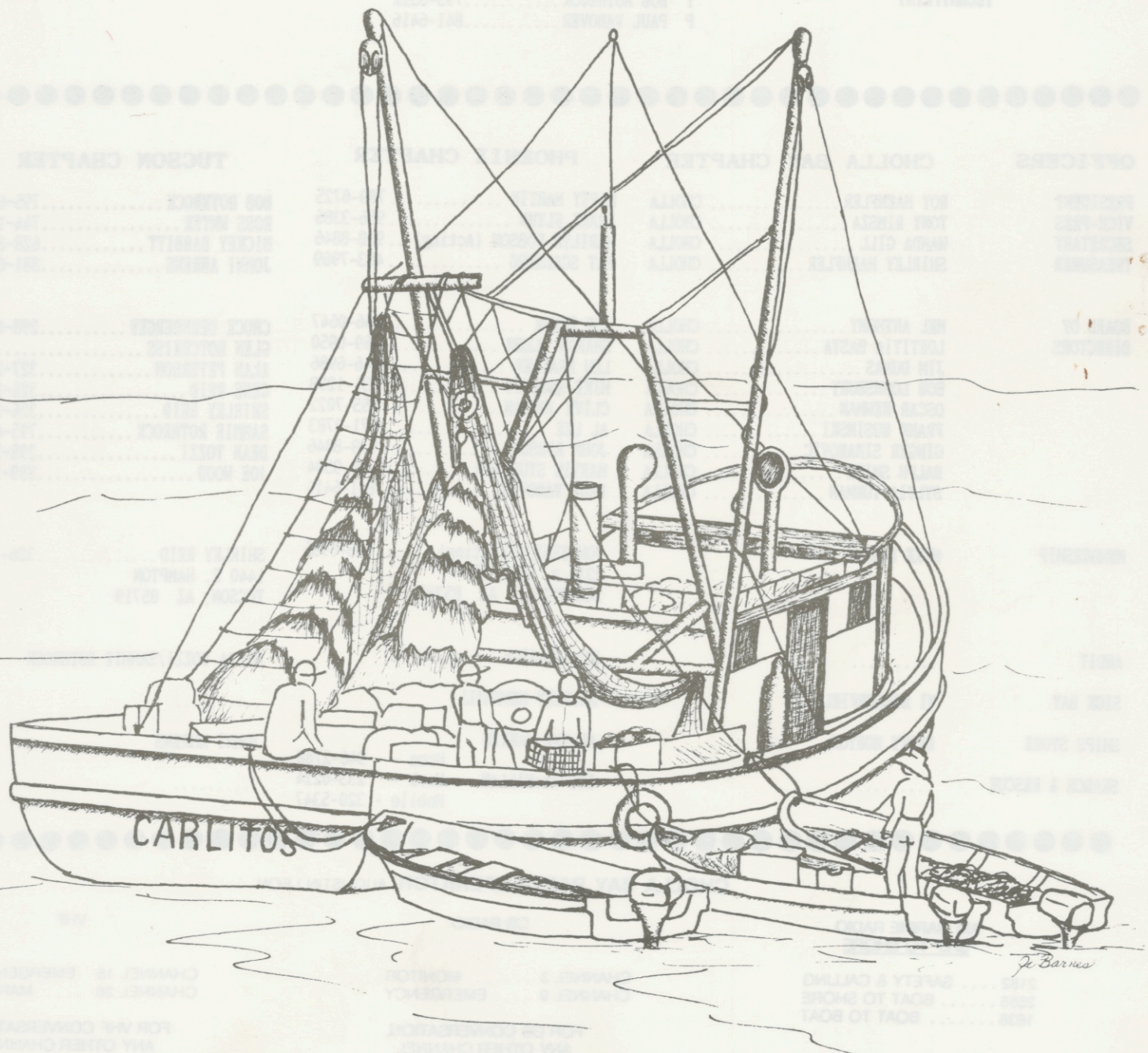




OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Volume 35, No. 11

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CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC.

- 1992 -

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Los Margaritas
on Grant Road

2nd TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH—7:30 P.M.

PHOENIX

Arizona American Italian Club
7509 North 12th Street

2nd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH—7:30 P.M.

CHOLLA BAY

SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Editors Corner

I want to thank every body that contributed to this months Chatter. It takes a lot of people sending in articles, recipes, pictures, adds, illustrations and what ever else you can think of, to make the Chatter work. Please, Please keep up the good work. I still need help in distributing some of the Chatters to some of the boat shops and fishing shops, especially on the west side. I also need help contacting potential advertisers. If you think you can help please give me a call. The good news is I have a fax available.

