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ADAMS

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- 1994 -

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'94 Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 8 Tucson Chapter Meeting
- 8 Cholla Chapter Meeting
- 9 Phoenix Chapter Meeting
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 18 Chatter Articles Due To Editors

MARCH

- 8 Tucson Chapter Meeting
- 8 Cholla Chapter Meeting
- 9 Phoenix Chapter Meeting
- 10 Council Meeting
- 18 Chatter Articles Due To Editor

APRIL

- 3 Easter Sunday
- 12 Tucson Chapter Meeting
- 12 Cholla Chapter Meeting
- 13 Phoenix Chapter Meeting
- 18 Chatter Articles Due To Editor
- 29 Derby Begins

Don't Miss Your Meetings!

TUCSON

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Las Margaritas
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PHOENIX

2nd Wednesday of each month
Dinner: 6:30 • Meeting: 7:30 pm
Arizona America Italian Club
7509 North 12th Street
(MEETING IS IN SMALL ROOM TO THE RIGHT OF BAR)

CHOLLA

2nd Tuesday of each month



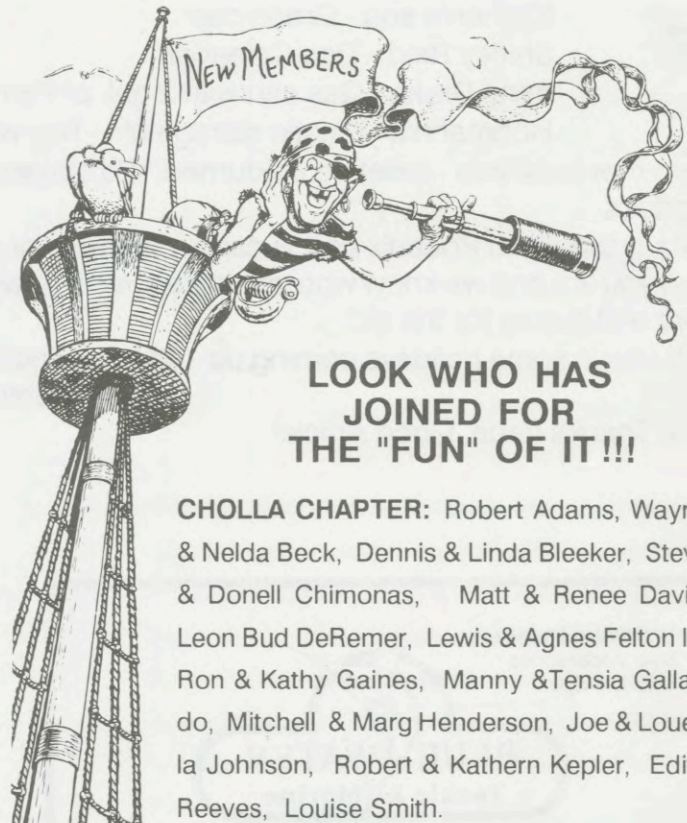
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**LOOK WHO HAS
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PHOENIX CHAPTER: J. Dumcan Brown, Ray & Judy Butler, Walter Greening, Tom & Janice Rothweiler.

TUCSON CHITTER CHATTER

By: Teresa Wilson

The January 11, 1994 CBSC meeting met at the same place, same time, but with some new faces at the helm. The new regime have taken over and with a burst of enthusiastic members greeting each other, looking forward to a new eventful year. The hustle and bustle started about 6 p.m. at Las Margaritas on Grant Road, with Bea McCormick, our waitress who was trying to get back in the swing of things. Bea had to get some assistance because of our good attendance. The jaws of membership were working overtime, eating, drinking and talking.

New faces as well as familiar faces settled in their seats as Bill Drake, our new officiating President, greeted us and continued to present the membership by roll call. The meeting continued as each officer reported their agendas. Check on page two of the CBSC Chatter for new officers and committee persons. Thank you all for accepting these responsibilities.

Sandi Maeser, the new Secretary, was busy passing out door prize tickets along with raffle tickets for prizes, donated by officers and membership. Joan Nichols, Treasurer, was in her familiar corner keeping track of all monies coming in and paid out. Shirley Reid was kept busy during the evening collecting dues which are payable NOW. Hilda Tozzi pitched in with the minutes until Sandi could catch up with herself. Shirley Peterson being the sales person which she is, was busy selling tide calendars. Irene Drake's report of Sick Bay claimed a few flu cases and Gene Reid, Don Christian, Alice Christian, Clarence Wilson were present at our meeting - showing signs of good recuperation from their past illness. Irene herself was limping and assured me she was improving from little entanglement with a wire? I'm not quite sure how the story goes, but she found herself on the ground.

Alan Peterson of Search & Rescue told us it had been windy and cold in December & January (first half of the month). Its been kind of quiet down in Cholla.

Sandi took over with door prize and raffle tickets:

Bill & Nikki Hohmann - Picnic basket, flashlight set

Kitchen's son - Green cap

Shirley Reid - Tide Calendar

Irene Drake - Gas can with 2 gal. of Pemex from Cholla

Hohmann's - Plastic storage bin - hey with your luck, you should play the lottery.

No new business - meeting adjourned. We stayed for awhile to hear some more scuttlebutt and Cholla affairs.

Many thanks to Phoenix and Tucson members for all the work they have done for the CBSC. You know who you are and we know who you are so lets all have a Happy & Worthy 1994. Welcome to all new members and hurray for the old.

We have some holidays coming up - so lets head for the border.

Respectfully, Tere

P.S. Thanks Irene, Good Article!

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CHOLLA CHAPTER CHITTER CHATTER

By: Elaine Rimza

Cholla Chapter had another good gathering for our first meeting of the new year on January 11. There were 61 members and guest present. We're happy to see the support for the Club and especially the friendship these get-togethers provide. La Curva Restaurant does a fine job serving the food and drinks to our large group.

Another sad item to report, we have lost another dear friend. Phyllis Barker died of cancer on December 31. Our Club and community extend our sympathy to her husband, Jay, and family. We were glad to have Jay with us at our last meeting. The Club has sent a contribution to the American Cancer Society in her memory.

