

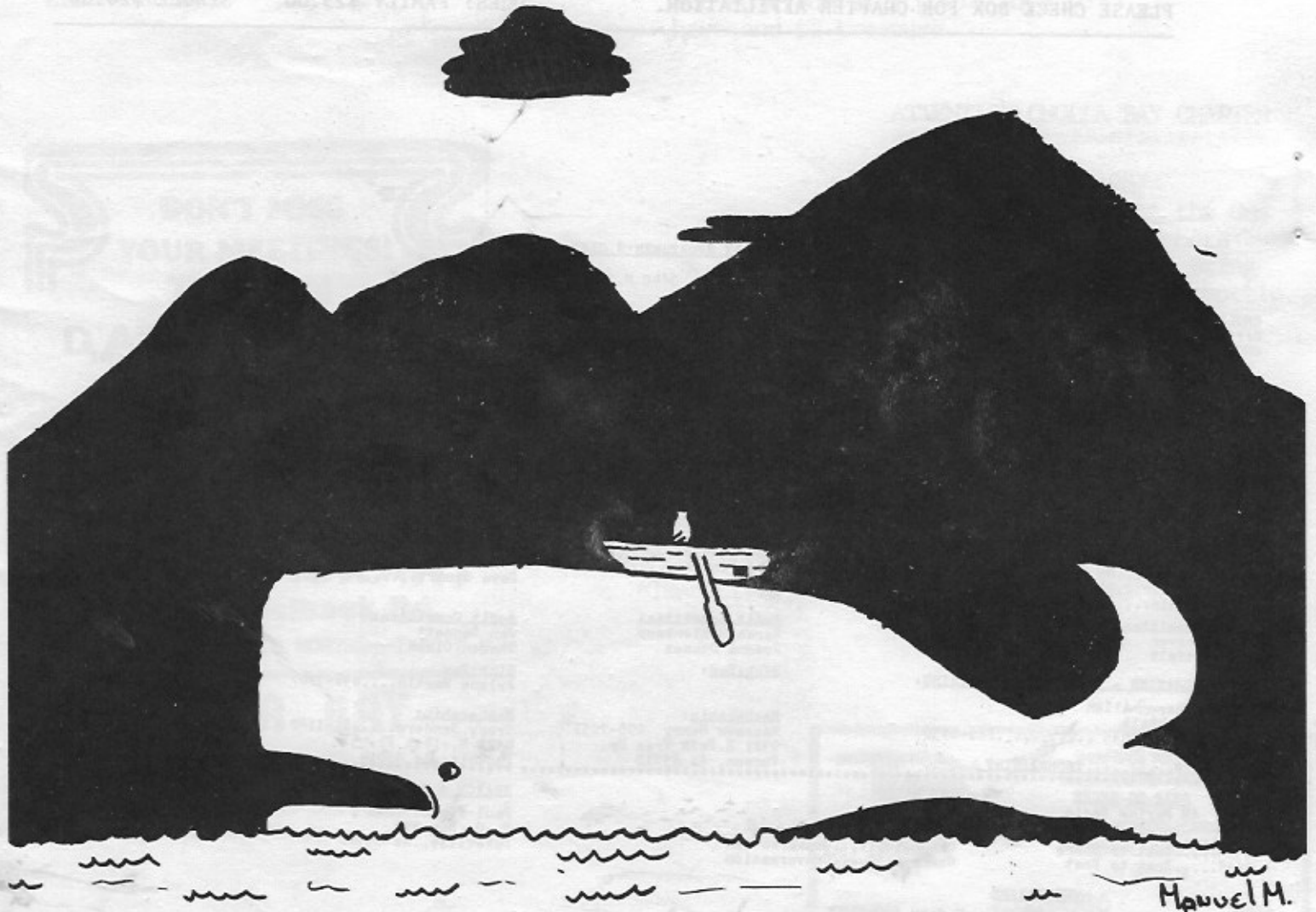


# CHOLLA CHATTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Volume 30, No. 3

March, 1987



Manuel M.

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Anxious

**CALENDAR  
 OF  
 EVENTS**

- March 2.....Board Meeting-Phoenix,
- March 2.....Board Meeting-Tucson
- March .....Board Meeting-Cholla Bay
- March 10.....Tucson-Meeting
- March 11.....Phoenix-Meeting
- March 12.....Council Meeting Casa Grande
- March 14.....Cholla Bay-Meeting
- March 17.....St. Patrick Day (wear green)
- March 28.....CHILI COOK-OFF

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\*\*\*\*\*

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**ATTENTION CHOLLA BAY CHAPTER**

\*\*\*\*\*

SAT. March 14, 1987  
 Hamburger Cookout at the Gus Brown Plaza. All members are invited to come. Bring a covered dish and own bottle.



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2nd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH---7:30 P.M.

**CHOLLA BAY**

See your Chapter Officers for time and Place.

2nd TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH---

- March 28.....Cholla Chili Challenge
- May 8,9, 10.....1987 Fishing Derby Days Tentative\*
- May 9.....Cholla Steak Fry-Gus Brown Plaza
- May 23, 24,25...1987 Fishing Derby Days Tentative\*
- May 24.....1987 Ferby Fish Fry-Gus Brown Plaza

\*Tentative: Based on Mexican Govt. Approval.



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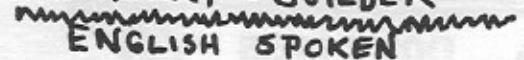
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Two Oakies were trying to raise a  
 telegraph pole against a building.  
 Said they wanted to measure it. An  
 Arkie watching said "Why don't you  
 measure it on the ground." Oakies  
 said, "We don't care how long it is,  
 we want to know how high it is."

The door prizes were as follows:

- #3. Jim Olsen a pump pot
- #2. Bill Valentine A quartz.Wall Clock.
- #1. Wayne Kudis won a Cholla Emblem framed picture that Valentine had drawn.