Ray Butler
751 North 22pl. Mesa, Az. 85213
Phone (602)962-8688
Fax (602)431-0528

BUENA SUERTA

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 03.....ELECTION Day
- 10.....CHOLLA Chapter meeting
- 10.....TUCSON Chapter meeting
- 11.....PHOENIX Chapter meeting
- 12.....COUNCIL Mtg Casa Grande
- 13-15...4X4 Trip - Devils high.
- 18.....CHOLLA Articles due
- 26.....HAPPY THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER

- 08.....CHOLLA Chapter meeting
- 08.....TUCSON Chapter meeting
- 09.....PHOENIX Chapter meeting
- 18.....CHATTER Articles due
- 19.....CHRISTMAS Party @Cholla
- 25.....MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 31.....DON'T OVER DO!!!

JANUARY

- 01.....NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS
- 12.....CHOLLA Chapter meeting
- 12.....TUCSON Chapter meeting
- 13.....PHOENIX Chapter meeting



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The slaughter of up to a hundred blue marlins each day is a common sight at the Cabo San Lucas Marina.

(Photo by Alex Kerstitch).

THE PACIFIC BLUE MARLIN

Makaira mazara

The blue marlin is a magnificent fish. It can attain weights to almost a ton and swimming speeds up to 70 mph. Special adaptations in the blood circulatory networks surrounding their heads enable the blue marlin, like other billfishes, tunas and pelagic sharks, to maintain a body temperature higher than that of the ambient ocean. This effectively increases their swimming performance and ability to catch their favorite prey, tunas. They use their bills to slash and stun smaller schooling fishes but they can also be used to stab as evidenced by records of marlins' bills penetrating almost two feet into the wooden hulls of ships.

Blue marlin range widely throughout the Pacific and are found in the cape region of the Gulf of California where they are a premium sportfish and attract anglers from throughout the world. The cover illustration depicts the excitement of fishing for blue marlin but the photograph above shows the darkside of this sport fishery. Up to 100 blue marlins are hauled into the Cabo San Lucas Marina each day. Fishermen swarm around the docks of this fishing mecca to board boats to catch large billfish. Since a catch-and-release program is not implemented at Cabo San Lucas the

fish are killed and brought into port for trophy photographs. Since marlin flesh is not particularly appetizing the meat is smoked and sold to local residents.

This unnecessary slaughter of blue marlins is depleting their populations in the Sea of Cortez. Furthermore, fishing pressure from foreign longliners in and outside the Gulf adds to the destructive process already existing in the sport fishery.

One cannot deny that fishing for blue marlin is an exhilarating experience and splendid recreation for many but is killing the marlin necessary for complete enjoyment? We urge the resorts of Cabo San Lucas to encourage and support a catch-and-release program for all billfishes, so that their clients can continue to enjoy the thrill of encountering these magnificent fishes in the Sea of Cortez.

Alex Kerstitch
and

Donald A. Thomson



The Incredible Sinking Boat

by: Ray Butler

Frank Flynn Vice President of the Phoenix Chapter, definitely had a hair raising experience, or should I say a boat raising experience. On October 4 at about 8:00 am, Frank was heading to his favorite fishing reef off Bird Island. He noticed his boat feeling sluggish and let off the throttle. No sooner than his boat slowed down and water came up through the weep holes in his floor. He knew right away this was bad. Water immediately started rising in the boat. Frank radioed for help. Several boat responded immediately. Both him and his son jumped over board to see if they could find the leak. Frank found the leak it was a long crack and he could not stuff any thing in it. He knew then without a doubt they were in deep "ca ca". By this time the water was deep in the boat. They started gathering fishing and electronics equipment and prepared to abandon the boat. As soon as help arrived* they boarded the rescue boat with their equipment and Frank's boat disappeared from sight. On the way back to home base, Playa De Oro. they passed several other boats headed out to help. Chuck McDonald, Vista Del Oro, was Captain of the rescue boat. Rocky, from Playa De Oro was one of the other

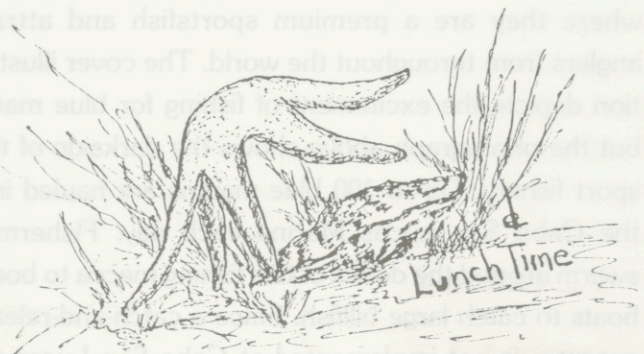
rescue boats headed out to help. Frank's boat was lost in 108 feet of water about 10 mile out and 20 miles down from Rocky Point.

Frank and some of the scuba divers went out and raised the boat the following day. This was quite an ordeal. They used big rubber bladders, filled with air from the scuba tanks. They towed the boat almost to shore that day and it broke loose from one of the bladders. This put the boat on the bottom again, this time only in about 20 foot of water. They raised it one more time and put it on the trailer under water. This required the trailer to be pushed way out. The next step was to wait for low tide and pull the trailer ashore. Of course this happened at 3:00 am.

