

## **May 26, 2002**

### *Informal Ben Avery Discussion*

Over the past three weekends AZJOAD has had the pleasure of meeting informally with Ben Avery Shooting Facility (BASF)/ Arizona Game and Fish Department Staff. While George Frangos ran the FITA Training events, Fred Grant and Bob Pian visited with Larry Collins, BASF Range Master and Don Turner, BASF Chief Range Master/Manager.

Larry was sincerely pleased to see the FITA range used by the target archery community and encouraged it's continued use with particular attention to youth programs. Larry was quite pleased to hear that Jim Hamilton was authorized to proceed with the FITA Range operations proposal. Larry strongly believes that our youth are our future and will be happy to support and do what ever he can to help the JOADs! Thanks Larry. .

Don Turner tracked us down as we were dumping the FITA range trash. Don was equally enthusiastic about the FITA range use and mentioned several items to consider in no particular order of priority.

- Youth and Women FITA range use is strongly encouraged. The AZJOAD use of the range is just what the Game and Fish Department is looking for. [See picture of First Training Event](#) It is essential that the shooting sports support new shooters with proper education.
- BASF has observed from Day One that the FITA range needs more parking spaces. Don was happy to hear that the proposed improvement plans include additional parking.
- Storage is best accommodated in a roll off container just as AZJOAD has in place. BASF has found the containers to be a good value and well built. An additional container can be located on the range or in the BASF fenced yard immediately east of the entry gate complex. The ASAA trailer could be put in the fenced area if desired.
- Consider a classroom with a small kitchenette in lieu of a storage area in a building. The need for restrooms is a given. When the building is in place the Game and Fish Department will own and maintain the facility. To that end BASF would like the building air-conditioned in lieu of evaporative cooled. Classroom space will be helpful for our education programs.
- Range improvement Architectural/Engineering plans need to be submitted to BASF who will in turn have them reviewed by the Arizona Department of Administration and the State Fire Marshal's office. BASF will seek as many of the approvals as they can.
- BASF has a few catering companies on the web site that would be more than pleased to provide foodservice.
- Gun clubs must have 10 events a year to be able to manage their own range. BASF encourages archery and asks that only 6 events a year be scheduled. (An ASAA/AZJOAD FITA every other month take care of this item, just a thought)

Fred and Bob offered that plans have been reviewed and approved and the "Archery Group" is in the process of putting a submittal package together. We closed our tailgate pickup truck meeting with a tour of the last Game and Fish project, an air-conditioned shooting sports mobile classroom trailer with hands-on pellet gun shooting.

**We finished emptying the trash knowing that we have friends at BASF/AZ Game and Fish!**

**Trivia: What do Papago Park and the Ben Avery Shooting Facility have in common besides desert archery ranges?**

**By Bob Pian  
2002 AZJOAD Coordinator**

**(Answer)**

***Ben Avery has several of the prison camp huts in the fenced storage area and to the north of the Archery fields. These prison huts were originally located in the WWII prison camp at what is now Papago Park, north of McDowell Road. Today BASF uses them for storage.***