Donations to the Penasco Cruz Roja in memory of Jim Fought were collected at the December and January meetings, and together with our club contribution, have been turned over to this worthwhile organization.

We heard so much praise for the promptness and efficiency of the Penasco Red Cross. A question was raised on how to contact them from Cholla Bay. Vilma Wiswall said we should use VHF Radio Channel 20 to call for assistance. Don't be concerned about not knowing Spanish, just say "Ambulance in Cholla, Emergency!". Once you have made contact and know the ambulance is on the way, have someone waiting at the entrance of Cholla Bay to guide them to your cabin. Augustin and Patty Perez have always assisted in any way possible in past emergencies, so be sure to keep them in mind.

A beautiful day was provided for our goodbyes to a beautiful person. A memorial service for Jim Fought was held January 16th on Tucson Beach, with Marcello Salazar taking the family out in the Bay on the Pez Vela. We will miss you Jim.

We're looking forward to Spring. Hope we'll have brighter, happier days. Remember Valentine's Day is February 14th. Show the special people in your life that you care.

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CHOLLA BAY CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY "NEWS"

By: Nancy Schmidli

As promised the CBSC Christmas Party for all our Mexican families that live and/or work in Cholla Bay was TERRIFIC!! Even the weather cooperated. It was perfect.

We gave food boxes to 104 families and toy sacks to 160 children, ages infant to 14 years. Each year the number seems to grow.

Santa, John Warren, and Mrs. Claus, Sandy Moore, were great!! I wish you could have all been there to enjoy their marvelous rapport with the children. Both they and the children had a great time. Thanks Sandy and John.

Lois and Walt Osborne did their magic and decorated a large and a small tree, cut in the White Mountains. The tree was brought down by Stan Christianson and Jean Ostberg. They had a little trouble getting the trees through the border, but it was worth it. They were beautiful. Lois loves to decorate and does a great job too. Nancy Warren also provided decorations to make the Fry Shack look festive.

Vi Hewitt was our clown again and passed out popcorn and delighted the children. She was great and the children loved her. Good job Vi!!

As the children waited in line to see Santa, Betty Horton and Joan & Chuck Dernberger passed out cookies and helped keep the line flowing smoothly. Glenda Maud had a great time passing out "curly straws" as Pat Goodin and Adele Curtis poured punch. Del Moore and I got lots of exercise running up and down the stairs serving punch to the adults on the lower level. Wanda Gill was our roving photographer and took lots of pictures. These will be put into an album and passed to the Club Meetings for you to see.

Augustin Leon did a great job on the microphone as MC. Many thanks to Augustin. Several of the little mexican children entertained us with songs on the microphone. They were delightful.

Of course a big favorite was the breaking of the Pinatas. Roberto Guittierrez seemed to have lots of fun controlling the pinata rope from the roof of the Fry Shack. Augustin directed with the microphone and Sherry and Shelly Felix kept the children in lines and made sure they took their turns hitting the pinatas. They really did a great job too. Betty Horton, Nancy Warren and Jean Ostberg made sure that everyone got a fair share of the candy. Nancy and Cruz Rocha were on hand to help out too.

Shirley and Pete Peterson were there to work, direct and oversee the entire party. They deserve a great deal of credit because they really know how to prepare and run this party. Shirley has mastered the "art" of packing food boxes and she does a great job, including making up seven or eight new ones on the spot just before the party began. Thanks Shirley & Pete for a job well done.

There to pass out the boxes were Chuck Dernberger, Del Moore, Stan Christianson, John Warren, Ken Goodin, Tom Hewitt, Cruz Rocha, Walt Osborne, Ed Gardener and Pete Peterson.

I gave a big sigh and was ready to relax when I saw Wanda Gill, Pat Goodin, Sandy & Del Moore manning the brooms and trash cans. They did a great job of clean-up. Thanks guys.

I'll tell you one thing... we all had a "good feeling" when the party was over and we celebrated at La Curva that night. It was all possible because of the hard work and generosity of many, many people.

And now it's time to start planning for next year!!!!



Shirley says...
"Let the Party begin!"
to Santa - John Warren
and to Mrs. Claus -
Sandy Moore.



Santa & Mrs. Claus after the "Ball"!



Feliz Navidad!

Christmas Party!!!

1993



Santa's Helpers chat! Shirley Peterson, Jean Ostberg, Nancy Warren, Lois Osborne looks on.

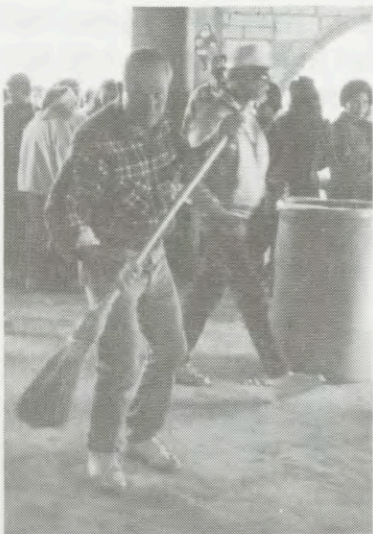


Adele Curtis and Glenda Maud pass out the punch.

Vi Hewitt was a terrific Clown!

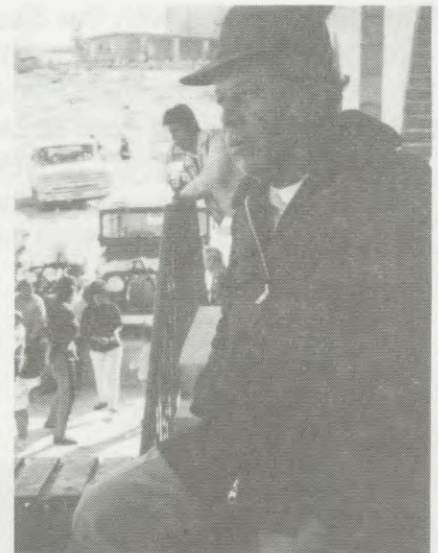


Santa and Mrs. Claus find out what the children want for Christmas. Bikes & Barbies.