The moral to this story is, that the Radio system at Cholla Bay works. The repeater did its job and the distress signal was heard by many boaters.

The other moral is that Frank is a prepared boater. He had a life raft, oars, water, flares, and an EPIRB rescue signal device.

All those years of being prepared paid off in just a few minutes. Frank said from the time he noticed the leak to the time his boat disappeared from sight was about 10 minutes. I guess this is best said by the old Scout Motto "Be Prepared".



POEMS

Submitted by our marvelous, illustrious and spectacular members

A MUMMER OF THE SEA

There is a choir of Angles
singing in the Bay.

You can not see them, but you
can Hear them in the waves, and
You know they are there.

Their voices are racing in the
winds Of Eternity that hover
near by, For their ashes have
been put to rest in
Our beautiful Sea.

They seem to say, "do not weep
for me, For I am Happy as I can
be."

I do not have to go to Sea, as
I am The Sea.
I do not weep that I am here,
for I Know that you are near
and very Dear.

We will be waiting for our
friends To appear,
So bid us farewell with Good
Cheer.

A STRAIGHT COURSE

One ship drives east and
another drives west with the
selfsame winds that blow. Tis
the set of the sails and not
the gales which tells us the
way to go. Like the winds of
the sea are the ways of fate,
as we voyage along through
life; Tis the set of a soul
that decides its goal, and not
the calm or the strife.

both sent in by our sweet,
Sweet Marie MacGill

AS THE YEARS GO BY By: Marie MacGill

As the years go by

I'll tell no lie

I'll love you as deep as the
ocean

and high as the sky

I'll never make you cry

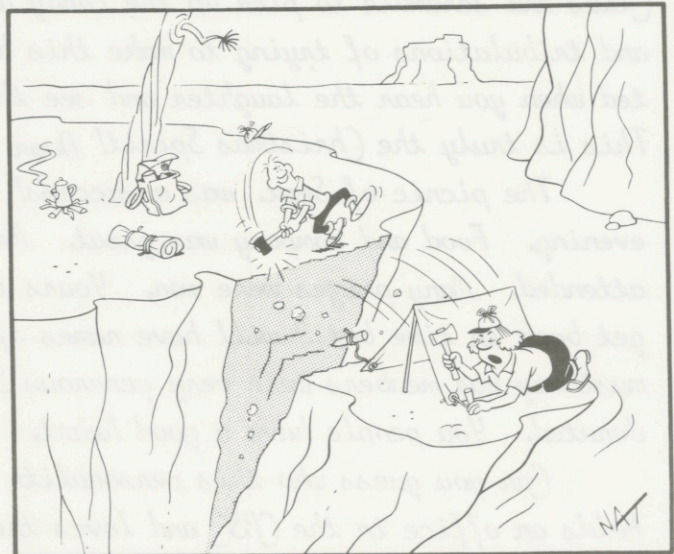
I'll want you by my side

Because you are my Joy and
Pride

And will always be my Bride

and I'll Love you until the end
of time

As the years go by
How much will I love you



"Hurry up with the other stake, stupid. It's getting late."

Tucson Chatter Chatter

October second Tuesday of the month Tucson Chapter meeting took place at Las Margaritas on Grant Road. A gathering of members joined each other for dinner and with the attentive service everyone had a sociable visit from 6: P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Tom Faust, honorary member, and writer for Tucson Daily Star gave his opinion on Prop. 200 measure relating to game and fish. He continued to have an informal discussion about Lee's Ferry in Colorado, Lake Mead and its fishing conditions and various other subjects. It was very casual and enjoyed by all.

The business meeting was called by Bob Rothrock. In the absence of Mickey Babbitt and Jonni Ahrens the minutes and treasures report were dispensed. Sammie Rothrock sat in for them. Thank You. We understand several members had been visiting at the Bay. We had a few sick members. A few new faces were present which we welcome. Members were contacted by telephone and it seems that it was appreciated to be reminded of the meeting.

Irene Drake is the chairperson for our annual Xmas party for the workers of Choya Bay. Wanda Lee is the Chairperson from Phoenix and Irene graciously offered to help her from our Tucson Chapter. Joan Nichols is in charge of the Xmas Raffle and has received some nice items but needs more. Donations of canned vegetables, fruit, money, new toys, candy will be appreciated. Don Christensen has offered to donate candy which he has done for many years past. Apple boxes can be taken to Mexico on your trips and dropped off at Pete and Shirley Peterson cabin. If you plan to be in Choya on Dec. 19, 1992 your help will be greatly appreciated. Contact Irene if you would like to volunteer. This is one of the most gratifying projects of the year to see those childrens faces light up when they see Santa Claus and scramble to pick up the candy after the piñata is broken. The trials and tribulations of trying to make this huge party a success can only be appreciated when you hear the laughter and see the smiles of those children and parents. This is truly the Christmas Spirit! Door prize and raffle. Meeting adjourned.

