Phoenix Exotics Vice-President Vicki Windland’s beautiful tiger, Tsunami.
Welcome from President - Jeanne Hall

My name is Jeanne Hall, I am the President of Phoenix Exotic and would like to brief you on what to expect in our monthly newsletters. The newsletter is for our members who do not have convenient access to our website. We want to reach out and make Phoenix Exotic accessible, including in our newsletter information from our e-list for members who are currently not online. Enjoy!

The stated purpose of Phoenix per the articles of incorporation:

“…for charitable educational and scientific purposes; to educate the public in the necessary safety precautions and procedures for dealing with exotic wildlife; and to provide emergency assistance to exotic wildlife in need of care or relocation.”

“Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. is based in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA and addresses concerns within the USA and internationally. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association is incorporated in the state of Washington as a non-profit corporation.”

“Phoenix is dedicated to the legal and ethical ownership of exotic animals by private persons with an emphasis on education and safety. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Inc. is an organization of active members working to protect and maintain the

Phoenix Exotics E-List contained many posts in March. We are limited in the print medium to select only a few items. You can join the e-list at http://phoenixexotics.org/ then click on the link for E-groups email list. Please note: Please visit the archive section of the Yahoo E-list for many more articles, posts and replies.

Letter From Editor - Rhonda Kiker

WELCOME!

This newsletter is a derivative of the articles and posts from the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. E-List. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Phoenix_Exotics/) Many thanks to the members for their contributions. Any published submissions have been granted prior permission for publication. Should you feel that your views have not been properly represented, please email, General@PhoenixExotics.Org or President@PhoenixExotics.Org, or you may write a letter to the address below. Please be descriptive as to which article and please reference “Volume Number” and “Issue Number”, located on the front of the newsletter. If you wish to see any of our past copies of the newsletters, you may go to website, http://www.PhoenixExotics.org/

Our thanks goes to the “Associated Press” for granting a non-exclusive license to reprint materials online for the purpose of this newsletter. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc., membership fee is only $10.00/annually. A check or money order can be mailed along with any inquiries you may have.

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Membership & Membership Renewal Form

Name(s) ___________________________ Phone ___________ Dues ______ x $10 _________
Mailing Address ________________________________________________________________
E-Mail Address ________________________________________________________________

I would like to join and support the Phoenix Wildlife Association. I understand that dues are for membership only and non-refundable.

Signature_________________________ Second Signature __________________________
NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON!!!!

Now available online at http://www.Amazon.com with a beautiful glossy, color soft cover!

Phoenix Exotics is proud to present the second in a series of books on Responsible Ownership of Exotic Animals. This book is 144 pages long with photos and illustrations. Presenting real life tales of Monkeys and their dedicated owners, heartwarming, yet unafraid to inform prospective owners about the potential for hard times, as well as good, in such deeply held relationships.

Real life owners with real Monkeys in their families, including published authors, Board members, politicians, medical and mental health professionals and owners who have been involved with Monkeys for many years, have created a must read. Now, in their own words, exotic owners speak out.

This book gives them voice:

LISTEN!

1 Copy $9.00
5 Copies $38.00
10 Copies $58.00
50 Copies $240.00

(Please include $2.95 for shipping/handling charges)

Send Check or Money Order to:
Phoenix Exotics
Wildlife Association
PO Box 1132
Chehalis, WA 98532

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PLEASE NOTE!!!!

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Prices have not changed if you purchase directly from Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association. Bulk rates remain the same. This is a great deal for the price. Definitely take advantage of the savings so you can share this treasure with friends and colleagues!

2006 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting DVD and/or VHS

I would like to announce that the long awaited DVD master copy has arrived of the 2006 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting that was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting is available in DVD or VHS format. This has turned out terrific and is 9 hours long! The DVD and VHS case is beautifully done with the Phoenix Exotic Logo, the theme of the meeting is “SOLUTIONS” and where the meeting was held, nicely done!! A “Wanna get this” for sure!! For all those that want to order a DVD (2 discs) or VHS (2 tapes for better quality) we have tried to keep the cost to a minimal and as close to cost as possible. We are only sending in orders of 10 or more at a time in order to help keep the cost down.

To order:

To order:

DVD’s: $19.95 + $4.95 for shipping and handling
VHS: $25.95 + $4.95 shipping and handling
(check or money order)

Payment can be made to:
Phoenix Exotic
Wildlife Association
P O Box 1132
Chehalis, WA 98532

OR

http://www.paypal.com
payable to: President@PhoenixExotics.org
*note: please add $2.00 extra if ordering through paypal for paypal fees.

