



**Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep
 Sheep Sheet - Volume 3 – October 2013
 www.desertbighorn.org**



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep will be held Sunday February 9, 2014 at 11:00 am until 4:00 pm, in the fine gun room inside the Bass Pro Shop 7777 Victoria Gardens Lane, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 all members and volunteers are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided and we will elect the 2014 board of directors at this meeting. Come join the fun at this FREE event, there will speakers on desert sheep, natural springs and a host of other thing. See you there.



Newsletter by E-Mail

If you would like to have the Newsletter sent by e-mail let me know at cameracoordinator@sheepsociety.com. You can still get a paper copy via regular mail.



Membership - Mike Ralles

The membership chairman will be sending out membership renewal noticed for all the annual members, you must renew if you are going to vote at the Annual meeting in February.



The SCBS Board of Directors meets at about 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the conference room at Bass Pro Shops, 7777 Victoria Gardens Lane, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730. You are invited to attend any and all board meetings, to bring a friend, to visit, and, hopefully, to participate. **Reminder: Time to start thinking about running for the Board of Directors Jump on board and help guide the Society.** Contact Steve if you are interested.

SCBS 2013 Board of Directors

Director	Phone Number	Director	Phone Number
Robert Burke	760-957-7694	Jeff Crouse	760-680-9819
Christian Guntert	760-955-2525	Jennifer Hinojosa	760-246-3115
John Hybarger	626-962-6285	Mark LeCompte	661-267-6523
Norm Lopez	909-887-2279	Steve Marschke	310-543-1862
Stevan Hart	714-323-4843	George Sutton	714-356-7592
Neil Ringlee	760-245-6034	Glenn Sudmeier	760-389-2498
Gary Thomas	909-981-5847	Terry Anderson	760-408-7118



SCBS Rain Catcher II

Here are a couple of photos of our own “low Maintenance” Wildlife Water System. They are buried in the ground and combined with the appropriate size rain mat; they become self-filling so we won’t have to haul as much water as in the past.

29 Palms WWS



Photo by Debbie



Sawtooth WWS



Photo by Bob



By Carlos Gallinger
thewayofthings.org

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP AND WATER

Like all desert animals how desert Bighorn sheep acquire and conserve water is literally a matter of life and death. Some animals like the kit fox and the jackrabbit can live off the water that they find in their food and the occasional rain. Desert Bighorn sheep cannot do this. They must have water to drink on a regular basis. In the extreme heat of the summer they will often drink once a day. In the wintertime they may go as long as two months without drinking water.

In many of the desert Bighorn sheep habitats the number of springs and other water sources determine the number sheep that can live there and the size of the habitat. Bighorn sheep can be fairly choosy about which water they use. If the situation around the water source favors the predators too much they will not use it.

Another thing that stops Bighorn sheep is thick brush. They will not push their way through it to get a drink of water. Nor will they try to dig their way to water with their hoofs. When it comes to digging they will let the coyote do all the work. At many springs and water pockets you can see game trails where the sheep have been using the same access points for thousands of years. Desert Bighorn sheep have the ability to remember the whereabouts of the smallest spring or waterhole in their home range, even if they have not drunk from it in many years.

When barrel cactus is in the right condition, desert Bighorn sheep will break them open and eat the water rich pulp inside. This allows them to go weeks without going to water, even in hot weather. In order to conserve water desert Bighorn sheep will often seek out shade, but usually will not do this at the expense of safety.

Once in a while a group desert Bighorn sheep will get to a water source and find it dry. When this happens they will set off to the next available water source, but sometimes they don't all make it. Life in the desert is brutal and that's just the way of things in the desert.



By Carlos Gallinger
thewayofthings.org

ORIGINS

The reason for this series of articles is to give readers the tools and concepts to increase their knowledge of Bighorn Sheep and the value of their own personal experiences in the desert when they're in Bighorn habitat or have the good fortune to actually see some of these magnificent animals.

For people who know something about how difficult things are for life in the desert the very existence of these animals is a source of wonderment.