The picnic of Sept. was a success! Many stayed into the late hours of the evening. Food and company was great. Members whom had not been seen for awhile attended. Many prizes were won. Yours truly was called out of town and did not get back in time, but I will have names of donors and winners at a later date. I must say our members were very generous \$117.00 was raised plus all gifts were donated. You people have a good heart.

Can you guess who this personality is? Born in Tucson, Arizona-hmm a native. Holds an office in the (PSC) and loves the out of doors. He and his family love to go to the Bay, but can not go as often as they would like. A wife and three daugh-

2. Tucson Chatter Chatter

ters play a big part in his life. He graduated from Catalina High School and went into construction work because loves to be in out-of-doors. He attended the UofA. He discovered Choya by going with some neighbors in the 80's. His wife is from Colo. and migrated to Ariz with her parents because her father was a miner. How did they meet? They were co-workers at the Catalina theater. The things he enjoys the most are boating, atc riding when in Choya, but, the most appreciated time in life is when he can sleep outside on a cool night and enjoy the quiet and gaze up into the vastness of a moonless sky. Here he finds contentment as he tries to idenify all the the twinkling stars. Where else can you find such wonder of the constellations? For the moment who cares? This is where this mild mannered, soft spoken, tall and dark haired man finds his peace of mind.

Can you guess who he is. I'll reveal it in next months Choya Chatter.

Our speaker for the Nov. meeting will be John Sargeant who has a charter service in Mexico around Kino Bay.

As I close, let me leave you with this little thought; Join us next month to eat a little, drink a little, talk a little, learn a little. We would all like to know a little more of our Choya neighbors. Remember-Meetings 2nd Tues of the month, Las Margaritas on Grant Road, social time, food, and spirits from about 6:PM until 7:30 PM. Then we get down to business. Informal business, although we can get serious. Attend one or both. We need you.

Tere

From Joanie Derrberger: MEXICAN WEDDING CAKE

2 cups flour

2 cups sugar

2 eggs

1 1/4 cup nuts

1 tsp. cinnamon

2 tsp. soda

20 oz. can crushed pineapple

1 cup apples

1 cup raisens

Topping

1 cup powdered sugar

1/2 tsp. vanilla

4 oz. creamed cheese

1/2 cup cup butter or oleo

Mix and frost cake while hot

Mix all together. Spread in a 9x13 greased pan. Bake 350 for 50 min.

Thanks Joanie-----Believe me, its scrumptious.



The following Poem was submitted by our Tucson friends Mr. and Mrs. Randy Hager "Swamp Frog".

MY TRIP TO CHOLLA BAY

by: Marie Magee

I know that most of you don't know me,
but I've been round a time or two;
I'd been gone from Arizona nine years now,
and a trip to Cholla is what I wanted to do -
So Maxine and Randy "Swampfrog" Hager,
loaded up the pickup truck;
and off we went to Cholla Bay,
the bay I love so much.

Now, Randy was doing the driving,
and I kept the coffee cups full;
then Maxine pulled out the "hoagies",
the best ever, and that ain't no bull.

The drive was long from Tucson,
but I cherished each passing mile;
you see, back east there's little flatland,
and the traffic is quite vile.

At Lukeville we went thru customs,
that was always a nervy deal'
but the paper saying you could stay thirty days,
ultimately made it seem really real.

The miles of desolate roadway,
as far as the eye could see;
seemed to be whizzing by now,
and I became as anxious as I could be.

By the time we reached Puerta Penasco,
and turned in at the "Cholla Mall";
I saw that things had changed somewhat,
but no matter, this week we'd have a ball.

The dusty road stretched out before us,
and the driving now was slow;
but when the "golden arches" came into view,
my mind became all aglow.

We finally arrived at the Cholla House,
and unloading of the truck began;
when everything was put away,
we went out shelling, and it was grand,

Next morning we hit the floor early, and went off to see what we
could find;
we walked the beaches bucket in hand,
it was good to finally unwind.



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."

We spent the week exploring,
looking for the "TREASURES OF THE SEA";
from "Tucson Beach to Black Mountain",
we went on a shelling spree.

The treasures we collected,
forevermore will be;
imprinted in my memories,
to last for all eternity.