Please include:
Name and address
Number of copies
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E-mail address or telephone number in the event we need to get in touch with you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cathspohrer@metrocast.net
Cathy Freeman-Spohrer
Secretary, Phoenix Exotics
Phoenix Exotic Annual Membership Meeting
Submitted by (cathspohrer) Wed Mar 8, 2006

Called to order by Phoenix President, Jeanne Hall, at 4:45 pm, February 24, 2006

Order of Business:

President, Jeanne Hall asked Phoenix Members if they approved current Vice President, Zuzana Kukol, to be changed to Executive Vice President and to have Vicki Windland on as working Vice President.

*All Phoenix Members voted to Approve

Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting presents a handmade Phoenix Quilt to a Phoenix member that has helped throughout the year and given outstanding effort towards the working goals of the Phoenix Organization. The history of the quilt was given by President Jeanne Hall. 2006 the Phoenix Quilt was awarded to Tim Stoffel for his working efforts throughout the year for Phoenix.

Phoenix Members were asked what they felt would be the best tax status for the Phoenix Organization to use. Several 501 tax programs were discussed and it was decided to have Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Inc. as a "Private Foundation" under tax status.

*All Phoenix Members voted to Approve

Phoenix President Jeanne Hall suggested beginning a new or additional Phoenix monthly newsletter. Currently, the Phoenix newsletter is contains articles, discussion, pictures forwarded by owners of exotics to newsletter editor and comments made on the Phoenix E-List. Phoenix members were asked if they felt a monthly Phoenix newsletter should be mailed to USDA license holders around the country and format changed a little and/or add new information as needed. It was agreed to do a survey for this project to see if there is a market for a personal and professional issue of the Phoenix monthly newsletter.

*All Phoenix Members voted to Approve

There was discussion of having different levels of paid Phoenix Exotic Membership.

*All Phoenix Members voted no

Discussion was made to change status of the Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting. It has always been free and open to the public. Some years offering an extra Entertainment Package. After a survey, it was decided to begin charging for the yearly Phoenix Meeting and to possibly offer the additional Entertainment Package once survey was completed and showed this was the course of action to take.

*All Phoenix Members voted to Approve

Phoenix President, Jeanne Hall, announced that Dr. Gary Pussilo, of Complete Natural Nutrition, is interested in working with Phoenix Exotic Organization to put together a Tele. Conference around the country dealing with Exotic animal nutrition. Dr. Pussilo will be moderator. Phoenix Exotics will go forward and research what is needed to produce the Telephone Conference.

*All Phoenix Members voted to Approve

Phoenix Exotic Peer Accreditation Program. Members were asked what to do with it and should it be replaced with something else. If an exotic owner is already licensed by state or
government, it is felt they don't want to bother going through another Accreditation Program. What could entice everyone to participate in a successful peer program while showing the public our ability to regulate ourselves in a responsible manner?

*More Public Relations thrust?*
*Combine all Accreditation programs?*
*Put under different prospective?*
*Motivate people to do a peer accreditation program?*
*Produce a "Statement of Responsibility" for all paid Phoenix Exotic members? Have all Phoenix Members agree to sign a statement of responsibility stating that they have adequate caging, diets, enrichment, etc for their exotics.

*Develop a replacement to the Phoenix Peer Accreditation system?*

It was decided to have Phoenix member, Tim Stoffel, do a survey to find out why people were not interested in participating in the Phoenix Peer Accreditation System.

*All Phoenix Members voted to Approve Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm, February 24, 2006.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathryn Freeman-Spohrer
Secretary, Phoenix Exotics

CA: PETA protests teaching of castration
Submitted by (rrooney) Thu Feb 23, 2006

ROSAMOND, Calif. (AP) -- A teacher who castrated a live pig in front of her high school class is the target of protests by animal rights activists throughout the country.

The protests began after People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals posted information about the incident at Rosamond High School on its Web site last month. The posting does not say when the castration occurred.

"We're concerned not only because animals suffer during these routine castrations but also because of the message it sends to students who are still forming opinions about treatment of animals in our society," said Stephanie Bell, a PETA cruelty case worker.

Rod Van Norman, superintendent of the Southern Kern Unified School District school in the Mojave Desert about 70 miles north of Los Angeles, said animal castrations often occur in agriculture classes and are an important skill for students to learn.

"I don't know why they're picking on a little school district," he said.

Charles Parker, assistant state
Future Farmers of America adviser at the California Department of Education, said anesthesia is not normally used during pig castrations, which are done to calm male animals, prevent them from breeding and improve meat quality.

Bell said she hopes the nationwide attention will prompt the school district to reconsider teaching castration.

Van Norman said that's not likely. None of the complaints have come from parents of district students, he said.