Del Moore takes clean-up seriously.

The "Snowman" pinata jumps.



Augustin keeps an "eye" on things at the Party.

PHOENIX CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING

By: Marie MacGill

First of all I'd like to wish each and everyone of you a Very Happy and Prosperous 1994.

Our Past President, Frank Flynn opened our meeting at 7:45 on January 12th and then turned it over to our New President - Martin Sturhahn. After the Pledge of Allegiance, John Robson presented a beautiful plaque to our out going President on his fine job as our President and as Council Chairman. John said it didn't seem fair to give only one plaque for two outstanding jobs. Our minutes were not read, the treasurer's report was accepted as read, we didn't have a Sick Bay report. Jim & Elnora Westfall said they had a good year and that they would like someone to take over Ship's Store. After all, I say they've had it a long time, and someone else needs the job. Greg & Marlene Cliffords volunteered to take over Ship's Store for 1994. We wish them luck in their endeavor. Please don't forget to patronize your store.

I'm just sure after looking at the list of officers and board members, that 1994 will be a very good year for our Phoenix Chapter. The more of us that get involved, the better our Club will be, so lets see how good it could be. As of December 27th we had 420 members in the Phoenix Chapter. Don't you think that should be enough to get a bang-up job done? Lets try!

The application for membership and renewal forms have been redesigned. To help boost membership, these applications will be placed in various businesses - both here and in Mexico. Remember that the dues are now \$30.00 per year (either single or family).

Lets not forget about the Fishing Derby, the last part of Spring. In the meantime, polish up your poles and sharpen your hooks, and get ready to catch the Big One! I understand that Chuck Blair will be our '94 Derby Chairman. The dates will be elsewhere in this Chatter.

Mike Hagerty said that they are working on 4WD trips for this year. Nothing is definite yet, but they plan on a trip to the Pinacates - Elegante, sometime in April, stay tuned for more details.

I want to thank the Management for their January Chatter article. If you haven't read it, please do so.

Did you happen to notice Santa's picture in the January issue? If not, take a good look, John is the happiest Santa that I've ever seen.

I would also like to say thanks for joining to all of our new members. We hope you attend your meetings, they are a lot of fun.

Dick Gardner, with his happy smiling face, always brings happiness and laughter. He pinned a ponytail on the back of his cap, it looked like the real thing (good idea). Now you don't have to wait to grow a new one.

I have been saving the best for the last. We were happy to have Glen & Sara McWhorter, and son Matthew, with us. It is hard to believe that Matthew is 7 years old. We also thank Vern Felton, Bob Adams, Adrienne Chavez for being with us. We were pleased to meet our new member, Walt Greening. Walt is with the Sea of Cortez Charter Boat Services. For a trip to paradise, please call (602) 230-9322 and receive all the information about it. It would be a lot of fun to go with him and fish for Grouper, Sardinero, Pinto, Pargo, Cotchie, Halibut and others, aboard the refurbished 70' Anselmo. You leave from Rocky Point, so remember, the number is (602) 230-9322.

Remember the good old days when we all brought a dish and had a pot luck dinner at the meetings? Wouldn't that be good again?

Until next time ... stop and smell the roses on the way, we'll see you at the next meeting.



Happy Valentine's Day

PHOENIX CHAPTER SPECIAL MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 9th:

The Sea of Cortez and Baja.

Featured speaker: David Mulliner, from the San Diego Shell Club.

A diving and underwater photographer and shell collector.

He will present a slide presentation on Baja and the exciting world below the Sea of Cortez!! Slides taken at Bahias De Concepcion, Escondido, Bahia De Las Angeles, and Escondido Bay.

You won't want to miss this great meeting.

MARCH 9th:

Cruising British Columbia.

Slide Show.

Sailing and fishing in the American and Canadian San Juan Islands. A beautiful slide and talk show of a 3 month trip by Russ & Beth Eis about their circumnavigation of Vancouver Island in their 26 ft. sailboat. They are an adventurous couple with lots of boating experience and stories to tell. You will enjoy.



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CRAFTY NEWS

Whoops! We Goofed! We Apologize! We left two of our "Phoenix Chapter Crafters" off the donation list. Mary Reinert and Roma Blunk both donated great items to our last craft sale. Sorry Mary & Roma. We are looking forward to you helping us again this year. OK??

The "crafty" group is starting again in the Bay. We met January 19th and started our first project, a new kind of wind twirl. Well, new to us anyway. Remember, we need ideas and donations. We need all the help we can get. We also need used Christmas cards and blue jeans again this year. In Cholla see Pat Goodin, Shirley Peterson or Nancy Schmidli. In Las Conchas, see Nancy Warren. Remember, all proceeds go to benefit the Christmas Party for the Mexican Families of Cholla.



▲ Nancy Ryan making purchases at the Craft Sale.



Sandy Moore chats with ▲ Clarence & Teresa Wilson.



The paintings by Linda Palmer and ▲ Hank Kaestner ... 2 of our local artists.

Craft Sale!

▼ Sandy Moore helping customers.



▲ Some of the Christmas Decorations on sale.



Nancy Schmidli makes a ▲ sale to Edith Reeves.

JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting opened with the recognition of 93 Council Representatives. Elections were held for 1994 Officers. Frank Flynn will remain as Council Chairman, Don Schmidli remains Vice Chairman, Lylia Hagerty is our new Treasurer, Sandy Maeser is our new Secretary. Council Representatives were recognized, based on the new compacted formula. The names are listed on page 2 of this issue.

The financial report was given and the financial status of the Club was discussed (much improvement this past year).

Increasing Membership is one of the priorities this year. All three Chapters have adopted a universal membership billing envelope, to help reduce time and money. These membership applications and the new Membership Display Boards will be posted throughout the Rocky Point area, businesses on the way to Mexico, and salt water tackle shops.

Committee reports were given. Various activities and year around fund raisers for the Christmas Party were discussed. More information on these activities as they become available. A trip to the Pinacates is tentatively set for a weekend in April, and a trip to El Gulfo sometime in October.