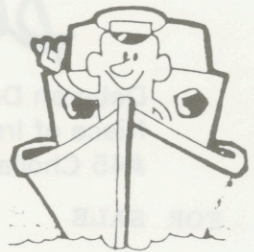
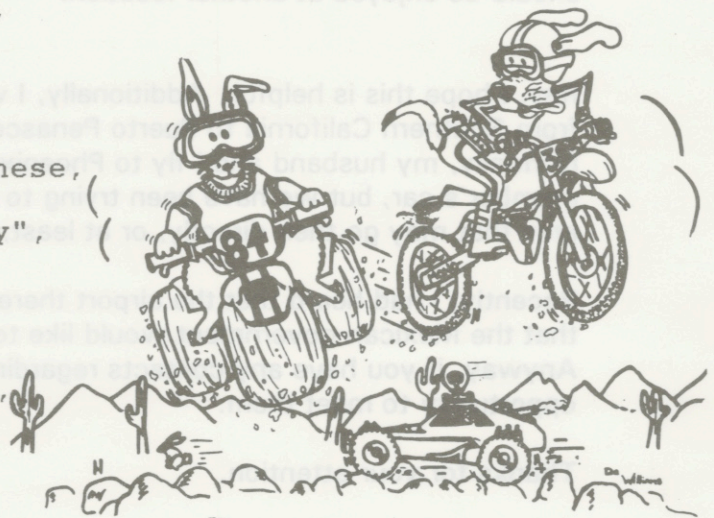
The weather was just beautiful,
altho it was a little hot;
I had forgotten how enjoyable Cholla Bay could be,
I sure had missed it quite a lot.

One day we went to the "Cholla Mall",
to see what goodies we could buy;
them Randy bought us dinner,
it was delicious that was no lie.

To walk and talk with friends like these,
as I have done the week;
to enjoy the "treasures of Cholla Bay",
I find is still quite unique.

But now my vacation is over,
and I'm back east once again;
leaving my friends and Cholla behind,
has been my greatest pain.

So, to my friend, Randy and Maxine,
I surely want to say;
I thank you for everything you did for me,
especially the trip to Cholla Bay.



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"Romancing the Rock" at Puerto Penasco

Yes Virginia, Puerto Penasco does have a skyline at sundown. In order to see it, I recommend that you try the new restaurant in town, "Romancing the Rock". For all expatriates searching for a little bit of the Ernest Hemingway lifestyle, this restaurant offers great food amid a fine art gallery, romance novel-writing novelists at the next table over and a great view of the city after dark.

The restaurant is owned by the 24-hour, on-call, in-town emergency doctor, Luiz Vasquez. Dr. Vasquez and his wife have put together a small menu of high quality comidas. It includes various types of grilled seafood and beef. The Steak Au Poivre which is butterflied, grilled to a melt-in-your-mouth perfection and served with fresh fruit and baked potato is my recommendation. Alcoholic beverages are not served within the establishment, therefore, before or after dinner cocktails should be enjoyed at another location.

Ray, I hope this is helpful. Additionally, I would like to request that anyone flying from Southern California to Puerto Penasco in a private craft be given our name. Normally, my husband and I fly to Phoenix and then drive down in a family member's car, but we have been trying to meet people from the Southern California area that may go their directly, or at least, fly out of Tijuana or Mexicali.

Recently, I had heard that the airport there has been shut down, although I know that the Mexican government would like to make it into an International Airport. Anyway, if you have any contacts regarding this, I would appreciate having the opportunity to meet them.

Thanks for your attention.

Cordially,

Deborah Denne'

Deborah Denne'
Niece of Irma and Gene Letson
#45 Cholla Bay

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WELCOME TO NOVEMBER. NOVEMBER'S HIGHLIGHT FOR MOST OF US IS THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE IN CHOLLA AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS TO HAVE SO MANY CHOICES. WE CAN CHOOSE TO HAVE THE AMERICAN TRADITIONAL OF TURKEY AND ALL ITS TRIMMINGS, OR THE MEXICAN TRADITIONAL CONSISTING OF TAMALES, FRIJOLES AND ALL ITS GOODIES OR WE CAN HAVE SOME OF CHOLLA'S SPECIALITIES FRESH SHRIMP AND FISH ETC. NO MATTER WHAT VARIETY OF FOOD YOU DECIDE UPON THE COMPANY WANTS TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY, BLESSED THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TO ALL ITS FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS.

IT CERTAINLY IS REWARDING TO DRIVE AROUND THE BAY AND SEE PEOPLE TAKING THE BEAUTIFICATION OF CHOLLA BAY SERIOUS. EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE RAKING UP, FIXING UP AND PAINTING UP THEIR LOTS AND BUILDINGS. IN ORDER TO GIVE YOU AN ADDED INCENTIVE THE COMPANY HAS COME UP WITH A PLAN TO MAKE CHOLLA GREENER. WE WILL SET UP A NURSERY SERVICE AND HAVE ON DISPLAY TREES, PLANTS ETC. FOR YOU TO PURCHASE. IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS PLAN FEASIBLE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT GET TO CHOLLA OFTEN ENOUGH TO WATER RAMON PEREZ JR. IS OFFERING THE SERVICE OF PLANTING AND WATERING. TO ARRANGE FOR THIS SERVICE SEE RAMON AT HIS STORE 'CHETOS'. AS MOST OF YOU GARDENERS KNOW ONCE THE TREES GET A GOOD START THEY CAN HOLD THEIR OWN FROM THEN ON AND NEED A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ATTENTION.