A posting on PETA’s Web site, however, says the organization learned of the castration from Rosamond parents, who reported that one student vomited after observing the procedure and others were extremely upset.
The first speaker was Dr. Gary Pusillo, President of Complete Natural Nutrition (formerly Aperon). His talk, as usual, was highly entertaining, with lots of interesting ‘visual aids’. The talk centered on the need for foods and supplements that were more available to the animal's systems. He also had some of his products there for us to look at during the breaks.

I was the second speaker of the day. My talk was entitled ‘Filing comments of the rulemaking for the Captive Wildlife Safety Act’. Considering that this presentation was entirely extemporaneous (I had just finished writing 30 pages of comments on this rulemaking a few hours before Jeanne and crew had arrived at my home!), it went very well, and I got lots of compliments. One of these was from Edward Dominguez, the person from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who would speak on this rulemaking the next day.

The third speaker was Vernon Weir, director of the American Sanctuary Association. Mr Weir has spoken to us now four times, and we have all learned something from what he has to say. Although not a big supporter of private ownership, he has always presented (what I believe to be) an honest assessment of what is really going on in the sanctuary world. (This year, he reports that placements of big cats was down considerably from previous years. The drop was mostly USDA-licensed facilities. The placements from private owners, which has been fairly low in previous years, has not significantly changed, either up or down. He did add that nearly all sanctuaries were full.)

After lunch, Barry Lagan, Ron Hanson and Charles McGee of the National Rifle Association showed us video of a debate that had been recently held in England. This debate was between Wayne LaPierre, Chief Executive of the NRA, and Andrew Butler, a spokesman for PETA. This interesting-- and often heated-- debate shows us that PETA not only has a very anti-animal agenda, but that they are not above disrupting the debate itself, if it serves their ends. This is a must-see for any exotic animal owner. Phoenix is working on getting a supply of DVD’s of the debate. (I am a debate judge in another life, and Mr. LaPierre won hands-down not only on defending his position, but in every technical area of debating, as well.)

Ruth Hage, a student from England, announced her intention to do a scientific study of the human-animal bond. She wants to explore how this relationship differs for people the animal knows and people the animal does not know. She also emphasized the importance of scientific research on strengthening our stance on keeping exotic animals.

The final program for Friday was perhaps the most unusual presentation ever given at a Phoenix meeting. Entitled ‘The Lion and the Goddess: Big Cats and the Divine Feminine in Ancient Iconography’, it was a survey of the lion (especially) as a God (or Goddess) in Egypt and other ancient Middle Eastern societies. It was a fascinating paper, and the closest thing to a real scientific paper ever presented at the conference. The presenter was Dr. Anne Key, Priestess of the Temple of Goddess Spirituality devoted to Sekhmet. (Sekhmet is a lioness-headed Egyptian Goddess.) This temple is in nearby Indian Springs.

After the presentations, many people stayed for the Phoenix annual business meeting. The meeting went on for about an hour.

A bit later that evening, I joined Scott and Raven Simons on somewhat of a ‘cat tour’ of Las Vegas. Our first stop was (what else?) the MGM Grand Lion Habitat. We picked a good night to visit the habitat. They had two young adult lionesses in the habitat, who were just having a grand time playing with the keepers. But eventually, they got tired, and sacked out on the glass on top of the observation tunnel in the habitat. We then did some shopping in the Lion Habitat gift shop.

Next, we went to New York, New York (Across the street from the MGM Grand), to eat at Gallagher’s Steak House. Gallagher’s is a meat eater’s paradise. Outside the restaurant, in a glass case, is a large number of whole prime ribs being dry aged. As it turns out, we weren’t the only ones ‘turning carnivore’ that evening, so there would be a two hour wait to be seated.

We made good use of this time by walking to the Luxor (The pyramid-shaped hotel with the light shooting out of the top.). There, we spent the next hour trying to locate just the right Sekhmet figure for Raven. Unfortunately, Sekhmet was not ‘in’ at this time, and we were only able to find a couple of small figures.

We had an absolutely wonderful dinner at Gallagher’s. Between the three of us, we consumed nearly three pounds of beef. We kept the (very scant) leftovers for the feral cats living around the hotel, for which they were very appreciative! On the way back to the MGM Grand, we spent a
good amount of time ‘admiring’ the 50 ton bronze lion in front of the hotel.

Saturday morning, we were all back to the meeting room for day two of the conference.