Jessie Valentine won dinner for two at Hunan Restaurant.

If you are a fisherman or just a plain old seaman and or looking for lots of fun and excitement Howard Beezley has some dates for you to remember. The 70 foot Santa Monica will be going beginning at San Felipe Baja, California, going south 200 miles where the Cortez narrows into what is called the Med-riff. The galley will be well stocked with lots of ice, soft drinks and food. There will be lots of shaded sleeping space and two rest rooms with showers. The dates are April 4-10, 1987, June 13th-19 and July 4th - 10th 1987.

I could go on and on about it all, but I think it best if you get it first hand from Howard at 1250 W. Dunlap, Phoenix, Arizona 85021, or better yet call him at 997-7080.

Until next time, May Joy and Happiness always be with you.

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PHOENIX CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING  
By: Marie MacGill

Newton Grefenson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Alligance to the flag at the February 11th meeting.

President Lew Frazier introduced the officers and board members. Von Gottbreht was acting secretary for Fran Johnson and read the minutes.

Tracy Sanders said we have a total of 853 members. The Ship's Store family was there. Sara McWhorter gave their report. She showed us some of the beautiful jackets with the Cholla Emblem. She said it takes about thirty days for your order. Please check their add in the Chatter for all of the goodies they have.

We were all deeply saddened over the death of Teresa Connors who passed away on Sunday February 8th. We send our deepest symphy to husband David and family. We are also sorry to hear that Verlene Barber had a heart attack last month and was unable to attend the meeting with our ole friend Don (Dondo) Barber. Verlene, Please hurry and get well. There were no other sick bay reports.

Dave Bennett said he hadn't been to the bay and didn't have any search and rescue reports. I understand that Paul Edge (Rojo) is chariman of Search and Rescue this year.

Sharon Allen Chatter Editor said they mailed out 723 chatters this month and only three were returned. She again thanked Newt Grefenson for the nice big stapler. The students who are 11, 12 and 13 at Sharon's school drew a poster picture for the front page of the Chatter. She showed them to Bill Valentine for him to make the choice of the one that is to be used. We will know soon what his pick was.

Jim Olsen said they are having a Chili cooking contest at the Bay on March 28th. He said they would like at least ten (10) good chili cookers. The fee to enter is \$25.00. Please call him if you would like to show your skills at making some chili. Who knows you might be the prize winner. His number is 893-8961. Bill Coughlin said he will have the tickets next week for the Generate 1000 watts Generator that will be raffled off at the Derby. They will be three for \$5.00 or \$2.00 per ticket.

Everyone is asked to bring something for the pink elephant sale to the next meeting.

The Good Ole Boys Club said they are having a Free Barbecue at the Bay May 2nd. and everyone is invited to attend.

For those of you who missed the meeting, missed a very entertaining evening.

Percy Smith read us a bill for a sale on a boat for \$412.00 that Bill Valentine gave him at the Maricopa Tractor Company April 14, 1949. Percy said he wanted his money back because he thinks that Valentine took him on the sale.

Then Lew Frazier read us a letter that Al Scott wrote to Percy Smith dated July 28, 1955. He told Percy they should start a club with no rules, no dues and no regulations.

Harry Capen told us about their first Christmas party at the bay way way back when the Bay was very primitive and had only a few very poor Mexican families. He told of how the children had no clothes and no shoes even in the very cold weather, but Harry took care of that by hitting up a shoe store that gave him 300 pairs of shoes and other concerned people gave him clothes. One little Mexican boy tried on a pair of shoes that were three sizes too large. When they tried to take them from him he cried, so they let him keep them hoping he would soon grow into them. The story is too long to tell it all. We really enjoyed it very much. Thank you Percy and Harry. We are all so happy that you could come aboard with us.

We want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Austin who brought some interesting old posters of many years back, and all of you dear people who made for a delightful evening.

Perhaps our president Lew can have list of you all in the next issue of the Chatter.

We thought that Bill Valentine and his wife Jessie was going to take every thing but the Restaurant when they started handing out the prizes. Bill Valentine won the Christmas Raffle, a bottle of Booze.

Rick Smith was the last name card drawn and collected his \$30.00 prize.



Dear Compadres:

I was intrigued by your story of boat-builder Seth Smith. The first time I ever met him was on, what was then highway 66- between Williams and Flagstaff.

I was riding point on a herd of cattle headed for the Sante Fe stockyards at Maine. (Park's store and P.O. is still there today.) All highway traffic was blocked, and Seth with one of his alum. boats aboard was in the lead -so being a boat-buff-and ex. WWI sailor, I engaged him in conversation. He was on the way to Lake Mary. And he invited me to his shop in Phoenix. Which I visited on my trip there.

There were 2 other boat builders in Phoenix, Michey Boats and Beismeyer a company headed by Pete Barker the latter, A Cholla Bayer for years. Under taps in the Arizona Legioner last issue, S. Smith was listed. So he had to be younger than the 21 year draft age, hence a volunteer. like myself, who enlisted at 19 and I was one year before I.e. 1896. So he must have joined up by 18.

But what I am really writing about is Grace Schoonover's letter (which I have read, and re-read, I don't know how many times) and I urge everyone to do so-and then get together and do something about it.


For 20 years we lived at #70 on Cholla in winter and also in Homer, Alaska for 6 Mo. In summer we had a half way casa a motor sailer at the live aboard Silver Gate Yacht Club, in San Diego.

When I sold #70 to Dell trailer, Gus Brown wrote me a very nice letter. stating that I had been his first and longest renter, and thanks me for the advise I had given him during the years, to make Cholla a better place to live, much of which he had followed.