LITTER IS A PROBLEM HERE SO AGAIN WE NEED CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION. WE ARE SETTING ASIDE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AS AN ALL OUT PICK UP DAY. WE WILL PROVIDE GARBAGE BAGS AND THE TRUCK TO HAUL AWAY THE LITTER, BUT WE DO NEED FOR EVERYONE WHO CAN BE HERE AND IS PHYSICALLY ABLE TO LEND A HAND. AFTER THE JOB IS FINISHED THE COMPANY WILL PUT ON A COOK OUT FOR ALL WHO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THIS PROJECT. BREAKFAST, LUNCH OR DINNER?? TYPE OF FOOD?? WE CAN DECIDE THAT AS THE TIME GETS CLOSER. WORK..YES, BUT THE REWARDS WILL BE WORTH IT. CLEANER AND GREENER..LET'S GO FOR IT!!!

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OLD TIMERS CORNER

BY: Bill Valentine from the book Valentine and Friends Revisited

SOME DAYS YOU JUST CAN'T WIN

The following nauseating episode took place a few years ago and I would like to relate it for the benefit of any expert type fisherman so that a similar experience might be avoided by them.

I pride myself, in fact at times I get positively overbearing, on my prowess as a sea trout expert. When I go trout fishing I try to surround myself with "experts" (like myself, naturally) who can hold up their own end. I like people who don't mind walking and blind casting for four or five miles up the beach in quest of the scrappy little cousins of the yellow fin.

Well, the day before the official start of the 1959 Cholla Bay Sportsman's Club fishing derby, I finagled Oakley Jordan to accompany me (ha!) in his beautiful 19 foot twin 50 hp Smithcraft for a trout gathering foray at St. George's Estuary. We all had our trout spinning rods rigged for the slaughter. There were four of us on this junket--Oakley, a friend named Al Wasleuski, another expert spin fisherman by name of Bud LeBow, and myself. Our mission was to insure meat at Oakley's fish fry so we planned on really loading up.

We four dedicated anglers actually hauled in 150 sea trout that day, and when we pulled back into Cholla Bay and dumped that pile of sea trout onto the rocks to filet I have to admit that my chest swelled up a little bit and to myself I thought "man, tomorrow I'll really slay them."

Friday morning, bright and early Bill Hammer and Lyle Underdown dragged me out of the sack at

daybreak to go down to the boat landing to sell derby tickets. LeBow graciously consented to wait until the second ticket selling shift so we could then go back on down to our favorite trout area and start sacking them up.

Poor Lyle and Bill looked so-oo pitiful and forlorn, wishing they could just tag along with us two experts and try to see if some of our fabulous skill might rub off onto one of them that Bud and I finally relented and relaxed one of our inflexible rules--that is to allow rank amateurs to witness our uncanny methods. We, fools that we are, invited the two of them to join us for a sea trout orgy.

Bud and I have fished together for sea trout for more years than I care to recall and on more than one occasion I've seen the old boy wade over chest deep into an incoming tide so he could reach a school of feeding pompano that were out farther than casting distance from shore.

I sincerely believed the two of us could really gather a potful of trout prizes.

On the other hand, neither Lyle nor Bill knew doodley about sea trout. In fact, I had to furnish them with the proper jigs and spoons to use, otherwise they probably would have used bombers or something like that.

After beaching the boat at the Estuary, I piled out and started working up the beach looking for the first strike that signifies a feeding school. Bill and Lyle trotted along behind me, trying to

copy my flawless style, and wildly flinging jigs and lures in about every direction but out. finally bringing up the rear was Bud, just trying to keep the heck out of the way of the novices.

They kept casting and reeling for about two hours with nary a hit, I decided to rest. Bill and Lyle undoubtedly didn't realize there weren't any trout within a mile--as I had just covered the area in expert style.

They kept casting and reeling. Suddenly Lyle called "fish on" and I watched as he beached and nice 4 1/2 pounder. About this time Bill also had a hookup and reeled a three pounder to his hairy feet.

I leaped into the water and started casting in the direction where they'd hit. While Bud and I fished ---Lyle and Bill caught.

To bring this nauseating narrative to a disgusting finish, I'm here to state that neither Bud nor I ever did get a trout hookup that day and that pair of %--&"###\$'s Bill and Lyle won first and third place in the trout contest.

I'll never learn, I guess, that old axiom about biting the hand that feeds you but I'll never trust either of those two guys again.