The new Derby Chairman, Chuck Blair, has chosen the dates for the '94 Fishing Derby. The first phase will be April 29, 30, May 1. The second phase will be held May 27, 28, 29, 30. The final phase is June 10, 11. The Awards Ceremony and Fish Fry will be June 11th. The Steak Fry has been set for the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, June 29th.

A new Committee was formed to negotiate the possibility of Deeds of Trust for the Fry Shack and the Radio Room. The Committee is made up of Council Chairman - Frank Flynn, Phoenix Chapter Pres. - Martin Sturhahn, Cholla Chapter President - Don Schmidli, On behalf of the Tucson Chapter - Pete Peterson.

Council discussed a problem pertaining to the Abusive use of the Marine Band "Hailer" Channel 26. Channel 26 is for marine boating safety use. Many have abused this channel for extensive conversations and business use. The Port Captain has confiscated radio equipment from several parties, due their abuses. There has also been the problem of kids playing with the radio, and people making rude and/or strange noises. Parents & Grandparents, please watch your kids - so that you don't loose your radio. The CBSC is cooperating with the Port Captain, and it appears that several more radios may be confiscated. Use you CB Radio if you want to chit chat. Additionally, weekdays when the winds were blowing, and no boats were out, the repeater had been shut off, not allowing the use of Channel 26 (as a deterrent to the abusers). A system is being worked out to contact Cholla Bay should a CBSC Member and Boater want to launch when the repeater is shut off.

The next Council meeting will be held March 10th, at Ochoas Restaurant in Casa Grande. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. you may come earlier for dinner if you wish.

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PHOENIX CHAPTER FOR 1994

By: Martin Sturhahn, your 1994 Phoenix Chapter President

The responsibilities of our Chapter are of course to support and help with the Cholla Bay activities of the Council such as the Fishing Derby and Fish Fry, the Christmas Party, the Chatter, 4WD trips, etc. We also have some of our own Phoenix activities - we now sponsor a summer campout and do some 4WD trips and want to have others, especially when the weather gets hot and the activities at Cholla subside. But in order to do anything, we need to strengthen the social activities, membership and involvement of the Phoenix Chapter members. Towards this end, we have held our meetings in a smaller, less formal, meeting room and have eliminated the conventional front "Officers table" so everyone can mingle together. We even initiated a "\$1.00 off" policy for any drink to encourage meeting attendance. We have always tried to get speakers or events at our meetings, but with only the same handful of members at our meetings, it has been difficult.

For 1994 -

We have already scheduled great events for our next two meetings, you have seen the flyer.

To encourage meeting attendance and congeniality, I'd like to see all those that attend the general membership meeting to come a little earlier and join us for dinner just before the meeting. The food has really improved and it is a chance to chat with old and new members. To entice you further, the Phoenix Chapter will let you use the "\$1.00 off" policy for dinner as well as for drinks when you join us. We eat at 6:30 pm at the Arizona American Italian Club, one hour before the meeting. See you there.

I hope to call everyone in the Phoenix Chapter personally within the next few months. I'd like to see what ideas you may have for meetings and events, and if you will get involved and help. Let's "blue sky" ideas - For events, How about a hayride? How about an overnight trip somewhere? How about helping TV Channel 8 on a fund raising drive? How about having a small booth at an RV show? How about an event at the dog or horse track? How about chartering a boat? How about - - - ? What shall we have or do for meetings? Who do we want to hear? Remember, your ideas carry a lot more weight when you also volunteer or know of someone to make it happen. Ideas that don't have backup are worthless.

Three things of importance: We need a new Membership chairman (Von Frazier has been doing it for several years now) and the Chatter editors would like to get some advertising help. We also need new, fresh, young (Not necessarily in age, and you don't have to be rich or beautiful!) board members. We need new ideas, new avenues to explore. All these positions are a fantastic way to get to meet and know your fellow members. Remember, you do not need to know anything about Cholla Bay, know any of the people or have a cabin there. In fact, most of the current chapter officers either have trailers, go to hotels, rent condos, or sleep on the beach. The only criteria is that you enjoy the people and enjoy being there.

We are currently alternating board meetings at different board members houses. We generally have a small sandwich or supper there. All members are invited but should let the host know they are coming so the right amount of food can be procured. We split all costs. The first board meeting on February 7 is at the Sturhahn's. Come join us.

I want to encourage participation in all Club events in Cholla Bay. I also want to encourage involvement with other clubs, residents and businesses. Many new things are happening. Let's be one big happy family and enjoy and protect our wonderful Mexican vacation spot.

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SPRING SEA TROUT

By Steve Rothbard

It seems like just a few weeks ago I did a piece on how the water off Penasco had just turned cold enough for the Grouper and other bottom dwellers to come into the shallow reefs to feed, making these fish more accessible to Cholla Bay fishermen. We had a good run of Sea Trout, Pompano and Sierra in November as they migrated south following bait schools to warmer waters. "EL NINO" had kept the local waters very warm - very late and I suspect that from information I have recently received, warm water should come early again this spring.

In an ordinary year, the seas in the Rocky Point area usually begins to warm sometime in March. The first schools of baitfish start appearing in the area, bringing prospects of top water action again.

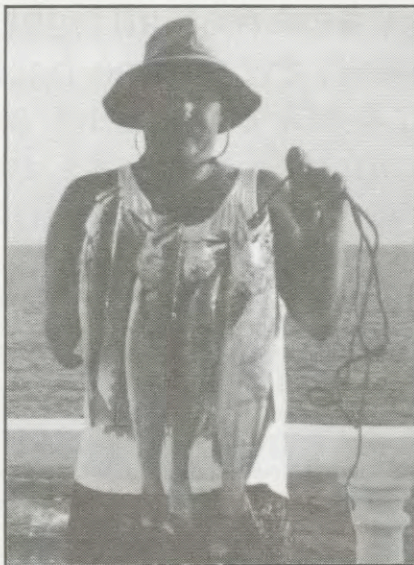
Sea Trout, Yellowfin, Corvina, Pompano, White Sea Bass, an occasional Pinto or Grouper can be caught on light tackle, in the surf along estuaries or off the rocks between Pelican Point and Pinto Point.