Day after tomorrow will be my birthday 90, and in July, Florence and I celebrated our 65 wedding anniversary. (The plaque Bench at #70 shows that we Celebrated our 50 there.) one of my granddaughters as a birthday present, gave me a Suzuki Samorai with a citizens band radio and all the trimmings. is Vivir un Paco which translates to Live a Little and we will be on channel 3, so give us a call any time after Nov. 10, 1986.

Asios for now  
Homer Smith

7



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Thanks to Sara McWhorter for her help in getting this issue of the Chatter "to bed" and a special thanks to little Matt for lying quietly on the floor and letting us work around him

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## THE NIGHT OF THE BIG CHOLLA BAY BLOW

Sunday, May 4, 1969 is a day many of our good members will long remember as the day the real estate at Cholla Bay was rearranged.

The day started out with what we would normally call one of those blasted days that the wind kept every one earthbound. Clouds built up and the wind grew worse as the day progressed. The only fishermen out were the dirty dozen with Mush Manley, Bill Valentine and others that had chartered large shrimp boats the previous Thursday. Most of us at the Bay either loafed around or made sandbuggy excursions to pass the time. The majority left for home as it became evident that there would be no fishing that day. This was fortunate for if the Bay had been full of people Sunday night we probably would have had some serious injuries and even possibly some deaths.

About five o'clock a front came through with hurricane force winds accompanied by extremely heavy rain. This was just a warning of what we had coming.

Apparently the storm split up in passing and then returned from two directions about eight o'clock and managed to bump heads right over us. The first warning came out of the dark with gusty winds of hurricane force and rain approaching cloudburst proportions. It did not take long for the storm to turn into a full-blown tornado with winds between 80 and 125 miles per hour. The rain changed to a cloudburst of no mean proportions.

When the full force hit we lowered our bamboo shades inside each window to dissipate any glass that might be flying should any window give way. The corrugated aluminum roof loosened up at each joint and the water came in as if we did not have one. Even with what had been a tight roof we had over two inches of water on the floor. My south wall is supported by 4x4s buried in two feet of concrete at four foot intervals with the roof strapped on with steel strapping; this wall gave as much as three to four inches when the gusts hit. In spite of this we were lucky. The tornado did not touch down on us.

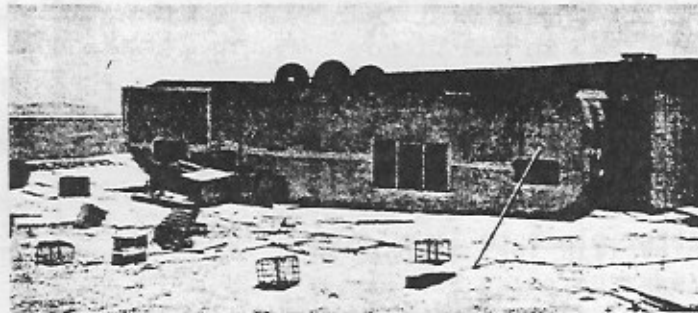
The funnel capriciously touched down hither and yon and everything it touched was demolished. Fifty foot house trailers were picked up, toyed around with just like feathers. Concrete block houses were completely disintegrated and roofs ended up flying through the air damaging anything in their paths. Some just broke up and fell in the Bay in small pieces.

I found one 4x4 with a splinter driven right through it. Another place a 16x32 room lifted off the foundations to disappear, leaving the furnishings untouched, not even a feather pillow moved. Howard Coffinger had his boat setting on its trailer in front of his place. The force moved it across the road and into the cabin of Oscar Newman.

The places that were damaged are too numerous to mention. On Monday morning in the light of day, the people left at the Bay were able to assess some of the damage done. Every available person, Mexican and American, started going around closing up the damaged places to prevent further loss by either water, wind or pilfering. All our Mexican friends left their jobs and closed and repaired any place that needed it.

This was my first experience with a tornado, being an old desert rat, but believe me I hope it will also be my last. I don't mind admitting that I was literally scared out of my wits. I am glad that I am here to once again enjoy the peace and tranquility that we all enjoy so much at Cholla Bay.

