



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMANS CLUB

Volume 4, No. 2

April, 1961

1961 Derby

By Mrs. Ken Johnson

Without a doubt our 1961 Fishing Derby was the biggest in the history of this annual event. High winds kept many fishermen from participating Friday but by evening over 150 boats entered the waters. Saturday dawned clear and calm and the boat launching area was in complete confusion as the boats literally poured down from every direction. Many a boat had to wait in line for hours before they could get out on the water. Had the wind laid low, this Derby would have been a howling success and with no tragedy but the storm came without warning, swiftly and ferociously, and many a boat had trouble coming back to shore. Those fishermen that stayed on shore Saturday were happy that they did.

The spirit of a successful Derby, even with fishing cut short because of the rough water, carried thru the fish fry Saturday evening. Over 2000 people were fed by a crew of about 15 people working as fast as they could. The crowd of hungry people formed in line before the food was ready and two and a half hours later the last person had his plate of food and the program of Prize Awarding was underway.

Never before has a Derby had the number of prizes that were donated for awards. The Tucson Chapter did an excellent job in securing merchandise awards, and those together with the Trophies and the merchandise donated by Phoenix business firms, kept Bill Blair and his crew of workers from the Board

(Continued Page 3)

Rescue and Survival Program Next

ATTENTION: All members are urged to attend the very important meeting of the Phoenix Cholla Bay Sportsmen Club.

Lyle Underdown will conduct a discussion of rescue and survival methods and a committee on survival will be appointed for the Cholla Bay Club.

The survival and rescue program will be outlined and discussed as to method and members are asked to make suggestions. Past errors and future prevention will be the main body of discussion.

Mrs. Ken (Myrt) Johnson has consented to talk on SHELL COLLECTING AT CHOLLA BAY AND OTHER PARTS OF THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA, accenting her talk with color slides of shells she has collected and with an exhibit of some of the specimens she has in her collection, which we are told, is an excellent representation of the many hundreds of shells to be found in the Gulf, some of them rare species.

Remember the date — Tuesday, April 11th, at the Goetle Bros. auditorium, 2005 E. Indian School, Phoenix, 8:00 P.M. Bring your friends and your whole family, including children who might be interested in this interesting hobby of shell collecting.

**Next Meeting
8 P.M. - Tuesday
April 11**

Cholla Chatter

(Official Publication of the Cholla Bay Sportswomen Club)

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With deep regret we record the death of Larry Davis on March 23, 1961. Mr. Davis had been elected to the Board of Directors and served one month.

Who Was Stupid This Time?

No one should dish out criticism about others unless they can take it themselves and this time I am offering this story about three very foolish people and I am not sparing any of us in criticising our stupidity.

During the month of May, 1958, friends from Newport Beach, Calif. spent a week with us at our camp at Cholla Bay. They had shelled with Ken and I several times at Guaymas but this was their first trip to Cholla Bay in many years and they were completely satisfied with the result of that shell collecting expedition during a full moon minus tide. One morning we decided to shell the rocky reef that is exposed at what we call Shelly Beach because it actually is a beach of pulverized shells if you examine it closely, with very little sand, but which most people call Sandy Beach or Norte Beach. This reef is always exposed at very low tides and the water was way out this particular morning so we had a wide area to examine. I shall refer to my friends by their first names—Floyd and Vera.