How they got here is also an amazing story that is not widely known and a topic that few scientists have pursued. We can start with the big picture of Bighorn Sheep. This is something often referred to as the great arc of the wild sheep. It starts in Europe in the Pyrenees Mountains. It goes through southern Europe to the Holy land and across southern Asia, then through China. It then goes up to the Bearing Sea and across the Bearing strait, down through Alaska, through Canada, the United States and ends up in Mexico.

While the exact time that Bighorn sheep crossed over from the old world into the new is not known, most experts would put it between 10,000 and 15,000 years ago. This coincides with the majority of human culture in the New World. As we follow this arc from Europe to the Bering Sea there is quite a number of species and subspecies of wild sheep. We find this in the New World as well.

In recent years, what is a species and a subspecies has been challenged and redefined by DNA technology. Many experts conclude that there are four main species of Bighorn Sheep in North America. Starting in Alaska is the Dahl Sheep. Through the Canadian Rockies we find the Stone Sheep

In the United States we find the Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep. In the desert southwest, we find the Desert Bighorn sheep. These are the four distinct species that most people know in America.

The next time you see one of these magnificent animals, I hope you'll appreciate that this individual has survived the elements and comes from a long line of survivors who have journeyed through time and distance to place this magnificent individual before you...



Richard's Ramblings - Weaver's Wanderings

Dick Weaver was at the October board meeting and talked about doing a book of Sheep photos similar to the one about the Jaguars caught on a remote camera, and we sure have enough photos to do a book.



Upcoming Projects

The Project Coordinator has several projects coming up in the next quarter, another install on the Marine Base at 29 Palms. There will need to be another repair and water haul into the Newberry Drinker and other projects yet to be named.



Area Captain Coordinator

Thanks to all the area captains and others who helped out with the checking of some of the more remote drinker systems. Also, if you are out checking drinker systems PLEASE fill out the Area Captains Repot and send it to jjrestorationservice@yahoo.com . Jeff is always looking for help covering all the SCBS water systems so give him a call at 760-680-9819 jjrestorationservice@yahoo.com if you can give a hand covering water systems.



Spring Captain Coordinator

Thanks to the efforts of Bill Tuck we have an effective Spring Captain Program too, so a big shout out to Bill and his team of Spring Captain's. Give Bill a call if you can lend a hand checking the Natural springs in the areas. Bill's phone numbers are Home: 760-8685837 and his cell is 760-964-8095.



Sheep in the North Bristols at a Natural mineral rock



Hyten Tank

Next Issue

All about your photos that I have received over this past year so keep sending them in.

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF BIGHORN SHEEP**

A California Non-Profit Organization is looking for:

Sportsmen and Conservationists who are concerned about our California Desert Bighorn sheep and who are willing to get involved to make a difference. Be a part of history with our program to put bighorn sheep back in their historical ranges. The Society works with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Land Management in programs such as: sheep transplanting and propagation; habitat improvement; wildlife census; research and development; and many more. If this sounds exciting and fulfilling to you, then fill out the following application and join the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep today! Check our website at: **www.desertbighorn.org**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP
Attn: SCBS Membership Chairman
5801 Calico Cove Court
Bakersfield, CA 93306**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: (H) _____ **(W)** _____

E-Mail Address (Optional): _____

Make checks payable to: SCBS

Annual\$35.00/Year New _____ Renewal _____

Student (Full Time). \$20.00/Year New _____ Renewal _____

Life\$300.00 New _____ option:3 Qtrly Pmt of (\$100.00)

Corporate\$1000.00/Year

Enclosed is my Tax Deductible check for \$_____ which includes my contribution of \$_____ to help you support desert wildlife.

Please send me information on the Society's desert water projects. Yes ___ No ___

Where did you hear about SCBS? _____

SCBS Sponsor: _____

Application Received: _____ Funding Received: _____

Voted In: _____ Member Card Sent: _____



Have you seen me? Send the editor pictures of your sightings.



Bob Burke - Editor
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