



Bleats and Blats

Official Newsletter of the Desert Bighorn Council



July 2003

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Greetings DBC members !! As many of you already know, this will be my last official word to you as Secretary / Treasurer. I have simply become overwhelmed over the last couple of years with so many exciting opportunities and various other responsibilities, I decided it was time to step aside and allow some new people with even more enthusiasm and dedication to take over.

So... Enter Esther Rubin, your new Secretary, and Stacey Ostermann, your new Treasurer. In case you do not personally know these two ladies, please let me assure you they are the absolute best. Both have been associated with DBC for many years, and both have more enthusiasm, integrity, and a work ethic than you can possibly imagine. Please rest assured that the DBC now lies in extremely good hands.

Also, as many of you know, the Council membership voted at the last meeting to change the meeting schedule. You can learn about this in full detail in this newsletter, in a word from Ray Lee (our new Technical Staff Chair), but let me let you in on a highly-guarded secret. Clay Brewer and those hospitality-loving folks in Texas are planning an absolutely fantastic meeting in Texas, and this will be one shindig you certainly do not want to miss! If I do not see you before then, I'll certainly see you in Texas !!

In the meantime, take care my friends !

Darren

And Now.... Out with the OLD, and in with the NEW !!!

Message from the Technical Staff Chair (Ray Lee)

CHANGES IN YOUR DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

During the Business Meeting held at the end of the 47th Annual Meeting in St. George this past April, there were a number of significant changes voted into place. Perhaps the most significant of these was changing the frequency of the meetings from annually to biennially. The next meeting will be held in 2005 (see the future meeting information section in this newsletter), and the 2007 (our 50th) meeting will be held in Las Vegas – which was the site of Meeting #1. This decision was not taken lightly. The reasons for this change included (not in priority order): 1) allows for higher quality Transactions (peer reviewed) - with less intense work for the Editor, 2) encourages more papers and papers that are more fully developed, as opposed to drafts, 3) often data is collected biennially – such as helicopter surveys, 4) allows more time to plan the meetings, 5) presently elk, deer, and antelope species' meetings occur biennially – this would provide a better rationale for travel to agency administrators, 6) allows for greater attendance – with tight State budgets travel is difficult, 7) provides more incentive to attend – if you miss a meeting, you miss four years of information, 8) alternates with the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council - allowing better opportunities for attendance at each, 9) the Hansen-Wells Scholarship doubles to \$5,000 – providing more incentive for students to apply and providing the opportunity for recipients to report back to the Council.

There was also a change in the Council officers. Clay Brewer was elected as the incoming Chairman. After many years of exceptional service Darren Divine stepped down as the Council Secretary/Treasurer/webmaster/salesman/etc. Stacey Ostermann took over the duties of Treasurer, and Esther Rubin took over the duties of Secretary.

The Technical Staff also saw changes as long time member John Wehausen left the Staff. Joe Cresto was elected to replace John. Mara Weisenberger and Mark Jorgensen were both elected to serve another term on the Staff. Ray Lee replaced Mark Jorgensen as the Technical Staff Chairman.

As is becoming customary, after two years of service, Jon Hanna stepped down from the Transactions Editor and was replaced by Brian Wakeling.

These changes resulted in some necessary amendments to the bylaws (the sections dealing with terms of office and meeting frequencies). These were also voted into place. It is intended for these changes to enhance the functions of the Desert Bighorn Council. Remember, the Council is your organization, it works for you just about as hard as you work for it - be involved.

Message from the DBC Transactions Editor (Brian Wakeling)

AN UPDATE ON THE *DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL TRANSACTIONS*

The *Desert Bighorn Council Transactions* will now be published once every two years, with the plan to distribute the published document at the subsequent meeting. This has been the plan historically, although trying to get manuscripts submitted, reviewed, and published in that time frame has been challenging. The every other year format will provide the printer, reviewers, authors, and the editor with a little bit more breathing room.

With the decision to meet every other year, we now have the opportunity to provide authors with more time to respond to reviews. My goal as editor is to help authors with the opportunity to improve their

final manuscripts through the peer-review process. State reports and abstracts from meetings will still be included, although they will be edited only for grammar. The writing style that we will be using will differ slightly from that used in the past. Authors should use the format described in the guidelines for the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* (<http://www.wildlife.org/publications/bulletinguidelines.pdf>). I would also like to include photos to accompany the paper, as well as photos of the authors and short descriptions about their background.