Wes Douglas in Chatter, June 1969



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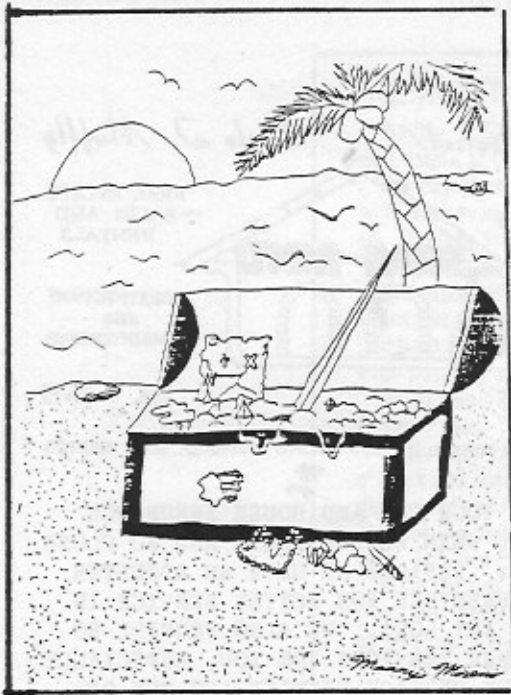
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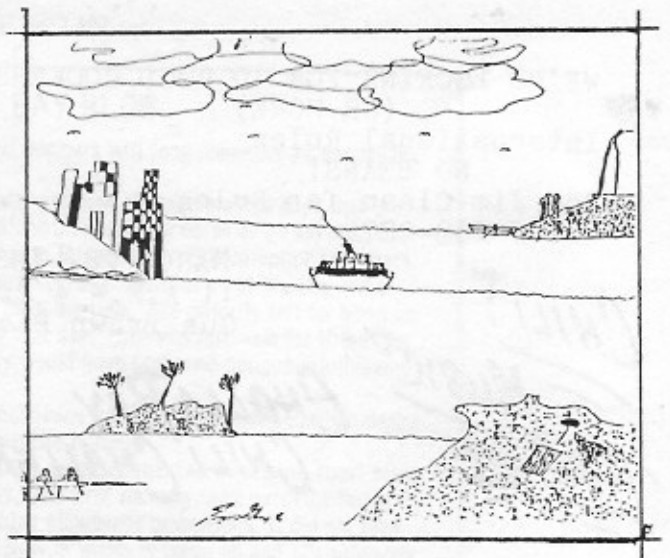
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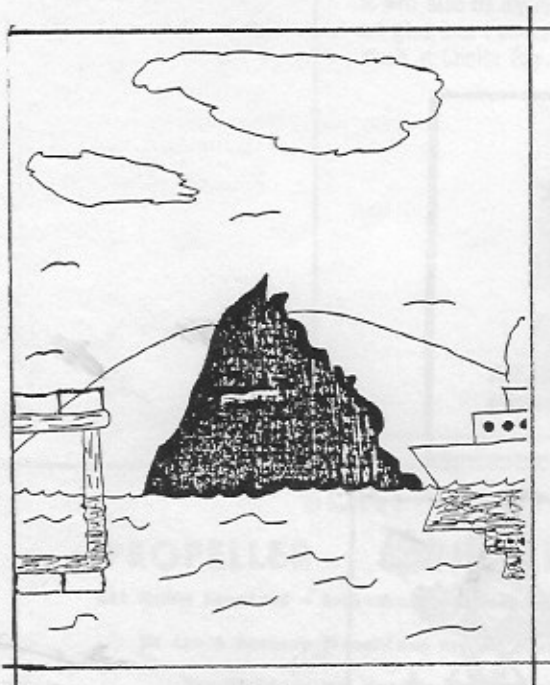


Eric Grimm

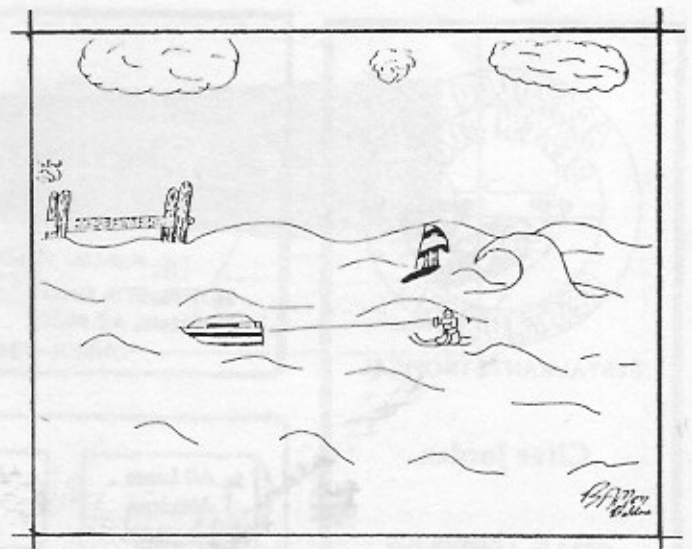


A big thank you goes out to sixth grader Manuel Morales for designing our front cover this month. His drawing was chosen by Bill Valentine as the best of many submitted. This may be the start of a great career for Manuel. We hope he does as well in future endeavors.

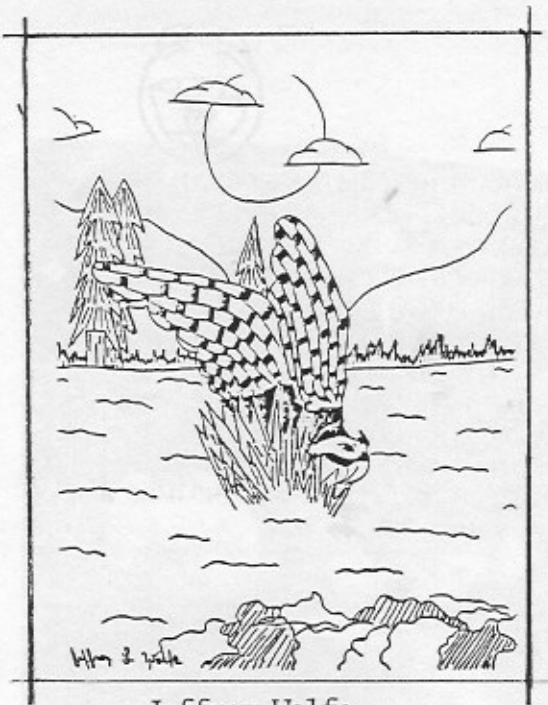
In gratitude, Ships Store has donated a T-shirt as contest prize.