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PHOENIX CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING

Our October 14th meeting was opened at 7:55 pm, with the pledge of Allegiance being led by Marie MacGill. Our attendance was the smallest that I have ever seen in all of these years. Come on Dear People. You are the ones that make the meetings, and without you we can not have much of a meeting. We missed you very, very much, so please let us see your smiling faces at our November 11th meeting. We will also have our nominations of officers for 93 and our Brown Bag Auction, so don't forget to bring your bags and yourselves, and don't forget to bring your wives and friends. The more the merrier.

The Secretary and Treasurer report's were dispensed with, and Ship's Store didn't make a report, but had the usual goodies that were there if you wanted anything. We did get a report of membership with 784 members ending for October.

Shirley Hemphill of Sick Bay said no news is good news, so hope all were well.

I will report on the October 24 yard sale in the November Chatter.

Frank Flynn said the November 13th Devil's Highway trip will originate at Darby Wells Road at Ajo, so please be there by 8:00 am. Call Mike Haggerty if you have any questions.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Henry Weldon of AIR SKINZ, INC. He is at 8545 N. Black Canyon Highway, Phoenix, Arizona

85012. The phone number is 800-553-3990 Fax 602-995-1977. Please call him for details, you will be glad that you did especially if you are prone to sun burn. He invented, manufactures and sells. They, I mean Mr. Weldon and his wife Susan, guarantee that these clothes are cooler than wearing nothing at all. You won't be sorry that you called him.

It was nice having our friend Paul Vanover back with us. He said the doctor had made the wrong diagnosis on him and he had been given a clean bill of health.

Frank Flynn had a hair raising story about the sinking of his boat in 108 feet of water on October 4th, ten miles out of Rocky Point. Thank God his boat was retrieved and no lives were lost. He will tell you all about it. Thank Goodness he had good operating equipment and it is best to always have a buddy boat with you.

The Christmas Raffle was won by Joe Marotta.

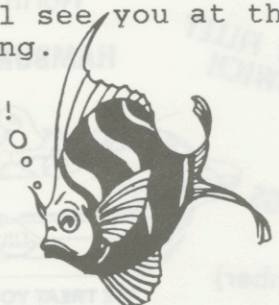
3rd prize went to Jayne Jaskoviak--Stationary in a wicker box.

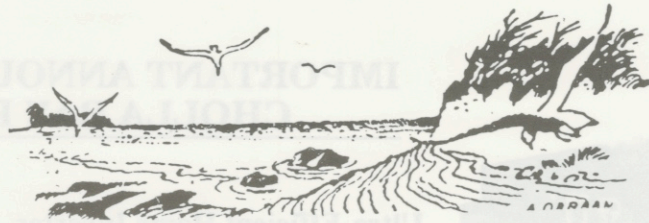
2nd prize was won by Mike Haggerty-- an Air Popcorn Popper and Griddle.

1st prize was won by Robert Adams, three nice Flash Lights.

Don't let the Goblins get you and we will see you at the November meeting.

God Bless!





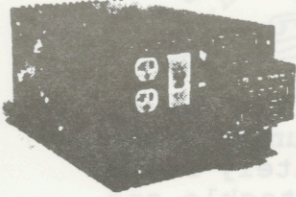
Hola Amigos Y Amigas

Well I guess another month has come and gone. I hope some of you have been luckier than me. I hope you have been able to make the scenic trek to our beautiful bay. This time of the year I really get upset with myself, for not loading up the family and the groceries and the fishing gear and all the other things we load up to make the scenic and exciting journey (ha! ha!) to the bay. It makes me think of all the good trips we have had. The last time we went to Bird Island. We started early, for me any way. It was about 10 A.M. on a picture perfect morning. The wind was calm, the sea was like glass. It looked like you could just walk right out on it. We launched from Cholla, the water was as clear as it was calm. The kids counted Sea Rays as we slowly maneuvered toward the point. Rounding the point I put the pedal to the medal and took the boat up to cruising speed, about 32 MPH max for this old tub. We watched Pelican Point disappear at our stern as Rocky Point and the RV parks passed on our port. It seemed like just a few minutes had passed as the first estuary was behind us and Las Conchas had disappeared from sight. The kids said they could see the island, I can't see it until I'm there. The sea lions, called el Lobos by the Mexican people, dart effortlessly around in the water. They look like children playing as hard and fast as they can, then they make their way to the island to take a nap. Watching these little guys is a great experience. There were about four other boats around the

island all of them trying to lure some monster lunger from the deep. We immediately broke out our own fishing tackle and spooled our best offerings to old gus. Our offerings were accepted immediately, but as our luck usually runs the "bigguns" were all over by the other boats. Well enough about that. We fired up the old tub and headed for San George Bay. The water was still like glass, as you look over the sea, it is like looking in a mirror, watching the soft billowy clouds float lazily by, almost like a dream. A pod of dolphins started to play with the boat. They like to come along side and swim, with the top half of their bodies out of the water far enough, to almost look in your boat. You could almost reach out and touch them. Just as soon they appeared they disappeared. We had to slow down as we approached San George the water get very shallow. We stopped in the bay long enough to eat and enjoy watching the people on the shore. Then came that time which comes to every perfect day, it was time to go back. The sea was no longer like glass a slight breeze had come up to cool the afternoon sun. The water had only the slightest ripple. As we headed home I found my radio had quit transmitting for some reason but when we hit the bay the launcher was waiting just to make sure our day was perfect and it was. We have had many wonderful days at our bay and many many more not so perfect. Some of um have been down right terrible. But this time of the year I remember the good times.