I propose the following timeline:

Submission deadline: **April 1, 2004**. I will then solicit two independent reviews for each manuscript. I will contact potential reviewers before I send them out to determine if they are willing to conduct the review within the timeline. Authors may suggest reviewers for their manuscript.

Reviews from reviewers due back to editor: **June 1, 2004**. I will compile the reviews and provide suggestions to the authors on how to proceed.

Manuscript revision by authors, due back to editor: **August 1, 2004**. Authors will need to submit an electronic version of their manuscript at this time.

Final review adjustments, if needed, back to authors: **September 1, 2004**.

Manuscript back to editor: **October 1, 2004**.

Page proofs to authors: **November 1, 2004**.

Proofs to editor: **November 15, 2004**.

Camera-ready copy to printer: **December 1, 2004**.

Distribution: **April 2005**.

I hope that this will assist authors in understanding the information flow and timelines that the *Transactions* will operate under. The *Transactions* have been and will remain open to manuscripts not presented at the Desert Bighorn Council Meeting. At the end of this newsletter you will find a copy of the guidelines as they will appear in the back of future *Transactions*.

As for the 2002 Transactions, they are being printed and will be mailed out by end of summer. If you do not receive one, contact Esther Rubin (erubin@sandiegozoo.org) to order a copy.

Update from the Council Chair (Clay Brewer)

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT OUR 2005 MEETING

Be sure to reserve these dates, and start planning now, to attend the 2005 meeting!

- Dates: April 6-8, 2005
- Location: Alpine, Texas
- Meeting Facility: Student Center, Sul Ross State University
- Co-Chair: Billy Tarrant
- Hotels: Ramada Inn and Bestwestern
- Special Events:
 - Social - April 7 - Kokernot Lodge in Alpine or Elephant Mountain WMA (shuttle buses provided)
 - Field Trip - April 8 - Elephant Mountain WMA

Update from the Treasurer (Darren Divine and Stacey Ostermann)

The current status of the Council's accounts is as follows:

Hansen-Welles CD's:

# 1	2.33%	Matures 3/04	Current Value: \$ 20,315.03
# 2	1.73%	Matures 7/04	Current Value: \$ 8,248.37
# 3	5.01%	Matures 4/07	Current Value: \$ 31,837.45

Checking Account:

\$4982.13 – But a deposit is pending that is at least \$600.00.

Message from the Secretary (Esther Rubin)

Hello everyone!

As you know, I'm going to take Darren Divine's place as Secretary, and Stacey Ostermann will take over his duties as Treasurer. Between the two of us, I hope we can fill his shoes! Luckily, Darren will still be around to help guide us, and he tells me that he's planning to continue working on DBC-related projects, so that's great! I'm planning to send out another Bleats and Blats newsletter by this fall, and invite YOU to contribute. Here are some things to keep an eye out for, and ways to get involved:

- ◆ *"MEET YOUR TECH STAFF"* will include a short feature about each member of our tech staff. Who are they, what are their backgrounds, what are their special interests?
- ◆ *"UPDATES FROM THE FIELD"* will include brief information about projects that are going on right now. Since we will be meeting every other year, this will be a great way for us to stay in tune with what everyone is doing, and provide a glimpse of presentations we might expect in 2005. If you'd like to be included, please email me your name, affiliation, and a short description (brief paragraph) of your project, by October 15.
- ◆ *"NEW LITERATURE"* will include a list of newly published literature about bighorn sheep. If you've recently published some of your work and would like me to include a citation, please email it to me by October 15.

Also, remember to check our WEBSITE for additional information. We are fortunate that the website that Darren set up will continue to be updated. The Website is located at:

<http://www.desertbighornCouncil.org>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (erubin@sandiegozoo.org). You can also contact any member of the Tech Staff, and their email addresses can be found on the website.

I'll look forward to hearing from you and having you participate in the next Bleats and Blats!