For the most fun, use a light 8' or so rod, and a medium spinning reel loaded with 10 - 12 lb line over sandy bottoms, or 15 - 20 lb line over rocks. All types of shiny spoons work well. Kastmasters, Krocodiles, Hopkins, Dixiejets (if you can find some), Mr. Champs, and many others work well. Chrome, chrome neon blue, pearl, fire stripe, etc. are the most popular. Sizes are 1/2, 5/8, 3/4 and 1 oz. for best results.

If I get the chance I'll be on the beach in the next 4 to 5 weeks, looking for bait boils and bird activity. Nothing is more fun than light action surf fishing during the spring runs in the Northern Sea of Cortez.

For more information, call Steve at 968-3868.

Dave Adams with a nice stringer of Sea Trout, caught while surf casting between Pelican Point and Pinto Point.



OFF ROAD TRIP

The Phoenix Chapter is having a day trip to Harquahala Peak. This "Valentine Venture" will be Sunday, February 13th. Spectacular views from the peak. This is the Smithsonian Solar Observatory National Historic Site. Four wheel drive is not required, but a high profile vehicle is a must. Bring you picnic lunch and liquid refreshments. Meet at 9:00 am on the NE corner of 99th Avenue & McDowell (the Park `n Ride lot). Details at the Phoenix February meeting or call Mike Hagerty 831-1298.

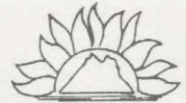
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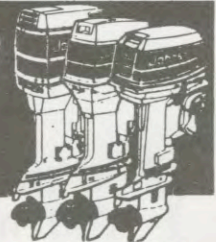
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TOTOABA

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Letter to My Grandchildren



Dear Children,

You know what a dinosaur is, but have you ever seen a live one? You haven't, of course, and you won't because they have vanished forever from this earth. They were real, all right, but every last one died long ago. They will never, ever come back. Do you know what a dodo is? Or a Steller's sea cow? Just as with the dinosaurs, you can read about these animals in books, but you will never see one alive because they have also vanished forever.

The dinosaurs disappeared millions of years ago, before there were any people, but if enough people had cared you might have been able to see a dodo or a Steller's sea cow today, in a zoo or even living in the wild. But nobody did care; nobody even knew enough to think of caring—and we human beings wiped them out. It's too bad that we can never see a living di-

nosaur, but it's more than too bad—it's very sad—that we will never see a dodo or a Steller's sea cow. That is our fault; no matter how sorry we are, no matter what we might try to do, we cannot bring them back. They are gone forever. If you stop to think about it, you get a scary feeling—almost as though we tried to play God and made a bad mistake.

I want to tell you about a giant fish called the totoaba which may also be extinct by the time you are grown up. It isn't quite gone yet; you can still see a totoaba if you go to the right place and are very lucky. But every year there seems to be fewer of these giant fish. If the totoaba disappears from the face of the earth, once again it will be our fault. We humans will

by John R. Hendrickson

Cont. on next page

Within a few years of the discovery of its endangered status, the totoaba has all but vanished.

have killed too many of them; we will have ruined the places where their young grow up, and too many of us will just not have cared enough.

The totoaba is a very large and special fish. It lives only in the Gulf of California. It used to be a sort of savage king among the fishes of the northern part of the Gulf of California—much as we think of the lion as the “king of the jungle”. Only a few of the big sharks living there grow to be much larger than the totoaba, and there used to be many more totoabas than sharks. The totoaba lives to be more than thirty-five years old, grows to be as much as six feet long, and weighs over two hundred pounds. It ruled the underwater world of the northern Gulf of California, and it ate almost every other kind of creature in the sea big enough to be worth eating—even small sharks.

Long ago, before there were many people living around the Gulf of California, millions of giant totoabas would migrate north each spring to spawn. There, at the northern end of the gulf, they formed huge schools that would frighten the other fishes. Sometimes a thousand or more totoabas would trap schools of smaller fish against the shore, chase them and eat them, thrashing the water into foam.

The northern part of the Gulf of California is unique. The totoaba evolved through millions of years in this particular, different sort of region, and unlike most kinds of big fish, which are found in many different parts of the world's oceans, it stays in the one area where it was once “king”.

Down near the large island called Angel de la Guarda, alongside the Baja peninsula, the water is clear and very deep. The totoabas spend the summer and fall in these deep waters, living near the bottom, hundreds of feet down. When winter comes they begin to migrate toward the eastern side of the gulf; then they move northward toward the mouth of the Colorado River. They arrive there around February or March, and the ones lucky enough to escape being caught in the fishermen's nets spawn as close as possible to the place where the Colorado River once dumped its muddy, fresh waters into

the gulf.

This northern end of the gulf is very shallow because of all the mud and sand which the Colorado River deposited there over millions of years. If you look at the satellite image, you can see the dark blue area at the river's mouth. This is where the water is muddiest, and it is exactly where the totoaba spawns each spring. After spawning it moves gradually down the western side of the gulf until it arrives back at its summer home in the deep waters near the large islands.

At the northern end of the gulf there are huge tides which swish in and out of the Colorado River estuary twice each day, stirring up the mud of the delta with powerful currents.

Although this fish becomes heavier than a fully grown man, it begins from a tiny egg smaller than a pinhead. Each spawning season the female totoaba produces over a million such eggs. In the sea, where almost everything seems to be a hungry enemy, most of the young totoabas are eaten by other animals, and very few of them survive. Nevertheless, even if only one in a million lives to grow up, and each female continues to spawn for thirty years or more, you can see how the totoaba population could become so large that there wouldn't be enough water in which they could all swim. With this tremendous ability to increase, it seems as though no matter how many fish are caught each year, there should be plenty of new ones growing up to replace them. It is difficult to see how the totoaba could be exterminated by overfishing.