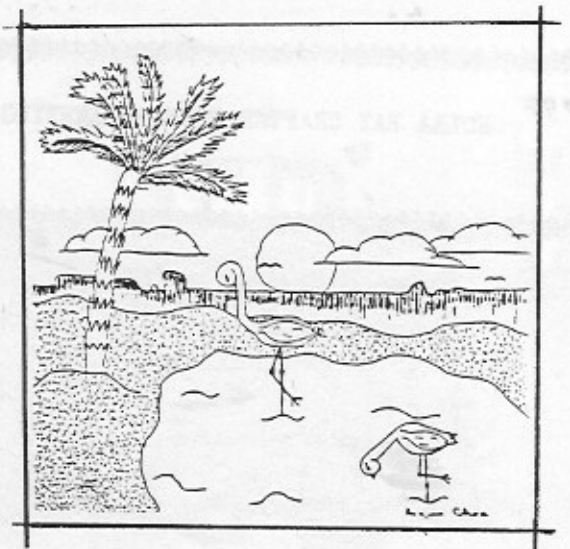
Manuel Lopez



Ramon Balderas



Jeffrey Wolfe

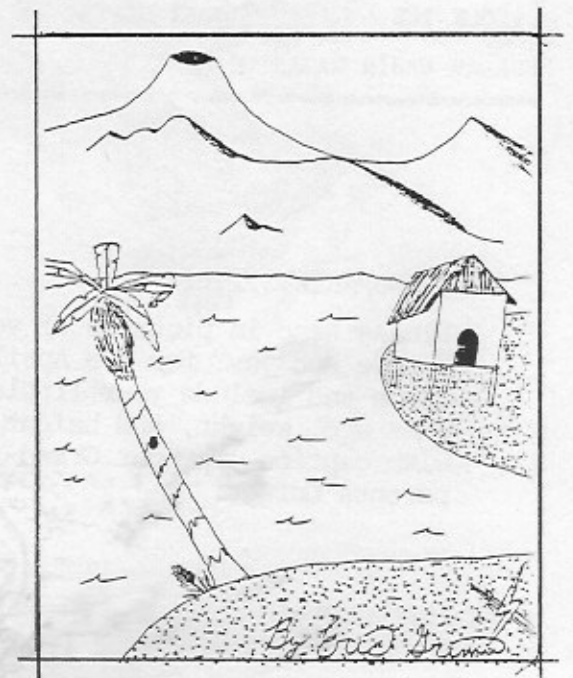


Jason Chee

The pictures in this month's Chatter belong to the Art Students of the J. Zito Elem. School . The students are under the direction of Miss L. McGrvack. The winner will have his picture featured on the cover. The winner was chosen by Bill Valentine at the Feb. meeting. Bill is please to announce that Manuel Morales is the winner. Thank you Zito art students for doing such a fine job; all of the pictures were great. We would also like to thank Bill for taking the time to judge the art work.



Stephanie Scholer



**CHOLLA BAY CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING**  
By

No news received from the Cholla Bay Chapter at this time. Hope to get double news next month.



Sad



A RANCHER HAD A STREAK OF BAD LUCK. HE LOST HIS RANCH, HOME AND EVERYTHING HE HAD. ONE DAY HE WAS WALKING IN THE SHADE OF A TREE. HE FELT A SOFT THUD ON HIS HEAD AND REACHED UP TO SEE WHAT IT WAS. THEN HE LOOKED UP AND SAW A MOCKING BIRD OVERHEAD. TEARS CAME TO HIS EYES AS HE MUTTERED "FOR SOME PEOPLE THEY SING."



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Here is Maxine Hagar and Sharon Allen posing with the trophy Maxine won in the Mexican Fishing Derby drawing-- she caught the only fish, too bad it was a wooden one!

**GRANDPARENTS.....**

Please send in pictures of your "pride and joy" for our April issue and include your little ones age, weight, and height with caption for our Grandparents Corner.



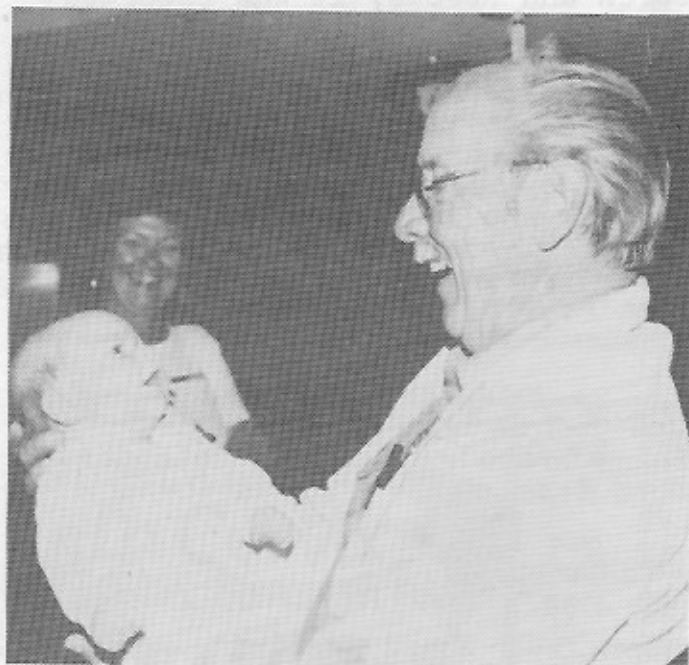
Ecstatic

"OLD TIMER'S MEETING"



PHOENIX OFFICERS TABLE

PAUL VANOVER; LEW FRAZIER; MARTY MARTIN  
 VON GOTTBREHT (sitting in for FRAN JOHNSON)



President Lew with Matt McWhorter  
 Gail Savelsberg in background

**TUCSON CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING**  
By JoAnn Otanez

The Tucson chapter opened it's meeting with a slide show by Susan Strotbeck. She had some beautiful underwater photos on some of her trips to the Bahamas. The colored slides taken of the fish and coral were really beautiful. She also had a few shots where she got real close to some sharks. (very daring)

The meeting was called to order by our President Betty Yates. Our Secretary Shirley Reid, read the minutes from our previous meeting.

Treasure report was read by Sammy Rothbock.

Membership chairman Maureen Henry, was not present.

Sick Bay Alan Peterson, reported Teresa Connors passed away. She had been ill for quite awhile. Our condolences.

Lynn Skwiat, Ships Store, has Tide Calendars and sweatshirts for sale. Hurry and get your Tide Calendars they are going fast.

Search and Rescue, it was reported everything was running smoothly.

Christmas news, Raffle tickets were sold to raise money for the Christmas fund. \$60.00 was raised that night. A jacket was donated by Ships Store and was won by Sammy Rothbock who in return gave it to Tom Foust of the Arisona Daily Star, he was a guest at our meeting. He will be writting any sport event stories we can turn in to him.