As we strolled along intent on our search for shells, we watched the water to try and determine when the tide turned and the water started in again, which is the time to really concentrate on a careful scanning of the reef for the rare little species found there. Floyd noticed a dark area out about 25 feet from the waters edge and asked me what it was. I answered that "most likely another reef out there like this one, but not as high, altho I have never noticed it before." He walked out into the water to see what that dark area was and then when he

(Continued Page 6)

1961 DERBY — (Cont'd.)

of Directors of the Tucson and Phoenix Chapter busy for over two hours. Merchandise prizes were awarded to the daily winners and Trophy awards were presented to the Derby winners. Grand Prize Trophy winners were:

Grand Trophy of the Derby—Forrest Cooley
 76 lb. 8 oz. Grouper

First Place Award—Henry Hatfield, Phx
 67 lb. 12 oz. Grouper

Second Place Award—Charles Meadmoor, Tucson
 59 lb. Grouper

First Place Award—Dean Fisher, Mesa
 26 lb. Bass

Second Place Award—Pat Ashby, Canada
 20 lb. Bass

First Place Award—Ted Place, Phoenix
 23 lb. Sea Trout

Second Place Award: Gaynor Stover, Tucson
 4 1/2 lb. Sea Trout

First Place Award—Ken Boling
 19 lb. 12 oz. Pinto

Second Place Award: Bob Schnee, Phx.
 16 lb. 4 oz. Pinto

First Place Award—Rex Earl, Phoenix
 20 lb. Bass—Skin Diver

Odd Ball Award—D. J. Hunt
 Croaker

Largest Fish caught by Woman—Mrs. Bob Taylor, Phoenix
 48 lb. Grouper

Smallest Fisherman—Clay Underdown, Phoenix
 5 years old—1 1/2 lb. Mackerel

Grand award Ticker Drawing—Guy Beatty, McCall, Idaho
 Golden Retriever Pup

Derby Team Award—Bill Blair Boat Fishermen—Bill Blair and Skipper Dick
 122 lb. 4 oz. Fish

The award won by Bill Blair was the Davis Trophy donated by Roy Davis and will be unusually cherished by him in memory of a good friend. The Casey Team from Tucson brought in a whopper of a catch weighing 307 1/2 lbs, but there were 6 fishermen on this boat with the average of about 51 lbs. for each one, while Bill Blair and Skipper Dick averaged 61 lbs per man.

A Request

A. Ramon Lizarrago, the Fishing Inspector in charge of the sale of fishing licenses at Cholla Bay has this advice to all fishermen—DO NOT PURCHASE FISHING LICENSES AT THE BORDER—secure your bona fide license from the Fishing Inspector's office at Puerto Penasco or from Senor Lizarrago himself at the Bay. You will always find him at the boat launching area and if you don't find him, believe me, he will find you. He certainly did a good job of catching practically every fisherman that set out on a fishing trip during this last Derby.

Las Cruces Speaking

Las Cruces people called for recognition at the Derby Award Presentation program Saturday night. Bill Blair had his hands full and his mouth full of words that came out loud and clear and good but he could not talk and listen also. The news that Mrs. John Hoskins of Las Cruces desired to have announced was that they had their guest, Mrs. Ed McCham of Santa Fe, wife of the Governor of New Mexico. According to Mrs. Hoskins, Mrs. Mccham is an avid fisherman but her luck at fishing at the Bay was nil as she caught nary a fish.

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PREXY SPEAKS

The derby is over and past, but the unfortunate accident has left a scar that will not vanish as easily as the usual thoughts of good times. These are the things we each silently fear, but are none the less overwhelmed with remorse when it hits one of our own. Why should a thing like this have to happen? Again we are faced with "Who are we to say?"

The derby otherwise I believe was a success, which is what I suppose we were all working for. It's funny — sometimes, even when you achieve the thing you have been working for, for months, and you finally attain it, doesn't seem to be as satisfying as you expected.

I would like to thank each and every one individually for the part that they took, but there were so many that participated in all the various jobs that it is impossible, so a great big thanks to the Tucson and Phoenix members alike for making the Derby the success that it was. All in all, the food was wonderful—the beach was well taken care of—and the program went off in fine style. We hope everyone enjoyed a good time.