But not even the kings of the animal world are safe from people. No matter how big and strong, no matter how numerous or how capable of multiplying, they are no match for the cleverness, the greed, and the power of mankind. When modern man began to inhabit the shores of the Gulf of California, he discovered this huge population of large, delicious-tasting totoaba, and he began to fish for them. At first, he speared them from canoes and caught them with hooks and lines; then he began to explode dynamite to kill hundreds at a time; later, he built great nets called “gill nets” which could be set out in the water for weeks at a time, and which would trap any totoaba that swam into them. These nets were longer than a football field, and there were hundreds of them; they could catch whole schools of totoaba. Each year, more and more totoabas were caught and shipped off to the fish markets where people paid high prices for the meat because it tasted so

good. By 1942, over 2,000 tons of totoaba were caught each spring when the fish headed north on their spawning migration.

After 1942, the total numbers of totoaba caught each year began to decrease. The fishermen tried harder to catch more fish. They made more of the big nets, and they got better boats that could go faster and farther to set out the nets for the totoaba. But still the total catch dropped. It became clear that there just weren't as many totoabas left in the sea to be caught. Even so the fishermen tried harder, because they had no other way to support their families.

The Mexican government became concerned about the way the totoabas were disappearing, and about the hardships which the fishermen and their families were experiencing because of it. So it sectioned off part of the totoabas' spawning ground for a breeding preserve where fishing was forbidden. If any fish were lucky enough to get past the many nets and reach this breeding preserve, it would then be safe and able to spawn so that more young totoabas could hatch and have a chance to grow up. With each big female totoaba laying a million eggs or more, even a few might produce many young fish, and the population might grow large again. But still the numbers of totoaba caught each year kept falling. Then the government set up closed seasons during part of the spawning period when all fishing had to stop, and any totoabas arriving then to spawn would be safe. And still the numbers declined. In 1975, only fifty-eight tons of totoaba were harvested. Many fishermen went broke. The government decided that it was necessary to declare a total closed season on totoabas, and all fishing had to cease.

IN THE “OLD DAYS”, the Colorado River used to dump so much fresh water into the northern gulf each year that it made the seawater in the totoaba spawning grounds only about half as salty as it normally is elsewhere. Perhaps the reason that the totoaba formed the habit of swimming so many hundreds of miles to spawn is because their eggs and the tiny babies need water which is not as salty as ordinary seawater. It is quite common for many marine fish to require special “nursery” conditions, such as less salty water for their babies to grow in. When the Hoover Dam was built in Nevada in 1935, it trapped Colorado River water for use by people, and since then more dams have been constructed, so that today there

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"We don't want to be the cause of the extinction of the Totoaba or of any other creature."

is no fresh water at all in the Colorado River channels where they join the gulf. The spawning grounds of the totoaba became saltier and saltier, and now the water there contains even more salt than most seawater. At the same time that the numbers of totoaba caught were decreasing, saltiness in the spawning grounds was increasing. If the baby fish need fresh water to help them grow (and we don't know whether this is true or not), their chances for surviving have become worse and worse, and stopping all fishing may not be enough to save them.

We know that at least a few baby totoabas do survive each year. We have found them. But we don't know if enough are surviving to make up for all the natural deaths which occur in any wild population of animals, even without any commercial fishing. One thing we do know is that the very area where young totoabas go when they are a few inches long is an important fishing ground for shrimp. Shrimps are caught in big, funnel-shaped nets called trawls, which are dragged back and forth over the sea bottom. A large number of shrimp trawlers move to-and-fro, around and around over the northern Gulf of California day and night during most of the year. As their nets scoop up the shrimp, without meaning to do so, they also catch baby totoabas. By the time the nets are brought on board the trawlers to collect the shrimp, almost all the small fish, which have also been captured, are dead and packed in the bottom of the net. So we know that, even if quite a few young totoabas are being born each year, a great many of them die in shrimp trawls.

Everything seems to be against the totoaba. And each separate thing which is bad for the fish seems to be caused by something people are doing. As members of the human race, this concerns me personally and it concerns each of you personally. First of all, we all have a responsibility not to cause the total disappearance of any living creature. Even from a purely selfish point of view, that is bad business because we can never know how the disappearance of another species might cause problems for ourselves. But the reasons go way beyond that. Do you eat

fish? If you do, you help produce a market for fish, which is just another way of saying that you are part of the reason people offer money for fish to eat, which makes the Mexican fisherman go out and catch totoabas to sell so he can support his family. Even if you don't like fish, would it be fair for everybody else to stop eating fish, putting the fishermen out of a job? Do you like lettuce in your sandwich; do you like orange juice or cantaloupe for breakfast; do you like nice clothes made of cotton? The chances are very good that the water which grows the lettuce, oranges, cantaloupe, and cotton is part of the water which used to flow down the Colorado River and makes the baby totoabas' water less salty. How about shrimp cocktail? A great many baby totoabas may have died accidentally because people want to eat shrimp. It's no use saying that you personally don't need these things; almost everything connects up eventually, and you and I and everyone else have some effect on problems like this matter of the totoaba, just by living.

We don't want to be the cause of the extinction of the totoaba or of any other creature which can never be recreated once it is gone. We don't even want to diminish the numbers of totoabas. What can we do? Obviously, it is a complicated question with a hard-to-find answer. The best answer I can give is this: we must care about such things; we must work with the intelligence which has made man the ruler of the earth; we must gain knowledge of the totoaba and then we must try to use this knowledge to find a solution to the problem. We humans are so very clever—it is still possible that we may find a way to save our totoaba and eat it too (along with shrimps, lettuce and cantaloupes).

During the past few years several other people and I have tried hard to learn more about the totoaba. We have discovered many of the things I have told you about in this letter, but we still don't know enough to solve the problems. One of the ideas I had was that, if we could learn how to keep totoabas in captivity and make them breed there, maybe we could learn how to raise them the way trout are raised in hatcheries. Then, if we could explain how to do it, perhaps some government would set up a hatchery and release young fish to the sea when they were big and strong enough to be fairly safe, so there could always be a supply of at least some young totoabas growing up wild in the sea. With a million eggs per female, you wouldn't need to catch many big ones to obtain lots of babies.