**Door Prize Winners:**

Bob Courtwright- Sweatshirt  
Peggy Drake - Tide Calendar  
Dean Tossi - Visor

**Dates to Remember:**

March 3 - Board Meeting  
Shirley Peterson's House  
March 10 - General Meeting  
March 12 - Counsil Meeting

Our March 10 meeting will be a potluck. Come one come all to our spacious meeting room at the Disabled American Veterans building located at 4656 E. 1st St. just one block south of Swan and Speedway. We will also have another presentation of underwater slides.

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**Newsletter  
Deadline**

REMINDER :  
All articles and pictures  
for the chatter must be  
in by the 18th of the  
month.



**SICK BAY.....**

Arlene Martin will be reporting  
Phoenix area news. Please pass  
on any news you may have to her  
at: 934-3747.

Cordie Conley will be covering  
the Cholla Bay area.

We haven't heard as yet who will  
be reporting from the Tucson  
area. Tucson please let us hear  
from you.

Here's hoping that this will be  
the shortest Chatter column in  
1987 after all the news is in.





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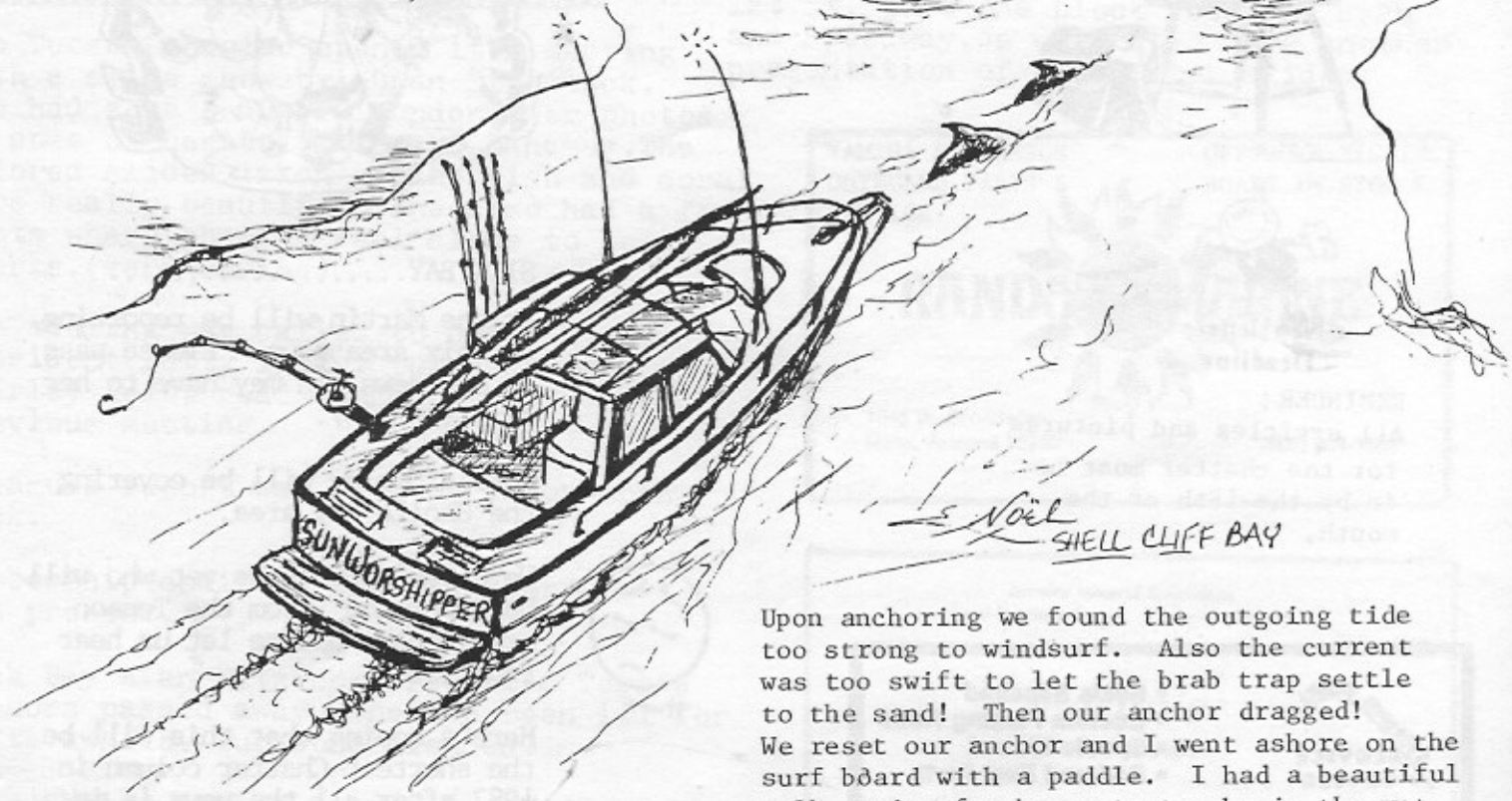
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**BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER**

OUT OF CHOLLA BAY MEXICO TO  
SHELL CLIFF BAY NOV. 5, 1983



Such a Beautiful day was before us that Saturday.

We departed for 18 mile reef as we had heard that white sea bass were being caught. Four miles enroute the water pump went out on # 1 engine. Back to pelican point we cruised on # 2 engine. Where our mechanical genius Clive replaced the water pump so- off again to 18 mile!

On arriving, three or four fishing boats were on the reef. Some anchored some drifting. No fish so far.

We decided to drift and "uo uo" our lures. All at once we "cought the world!"