The first paper was by Brent Andrus, who represents a plethora of aviculture groups. His presentation centered on parrot conservation. Among interesting facts given in his presentation: The pet trade is not a real problem with a given species of wild parrots until their numbers are very low. But, when a population of a given species gets low enough, private breeders get interested in conserving the bird. As a result, some species of parrots that are now extinct (or nearly so) in the wild are common in captivity. Private parrot owners have also helped the USDA develop captive release programs for these birds. This is Brent’s second presentation for Phoenix, and both of them have been excellent and informative.

The next paper was by Dr. Laurie Gage, DVM. She is a large felid and aquatic mammal specialist for USDA APHIS. Her presentation was on the rescue of several dolphins (and sea lions) that had escaped from an aquarium destroyed by hurricane Katrina. This was very interesting presentation. The dolphin’s trainers used the dolphin’s training to help them get into rescue structures. Despite the complete destruction of their home, all of the dolphins were successfully recovered and moved to a new home. The US Navy helped this effort with a lot of equipment that they have developed for their dolphin training program. This is Dr. Gage’s second presentation for us, and she always has an interesting presentation.

Next up was Brian Werner of Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Werner is interested in the genetic preservation of the tiger and other big cat species. His talk discussed how Tiger Creek got started, and how it is run. He focused on some construction projects that are currently underway or just completed. He talked about the importance of proper funding, and doing everything ‘by the book’. He concluded by discussing his latest plans for a series of resorts associated with big cat sanctuaries. The resorts would help fund the sanctuary associated with it, and the sanctuary would in turn educate the resort’s guests about tigers and other big cats.

After lunch, the next speaker was Edward Dominquez, a special agent with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. His talk was mainly on the rulemaking for the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, which was to close to public comment a few days after the conference was over. He answered a lot of controversial questions. He also talked very briefly on the Endangered Species Act.

Unfortunately, the remaining two speakers for the day, Dennis Hill of the Willowhill Center for Rare and Endangered Tigers, and Linda Hunnicut of Simply Simian, were unable to make the meeting. We did have a guest from the Nevada Department of Wildlife present, and he answered some questions on Nevada’s exotic laws.

The meeting closed with an interesting roundtable discussion, where some ideas were thrown in the air and openly discussed. One idea that was extensively discussed was the future of Phoenix’s peer review accreditation program. Another idea extensively discussed was using radio and TV media as a way of spreading the word about exotic animal ownership.

After the roundtable, we all helped clean up the meeting room, and pack all the meeting ‘stuff’ until next year. We all then jumped in vehicles and headed for a Chinese buffet a few blocks from the hotel. We all enjoyed a really good ‘feed’, and got to know each other a bit better.

Again that evening, I joined Scott and Raven Simons on a further exploration of the Las Vegas Strip. We went to the Mirage hotel to see their tiger in the lobby. Unfortunately, they no longer put a tiger in the lobby in the evening. We did spend lots of time looking at a big aquarium in the hotel’s lobby, as well as taking in the ‘volcanic eruption’ that periodically occurs outside the Mirage. From there, we walked down to the Bellagio to see the dancing waterfall, and look at some of the art exhibits inside the hotel. Of special interest was the Chihuly glass ceiling (and a Chihuly store with prices so high nothing was marked!), and a beautiful Chinese garden. Raven and I both have an interest in orchids, and there were plenty of them to see in this exhibit.

On Sunday morning, it was time to say ‘good bye’ until next year. Eventually, we all got underway to wherever it was we were going. Scott and Raven Simons were planning to visit Reno on their way back to their home, so they followed me. We stopped (by invitation) at a couple of ‘cat places’ along the way. One of these was Tigertouch in Fallon, NV. There, we talked with John and Barb Williamson long into the night. We eventually made it back to Reno, where we stopped and had dinner before making it ‘home’.

Unfortunately, the weather had turned really rainy in Reno, and I was unable (due to a lack of enough suitable footwear) to take Scott and Raven to the zoo. So, we had lunch together, and headed our separate ways. But, the Phoenix adventure wasn’t over yet!

An hour or so later, Jeanne Hall called, and told me that they had changed plans and would be stopping in Reno on the way back. The Washington State ban bill had suddenly started moving again, and they were in a pell-mell rush to get back home before the legislature acted. They did finally arrive in Reno, and we had dinner together. After warm farewells all around, Jeanne and crew were on their way to Washington. I went home and crashed!

As usual, the Phoenix Exotics conference did not disappoint. We had the best meeting ever this year, despite not having any ‘entertainment’. (The Fercos brothers did attend part of the conference, though.) We now know having the meeting in Las Vegas proper is the way to go. We have made some running changes in the way the conference will be done in the future. And next year should easily top this year!

For the lions,
Tim Stoffel
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Phoenix Exotic Annual Membership Meeting
- CA: PETA protests teaching of castration
- 2006 Phoenix Exotics Conference by Tim Stoffel