your dog at risk of snakebite, and we have several species of rattlesnakes in the desert and local mountains. All can inflict a serious bite. There are anti-venom shots available, and you can get your dog treated after being bitten at most vet's offices, but the cost of treatment is many times more expensive than the prevention of snake training, and your dog could be seriously injured or





SNAKE AVOIDANCE CLINIC FOR DOGS 2010

IT COULD SAVE YOUR DOGS LIFE!!

The High Desert Chapter of Quail Forever will be hosting its 4th annual Snake Avoidance clinic for dogs. 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. 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: **April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (Fridays)**
 May 7, 14, 21, 28 (Fridays)
 Call if Saturday Appointment is Needed.

PLACE: **ETIWANDA GAME ASSOCIATION**
 Hesperia, CA
 E/B on Main St. from Hesperia. Main will turn into Arrowhead Rd.
 Continue E/B on Arrowhead til it dead ends into Hwy. 173. Turn
 Left. Go approx. 1 Mile and turn Left into EGA Site.

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 Cruz Garcia at (760) 949-6334 or 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 Forever
P.O. Box 401397, Hesperia, CA 92340-1397
No refunds



QF High Desert Chapter
P.O. Box 401397
Hesperia, Ca 92340-1397