We started our boat to free the snagged line; we freed it- suddenly the other line had a strike! What a strike it was! The adrenalin was high! The steel line was in the running propeller! We'd caught the boat! We shut off the motor and climbed onto the swim platform and bobbed up and down untangling our line for a half hour, what fun! By now it was afternoon-we said PHOOEY to reef fishing and set our heading for Shell Cliff Bay our sign out for the night. Shell Cliff is a beautiful but isolated estuary some 27 miles from Cholla Bay across adnr Bay. When the high tide is in one can navigate several miles into the Bay. At least we could catch some small reef fish for dinner and some crabs for hors'd ourves. We also love to windsurf while the tide is in.

Upon anchoring we found the outgoing tide too strong to windsurf. Also the current was too swift to let the brab trap settle to the sand! Then our anchor dragged! We reset our anchor and I went ashore on the surf board with a paddle. I had a beautiful walk seeing fresh coyote tracks in the wet sand.

At dusk with the tide almost out leaving as beached at our expected high and dry-we got out the stove for dinner we lit the stove to cool fish----- "went out! No fuel in the stove! Oh those cold canned goods! YUM. We had a beautiful night sleeping-awaking at 4:00 A.M. to get out of the estuary before low tide caught us.

We left in swift current dodging sandbars looking for the channel when we saw two silver dorsal fins shimmering in the pale slarlight Two friendly porpoises led us to the channel- and out of the Bay! We felt like the " couple on the dolphins!

With a light southeast breeze at sunrise we trolled by Adair Bay lighthouse to the reefs near double dunes.

We played, trolled and fished with bait- caught a few fish and then decided to move on toward lonsag rock 20 miles distant.

While running at chusing speed we lost a fan belt that had aparently been damaged when the water pump went out. Another repair job! While repairing the belt we decided to head back in the general direction of Cholla Bay. This was the " nothing went right trip-tho we did have a beautiful time with favorable weather regardless of the difficulties!

Your Truly  
Noel



# History of Search & Rescue



## IT WILL BE THE DUTY OF THE SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM:

To promote and encourage boating safety to the members of the Cholla Bay Sportsmen's Club, and to all fishermen, ashore or afloat, be he club member or not.

To go to the aid of, when possible, boats or persons at Cholla Bay when aid is needed.

To encourage the keeping of safety equipment aboard all boats at Cholla Bay.

To encourage the proper use of the Cholla Bay radio, launching check-out procedures, and the use of the club's grid map.

When you start talking about the origin of Search & Rescue in CBSC, you have to go a long way back and talk about guys like Paul Schoonover who in 1959 saw what was to come and realized the need for ship to shore radio. He started the drive to come up with the money to get it. Bill Blair in 1960 with the help of George Gehon and many others put our first radio on the air. In 1961 Eddie Smith started our checking-out system, and with the help of Wesley Douglas, got our group insurance started with the idea in mind to back up the search efforts if the worst should happen.

This was the foundation Search & Rescue was built on. In 1962-63 the radio and check-out system were improved upon, but up to this point there really wasn't any organized search and rescue team. Most depended on the buddy system, or if a boat didn't get back, whoever was handy and would godid the job that had to be done.

In 1964 and 1965 the Phoenix Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla No. 85, with Ray (Sonny) Kraft as operations officer, took over the job of search and rescue chairman for the club. Ray, Katherine Hitchcock and other Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel did a fine job. On July 4th, 1965, Ray Kraft asked to be relieved of his chairmanship and Wes Douglas took over the chairmanship and finished out the year, doing a bang-up job. In 1966 Dick Miller of Phoenix and Chris Tatum of Tucson were appointed as co-chairmen of the radio committee to give Matt Cubitto a hand as more and more demand was placed on the radio, and in 1966 Dick Miller took over search and rescue operations.

In February 1966, Dick Miller, Dan Kenny and Mel Jarvis talked over the idea of setting up a search and rescue team within the club manned by club members and with the idea of a safety program to teach the new members coming into the club safety while at the Bay, and also to ask the club for money to get it started. In March of that year Mel Jarvis asked the Phoenix Board for \$100 to be set aside for search and rescue and that the proceeds of the miss-made pennants be put into the fund also, to help build the fund for search and rescue.

Search & Rescue was on its way. All through the year 1966, Dan Kenny, Dick Miller, Ferd Esenwein, Mel Jarvis and many others were hard at work improving the radio, trying out new ideas, like flying kites with antenna wire hooked to a balloon and a small GE generator to send out a signal to our search plane. Then they tried to get radio contact with Phoenix by way of Ajo with CAP radio as relay... We finally got Council to authorize new radio equipment. Ferd Esenwein finished the Search & Rescue map and it's still in use.

In 1967 Mel Jarvis took over the chairmanship of Search & Rescue; he made the team's guild book and by-laws, meetings were held and ideas were exchanged, and the team started to show its stuff as a team with the rescue of "Wee Two," and many others after that. Also in the years 1966-67 we had the air search arm of the team in full swing, with Dan Kenny as Search & Rescue pilot. Then we added the 24-hour phone watch, thanks to Harold Niles of Niles Radio Corporation in Phoenix and Tucson; a call from Rocky Point or the border and Search & Rescue was alerted and on its way any hour of the day or night.

Bob Blackridge and Bob Cullens of Tucson and Clint Yates and Harold Niles of Phoenix are now Search & Rescue pilots for the club and have flown many hours of search for us.

Also about this time S&R and the radio got a new home as the trailer was moved onto its slab. Patty, now a veteran operator, was placed on the Search & Rescue team and was the switch that put Search & Rescue in gear. All she did is appreciated, and Ramon too - all the hard work and long hours they gave us.

In 1968 Lyle Rogers headed up S&R and he had his work cut out for him. That year with the help of Bob Parnell, Harry Capen and Bub Allison, the homing lights were installed on Capen's cabin and the blue range lights were installed on the radio shack. Lyle had some near misses, like the McDowell and Freyise rescues, but Lyle came through the year with flying colors.