The first problem was how to catch adult totoabas and keep them alive; believe me, it is not easy! The only way I could get near living totoabas was to ask the commercial fishermen to let me go along on their fishing boats. Most of the fish die quickly after they become snarled up in the gill nets, but once in a while you can find one which has been in the net only a short time, and is hurt, but still living. Then it is necessary to keep it alive so that it can recover. It's not as simple as putting a goldfish in a jar when you are dealing with a fish larger than you are! We built some big wooden boxes with padded linings and with pipes for bringing a supply of fresh seawater to each box. We learned how to get breeding adult totoabas back to the marine laboratory successfully, and how to keep them alive there. But this is only the beginning. We still don't know how to do that because we ran out of funds, and we have not been able to take up the work again. Scientific work like this costs a great deal of money for renting boats, buying special equipment, hiring workers, paying for travel, and so forth. A woman who shares our concern for the totoaba gave me \$5,000 to help with the work, and we have used our own money as well, but it hasn't been enough. We just can't afford to spend any more of our own money. People often expect the government to finance this kind of work, but so far we haven't been able to get any help for the totoaba program. One of my friends who also works to save the totoaba exclaims that we scientists have already spent more on saving the totoaba than has the whole United States government! We will continue to do the best we can as private individuals and university scientists to learn how to solve the problem of protecting the totoaba from extinction; but, unless some other source of financial assistance becomes available, we fear that the best we can do won't be enough.

I have told you something about this wonderful, giant fish; I want you to know that I cared and did my best to save it. I hope and pray that it does not become extinct and that when you grow up you may still be able to see this marvelous animal yourselves.

Love,
Granddad

Dr. John Hendrickson is a professor of biology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Since 1970, he has been working with the Mexican Department of Fisheries, from which he holds permit number 3757, studying the totoaba's decline.

A GREAT BIG THANKS! WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

The Christmas Party was all possible because of the hard work and generosity of many people. We, Shirley & Nancy, really do appreciate all your help. We know that you receive a lot of gratification from your participation, as we did, but we would like to thank as many as possible in the Chatter. If we miss anyone, let us know.

Thanks to ALL members of the three Chapters that participated in the various raffles and money making projects that benefited the Party. This was a tremendous help. Also thanks to all of you who helped, donated and/or shopped at the rummage and craft sales. These were very successful projects this year.

Thanks to those who made monetary contributions. Donors include Evelyn Fought, Elmer Caronto, Glenda Maud, Mitch Henderson, Ralph & Marion Barlow, Phoenix Power Squadron, Cholla Chapter, Berry & Joan Hall, Libby Roh, The Fabian,s and Joan Nichols. Don & Alice Christian donated money from their candy sale, then donated a lot of candy for the boxes.

Thanks to those of you who donated food for the boxes. Dave & Kelley Adams, our Editors, gave lots of beans, and other foods. Beans were also donated by Pete & Jan Pisciotta. Mike Hagerty contacted Ralph Dickson of John Morell Meats, who graciously donated 240 lbs of lard. Thanks Mike and Ralph. Bob Baker, with Macchiaroli Produce donated 400 lbs of oranges. Thanks very much, that was a real plus. Direk & Patti Srichankij donated rice and transported 700 lbs down. Also thanks to the Warrens and Moores and everyone else who helped transport things into Cholla. Augustin helped purchase "live" beef. Then he and Pete Peterson and others butchered, packaged, and froze it. It was kept in Augustin's freezer until Party Day.

Thanks to those who donated toys: Joe & Wylene Chandler, the Kitchens, Jean Ostberg, Faulkenberrys, Boettchers, Greg & Marlene Cliffords, Dave & Kelley Adams, and the Warrens (Nancy saved us with a bag of toys the last day). A group from Springerville donated trucks that they had made. Tere Wilson gave some blankets for the babies. Thanks to all of you, and anyone whose name we missed.


Thanks to Vi Schmerfeld, who "renewed" old dolls and made doll clothes. We always need you Vi.

Thanks to Irene Drake for shopping for candy the day after Halloween and for the notebooks. Thanks to all who gave pencils, crayons, coloring books and puzzles.

Thanks to Vasquez Liquors for donating the pinatas.


Now, a great big "Pat on the back" to all the "workers". Pete & Shirley Peterson organized and filled the food boxes with lots of help from Betty & Walt Horton, Barry & Joan Hall, Lois & Walt Osborn, Nancy & John Warren, Vi & Tom Hewitt, Joan & Chuck Dernberger, Pat & Ken Goodin and friends Jim Irving and Darryl Cross, Del & Sandy Moore, Joan Ostberg, Stan Christianson, Glenda Maud, Wanda Gill, Ed Gardener and Don & Nancy Schmidli. Elaine Rimza, Jean Gibbons, Betty Horton, Wanda Gill, Pat Goodin, Glenda Maud, Adele Curtis, Shirley Peterson and Nancy Schmidli prepared the cookies, popcorn bags, and filled the toy sacks.

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks!!! But don't forget we'll do it all again next year. In fact, we've already started and we want you to be a part of it. You'll be glad you were!!



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Here we are into the second month of 1994 and what a busy month February promises to be. The calendar reads Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the season of Lent. Add those to the list of scheduled events and you turn up with one very active month.

The OBSC is having their annual Mardi Gras February 12th. Chairman John "Bald Eagle" Upchurch, said the theme for the parade is "You're Never Too Old!". Then, with a sly grin, he adds "Do with that whatever you wish.". The parade will cover all of Cholla and wind up at the clubhouse for some of John's famous shrimp creole.

Harry Wilcox, better known as "Doc One", is the newly elected President of the Singles club and is very enthusiastic about plans for trips during the year. During this month they have two trips planned, one to Caborca and the other to Kino. They have Happy Hour every Wednesday evening at the Puesta Del Sol and welcome newcomers.