*Via con Dios
El Frito Bandito*

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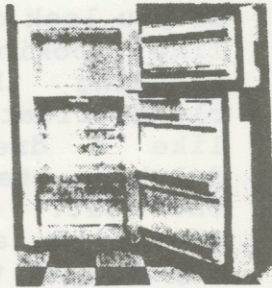
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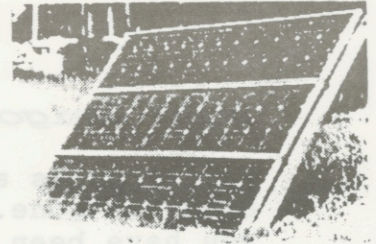
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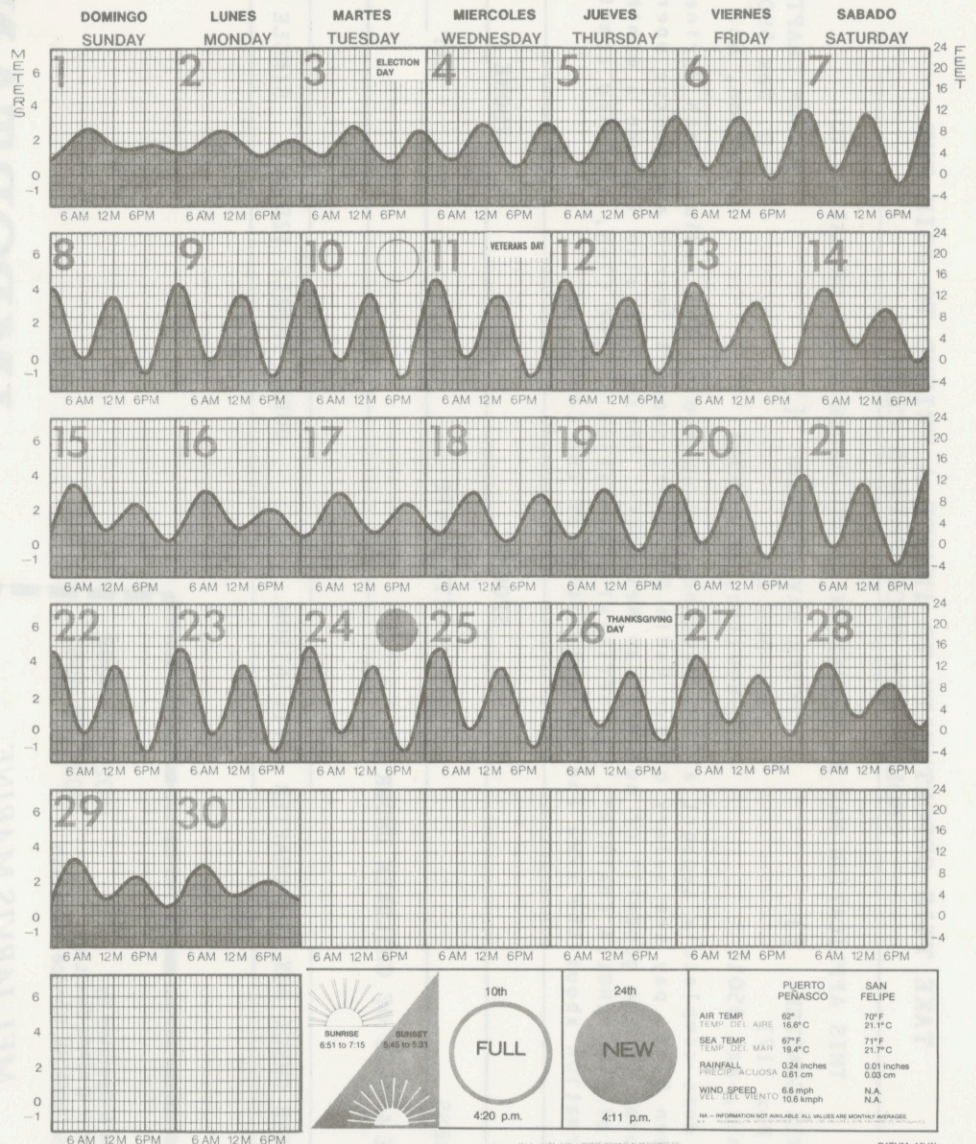
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