In 1969 Bob Parnell of Phoenix and Frank Zimmerman of Tucson took S&R chairmanship in hand and did a great job. Council came up with more operating money, a portable radio, and equipment for sandbuggies.

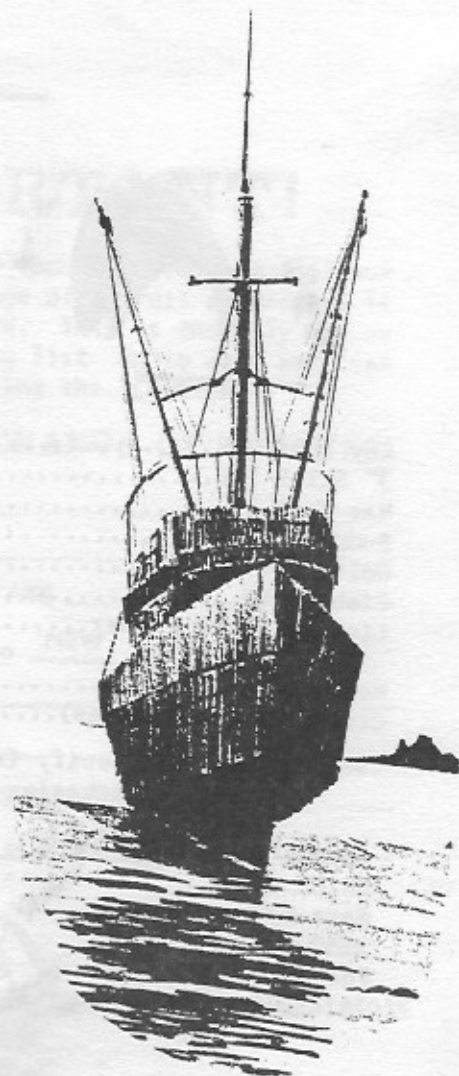
The team has been headed up by Mel Jarvis in 1970, 1971 and 1972; there have been many rescues and a lot of hard work, long hours at sea towing and searching, lost fishing time, sleepless nights knowing that someone is out there and helpless until they are found. To put down each of the searches the team has made and the effort each man has put into Search & Rescue would take a ton of paper. S&R has done and is doing what it set out to do: promote safety and encourage the carrying of safety equipment on the boats that fish at Cholla... and to be there to help when needed.

By Mel Jarvis  
Chatter, September 1971



## SEARCH & RESCUE:

Rojo will be sending us the latest news of Search and Rescues at the Bay in future issues of the Chatter. Looking forward to hearing from you, Rojo.



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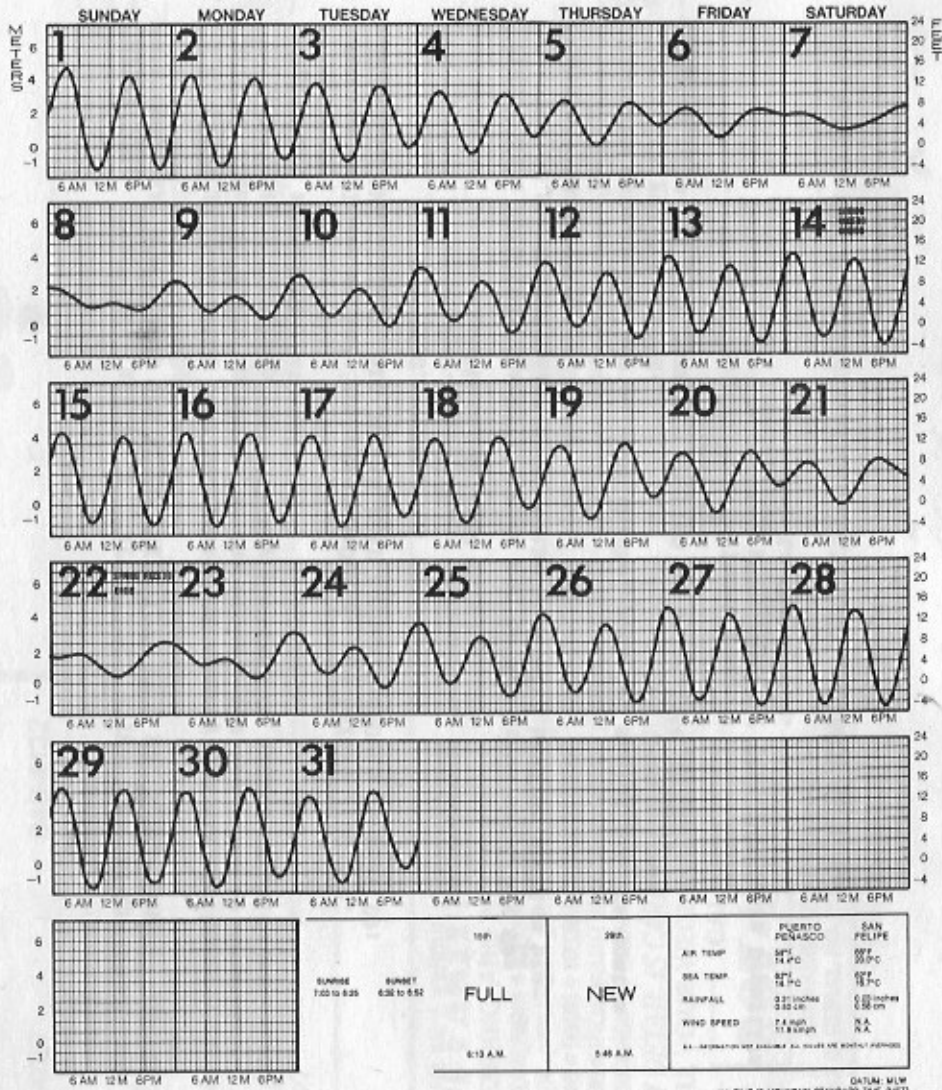
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