JJ's Cantina will conduct the first phase of their "Angler of the Year" fishing derby Feb. 18. 19 & 20. Fishermen have been fighting afternoon winds for the past few weeks, but those who battled it out, have been rewarded with some great Flounder and Pinto. Should be an interesting 1st phase.

If you are planning any construction on a lot in Cholla, please be sure to turn your plans into the office of S.G. Brown for approval. Then it is very important for you to get your mexican workers covered by the social security insurance program. This is required by federal law and neglect to cover the workers under this plan can bring on some extra expenses. It is very easy to obtain this coverage and the office will be happy to direct you on how to proceed.

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(602) 345-0623

IMPORTANT!

If you change your address, it is very important that you contact Von Frazier by mail or phone as soon as possible:

2214 N. 82nd Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85257
(602) 946-6986

This is the only way you will continue receiving the "Chatter". The U.S. Postal Service will not forward or return Bulk Mail.

REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME _____

ADDRESS (OLD) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

— NEW —

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF REQUEST _____

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN THE CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

This application and payment may be turned in at the Radio Shack or Mailed to:

PHOENIX CHAPTER
P.O. Box 7171
Phoenix, AZ 85011

CHOLLA CHAPTER
P.O. Box 267
Lukeville, AZ 85341

TUCSON CHAPTER
P.O. Box 5904
Tucson, AZ 85703

DUES PER YEAR: \$30.00 SINGLE FAMILY (effective January 1994)

Membership dues and other activities of the CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB have funded the purchase of radio equipment and continue to support the operation and maintenance of Marine VHF Radio (Channels 16 & 26) for the Northern Sea of Cortez. Also CB Radio (Channel 3) in the Cholla Bay area. The CLUB pays the salary of the Cholla Bay Radio Operator, is prepared to direct Search & Rescue operations and when necessary can assist with some arrangements for the emergency transportation of critically ill or injured. The CLUB also conducts an annual Fishing Derby, publishes the monthly "CHOLLA CHATTER" and promotes good relations between American visitors and our Mexican neighbors.

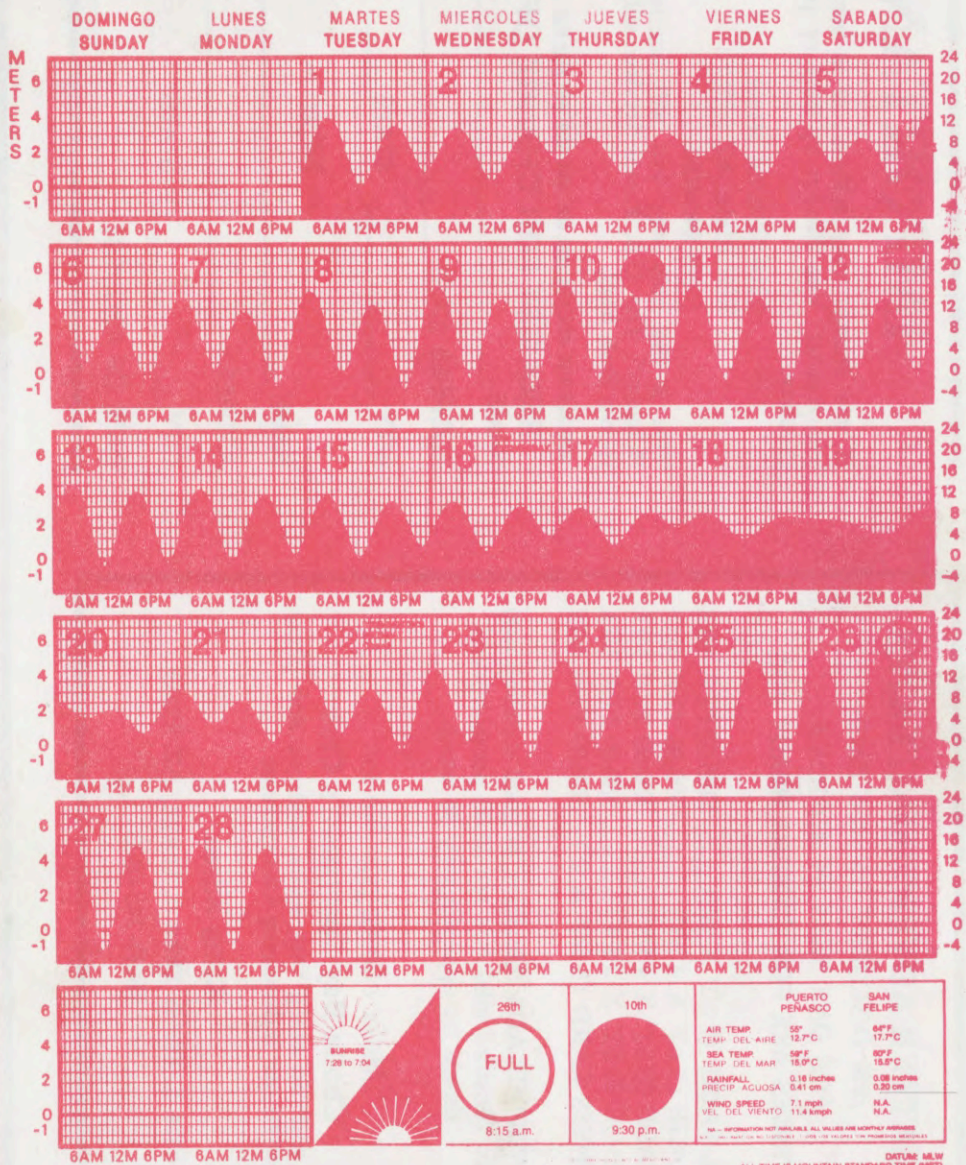
Name: _____ Spouse: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Children Under 18: _____ Names & Ages: _____ Cabin #: _____

PLEASE CHECK BOX FOR CHAPTER AFFILIATION

FEBRERO FEBRUARY 1994



CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, INC.
6824 S. Hardy Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283

FRANK/SUE FLYNN
4306 N 38th ST
PHOENIX AZ 85018

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 138
Scottsdale, AZ

ALL TIME IS MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME (MST)