Additional Announcements

The *14th Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council* is tentatively scheduled for May 8-15, 2004. The tentative plan is to have the meeting on a cruise ship, going from Seattle to Glacier Bay. It is being billed as a "Coastal Goat Habitat Tour." Check <http://www.nwsgc.org> for future updates.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE *DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL TRANSACTIONS*

GENERAL POLICY: Original papers relating to desert bighorn sheep ecology and management are published in the *Desert Bighorn Council Transactions*. All papers presented at the Council's annual meetings are eligible for publication. There are 3 types of papers published in the *Transactions*: technical papers; state reports; and opinions, comments, and case histories or notes. Technical papers are peer reviewed. State reports are edited for syntax and style. Opinions, comments, and case histories and notes provide for philosophical presentations and the presentation of ideas and concepts. These papers are also peer reviewed. Additional papers may be published when reviewed and approved by the Editorial Board. Papers must be submitted to the Editor within 1 year of the Council's annual meeting to be considered for the current edition of the *Transactions*.

COPY: Use good quality white paper 215 x 280 mm (8.5 x 11 inches), or size A4. Do not use "erasable," light weight, or mimeo bond paper. Double space throughout, with 3-cm margins. Do not hyphenate at the right margin. Type the name and complete address of the person who is to receive editorial correspondence in the top left corner of page 1. On succeeding pages, type the senior author's last name in the top left corner and the page number in the top right corner. The author's name and affiliation at the time the study was performed follows the title. Present address, if different, should be indicated in a footnote on the first page. Keep 1 copy. Submit 4 good xerographic copies. Do not fold any copy.

STYLE: Proceed from a clear statement of purpose through introduction, study area, methods, results, and discussion. Sequence of contents: title, authors, abstract, key words, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, literature cited, tables, and figures. Follow the **Guidelines for Authors and Reviewers of *Wildlife Society Bulletin* manuscripts** (<http://www.wildlife.org/publications/bulletinguidelines.pdf>), or the CBE Style Manual Committee 1994.

Title: The title should be concise, descriptive, and ≤ 10 words. Use vernacular names of organisms.

FOOTNOTES: Use only for author's address if it differs from the byline address, and in tables.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Include acknowledgements at the end of the introduction as an untitled paragraph.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES: Vernacular names of plants and animals should be accompanied by the appropriate scientific names (in parentheses) the first time each is mentioned.

ABSTRACT: An abstract of about 1-2 typed lines per typed page of text should accompany all articles. The abstract should be an informative digest of significant content. It should be able to stand alone as a brief statement of problems examined, the most important findings, and their utility.

KEY WORDS: Place key words below the abstract. Supply 6-12 key words for indexing: vernacular and scientific names of principal organisms, geographic area, phenomena and entities studied, and methods.

REFERENCES: Authors are responsible for accuracy and completeness and must use the style in **Guidelines for Authors and Reviewers of *Wildlife Society Bulletin* manuscripts**. Avoid unnecessary references. Order multiple references consecutively by date. Show page numbers for quotations, paraphrases, and for citations in books or bulletins unless reference is to the entire publication. Cite unpublished reports only if essential. Include source, paging, type of reproduction, and place published reports are filed parenthetically in the text.

LITERATURE CITED: Use capital and lower case letters for authors' last names, initials for given names. Do not abbreviate titles of serial publications; follow **Guidelines for Authors and Reviewers of *Wildlife Society Bulletin* manuscripts**. Show issue number or month only if pagination is not consecutive throughout the volume.

TABLES: Prepare tables in keeping with the size of the pages. Tables should be self-explanatory and referenced in the text. Short tables with lists of pertinent comments are preferred to long tables. Start each table on a separate page and continue onto 1 or more pages as necessary. Double space throughout. Omit vertical lines. Identify

footnotes by roman letters. Do not show percentages within small samples (N or $n < 26$).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Illustrations and drawings must be in india ink or equivalent on 215 x 280 mm (8.5 x 11 inches) white drafting paper or tracing cloth. Make all letters and numbers large enough to be ≥ 1.5 mm tall when reduced. Lettering size and style when reduced should be the same in all figures. Submit prints of good contrast on glossy paper. Type captions on a separate page in paragraph form. On the back of each illustration, lightly write the senior author's name, figure number and "Top."

PROOF: All papers will be reviewed for acceptability by the Editorial Board and 2 outside reviewers. Submit papers to Brian F. Wakeling, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Game Branch, 2221 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85086. When papers are returned to authors for revision, please return revised manuscripts within the time allotted. Galley proofs should be returned within 72 hours.

TRANSMITTAL LETTER: When the manuscript is submitted, send a letter to the Editor, stating the intent to submit the manuscript exclusively for publication in *The Transactions*. Explain any similarities between information in the manuscript and that in any other publications or concurrent manuscripts by the same author(s), and furnish a copy of such manuscripts or publications.