E. H. Smith

Tragedy

By Mrs. Ken Johnson

The spirit of enthusiasm over a very successful Derby was dimmed to a complete strand still Sunday morning, March 26th, when the news reached the Bay that the boat LeRoy and Floyd Davis had been fishing in had been found empty of human life. A call went out for volunteer boats to go out and search for the two men and the response was tremendous. Soon the bay was filled with boats, some of them equipped with radios. The Club's radio on shore was put into action and Dave Crane brought his boat, also equipped with a radio, to the top of the hill to receive and send messages to the boats out on the water. Within an hours time a report came thru that two bodies had been located in the water across the bay northwest of Black Mountain. This first report was false as only one body was found, that of Floyd, and brought to shore by Bill Casey and Harry Gibbons of Tucson. The water was rough but the boats stayed out there searching for Roy in the water or on shore. Every available Jeep was searching the shore line around the bay and as far northwest as they could go. Walter Shanahan and Jack Salmon remained out on the water until 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon but had to give up the search and return to shore as the waters were dangerously rough. The last jeeps returned to Cholla Bay after nine that night and reported no sign of anyone on shore. Monday morning boats again put out to sea to continue the search and Jeeps drove around the shore line. Pete Barker brought his power wagon around as far as he could go and then drove down the beach at the waters edge with his two-wheeled motor mule. Frank Lopez worked the shallow waters close to the

shore with a small dingy until the rough waters forced him to go ashore. Again the wind blew and the last boat, the Poco Loco with Douglas at the wheel, returned to shore and reported no success. Pete also gave up the search at 4 P.M. and returned home.

I am writing this story as a person who was there and saw and heard until Monday afternoon when the Jeeps and Boats returned, and when we were forced to leave for home. There my story has to end as an eye witness.

What many of you do not know and would not know unless you read this story is the efforts put forth by our Mexican friends at Cholla Bay and Rocky Point. At the Award Presentation program it was announced that Roy and Floyd Davis had not returned from their fishing trip and that Bill Valentine had gone out and tried to find them.

Like myself, many had a feeling of uneasiness about our two friends, but went home Saturday evening to our camps and went to bed, slept thru the night and awoke next morning to find the sun shining and the weather fairly calm and then proceeded to go on with our usual morning procedures and with only a thought now and then as to whether or not Roy and Floyd had reached the safety of shore and their camp, or whether or not those boats that had gone out to find them, had reached shore again. There were two men who could not sleep and would not sleep until they had done all that could be done to find the boys. They were Frank Lopez, our good Mexican friend, and Tom Sharp of Phoenix, who with his party of fishers had been the last ones to see the Davis boys as they started out in the rough sea for shore from way out there past the third estuary northwest of Black Mountain. Mr. Sharp's

boat and the Davis boat had run afloat a reef close to shore in shallow water. Before the Sharp boat was able to get off this reef, there was a hole in the bottom and the water came pouring in. The Sharp crowd watched to make sure that the Davis boat was also off the reef and in action, following them, but Mr. Sharp knew he had to make fast time to reach shore in his leaking boat, if that was possible, and save the lives of his two sons and male friend in the boat with him. They lost sight eventually of the Davis boat but did not dare go back and see whether it was making progress or not. The Sharp boat did reach shore as the men and boys were able to bail fast enough to keep it afloat. You can realize Tom Sharp's anxiety when he found out that the Davis boat had not returned when darkness of night came on and he went to Frank Lopez to see what could be done. Tom and Frank boarded one of the Mexican fishing boats and asked for help in searching for the missing boat and men. The Mexican boat and crew together with Frank and Tom searched the waters until they finally found the empty Davis boat around 2 A.M. They could not find the men, and so had to end the search by water and went on to Rocky Point with the empty Davis Boat to see what could be done by way of airplane search. They located Jack T. Casner of Fresno, Calif., at the Playa de Hermosa who gladly offered his plane and services to search the shore line as well as the water. They started out just after daylight and flew back and forth between the Sand Dunes and Black Mountain, over the water and back inland about a mile in their efforts to find the two men. They were unsuccessful. Tom and Frank then returned to Cholla Bay and went out with Pete Barker on his boat to continue helping in the search together with many

other boats. That too proved fruitless as they also returned unsuccessful. Tom Sharp and party had to return to Phoenix Monday evening. Frank grabbed a few hours of sleep before going on again with his search via the Barker dingy. My husband, Ken, could no longer participate in the search as our Jeep just gave up the ship on the return trip searching land across the bay and barely limped home about 9 Monday night. All we could do was to wait and watch and hope and pray that a boat or jeep or power wagon would bring Roy back—but they did not and, knowing we should have been home before this, we regretfully left for Phoenix Monday evening. We left behind us at the bay, two cousins of Roy and Floyd, Don and Dick Lucas, who came down Monday just before noon.

I wonder how many fishermen have learned another lesson about fishing trips? The Shrimp boats laid at anchor in the bay and never left there. They even cautioned those who had the sense to stop and ask them about the weather, that there was a storm brewing. Sure—Ken also took Hooney Boo and went out Saturday morning but the minute the wind came up he headed for home and cursed himself up and down all the way back for being such a !!!!! fool. He reached shore safely as all but one boat did.

I wish I had a complete report of all the planes, boats and men who volunteered and assisted in this search for two missing men but that was impossible—there were too many. But I join with all members of the Club and members of the Davis families in thanking everyone. I am much like our friend Bill Blair, I talk and write like fury but I hope I have not written too much or erroneously.

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WHO WAS STUPID (Cont'd.)

reached it, turned and motioned Vera and myself to come also, which we did. That dark area was a huge school of Anchovies. We were standing in water that was pretty deep so climbed onto a ledge a little higher so the water was only to my waist. We stood there and watched the waves wash the Anchovies closer and closer to us until they were right up to us and around us. The water was a solid mass of tiny fish and we stood there watching them, trying to fight the waves and get away from us. Then we finally became aware of something else very alive deeper down in the water and we found ourselves surrounded by Sand Sharks, hundreds of them dashing thru the water and up to snatch mouthfuls of Anchovies. They swam between us, around us, between our legs down in the water and in front of us. This school of tiny fish bloody and mutilated little fish — and then break up that huge school of Anchovies, leaving behind them a mess of bloody and mutilated little fish—and then stood there and watched 2 more schools of Anchovies move in, with the same school of sand shark swarming around us. We were thoroughly enjoying ourselves watching this unusual happening a new experience to us, with no thought of danger. True, we stood still and did not try to frighten the sharks away, which was fortunate for us, we have since been told. The only precaution we took was to raise our hands out of the water, to prevent a shark from taking a nip at them by accident.

In discussing this incident later with Floyd he slowly but emphatically made this statement—"I don't think I would ever do that again, having now had time to think it over. I am sure I would throw dust trying to get out of there." To give you an idea of how stupid I can be at

In Memoriam

WHEREAS the passing of Floyd E. Davis and his brother Leroy E. Davis of Phoenix, Arizona at Cholla Bay, Mexico on Saturday, March 25th, 1961, greatly grieved the members of the Cholla Bay Sportsmen's Club; and whereas Floyd and Leroy Davis have been members of the Cholla Bay Sportsmen's Club since its inception and whereas; they were widely admired as sportsmen and respected members of the community.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the members of the Cholla Bay Sportsmen's Club record their grief and recognition of this loss; and this resolution to be spread upon the minutes of the Board and this Board made known to the families of Floyd and Leroy Davis its deep sense of grief at their untimely loss.

times—until that moment I had given not one thought to the fact we were tempting our good luck to the last degree. I have told the story many times with the same result that the listener always told me we were certainly lacking good sense to pull stunts like that. I admit it. This incident ended very happily but it sure could have been a tragedy as I know and we would have had nothing or no one to blame but ourselves—three stupid fools.

THANK YOU

It would take two issues to thank everyone that gave so much of their time, equipment and donations to help locate Frank and Leroy Davis. Personal letters will follow.

Kachina Lanes

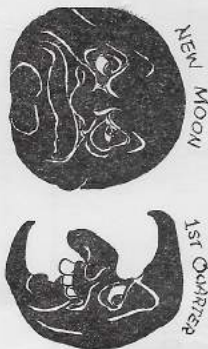
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APR. 15
MAY 14
JUNE 13

APR. 22
MAY 22
JUNE 21



APR. 1
MAY 29
JUNE 28

APR. 8
MAY 7
JUNE 5

Here are the tide charts for April, May and June, 1961. We hope they add to your sailing and diving pleasure.

As usual the listing shows the time of the high tide. If you want to know the low tide, it is midway between the highs.

Date	April	May	June
1	1415	0200	0340
2	0230	1435	1605
3	1455	0300	0440
4	0320	1525	1705
5	1545	0350	0540
6	0410	1625	1805
7	1635	0450	0630
8	0500	1715	1905
9	1735	0550	0730
10	0600	1815	1599
11	1825	0650	0820
12	0650	1915	2045
13	1925	0740	0910
14	0750	2015	2135
15	2025	0840	1000
16	0825	2105	2225
17	0950	0025	1050
18	1020	0145	1230
19	2245	1250	2355
20	1110	0055	1230
21	2305	0025	0045
22	1130	1200	1320
23	0005	0025	0145
24	1230	1250	1410
25	0055	0115	0225
26	1320	1340	1500
27	0145	0205	0315
28	1410	1430	1540
29	0235	0255	0405
30	1500	1520	1630
31	0345	0345	0455
	1610	1610	1720
	0415	0435	0545
	1700	1700	1810
	0505	0525	0625
	1840	1750	1850
	0555	0615	0705
	1910	1840	1930
	0645	0705	0755
	1920	1920	2010
	0735	0745	0835
	2000	2010	2100
	0825	0825	0925
	2040	2050	2140
	0905	0915	1005
	2130	2140	2230
	0945	0955	1055
	2210	2230	2320
	1035	1045	1155
	2300	2310	
	1115	1125	0020
	2340	2350	1255
	1205	1215	0120
	0030	0050	0220
	1255	1325	1455
	0120	0140	0320
	1345	1405	1555
	15055	0240	

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About Fire Protection For Cholla Bay

By Joseph Rodrigues

Much has been discussed about Fire Protection for Cholla Bay at our Board and Regular Meetings.

I, being a member of a Fire Dept., would like to see a fire service become a reality at Cholla Bay. I believe it's just wishful thinking on my part.

The formation of this wonderful service would be an asset to Cholla Bay and all who live within the town. I also believe the undertaking of this project is a little premature in view of other smaller projects that can be afforded by the club such as, the Rescue Service now being taken into consideration by both Chapters of our club. Maybe someday, Quien Sabe!

My suggestions, that until such time

that we may be able to afford such a service, is that all members become as fire-conscious as they are fishermen and give the possibility of fire a second thought.

Here are a few do's and don'ts that may help you save your cabin, boat or your life:

1. Do check your gasoline or butane stove and lights for leaks. (do not use if defective.)

2. Do check for gasoline leaks in your boats and motors.

3. Do carry a fire extinguisher in boat. At least a 4 lb. Ansul (Dry Chemical) or CO2 (Carbon Dioxide).

4. Do keep a similar extinguisher in your cabin ready for use.

5. Do not keep or store spare gasoline or leaky Butane tanks inside of cabins.

6. Store matches and flares in tin or glass containers.

7. Police your cabin inside and out before you leave for home.

These are not Rules or Regulations. They are meant to make your stay in Cholla Bay happier and safer with your cooperation, mine, and theirs.

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(The Tucson Chapter of the Club meets at 7:30 P.M. the second Tuesday of each month in the Green Room at the above address. Members are urged to attend and bring their families. Visitors welcome.)