

Green Valley Recreation Hiking Club

Minutes of Annual Meeting

March 7, 2023

Desert Hills Social Center

Board Members and Chairpersons present: David Toeniskoetter, Scott Tewksbury, Barbara Jepkema, Marysia Czachor, Mary Pulkrabek, Rhonda Wills, David Kean, Mark Buchholz, Barb Fleshman, David Linn, Kim Boswell, Anita Woodward, Stephen Herron, and George Chute. Absent: Frank Surpluss.

1. Call to Order/Quorum: David Toeniskoetter

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President David Toeniskoetter, after a quorum was established.

2. Secretary's Report: Barbara Jepkema

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of March 8, 2022, as provided electronically to the Club membership with the February 14, 2023 email that announced this Annual Meeting, were unanimously approved upon motion made and seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report: Scott Tewksbury

The Club has continued in a good financial position since the last annual meeting. The Cash Flow and Statement of Income and Expenses for the calendar year 2022, attached as part of these Minutes, was sent to the Club membership with the February 14, 2023 email that announced this Annual Meeting. Upon motion made and seconded, the report was unanimously approved.

4. President's Report: David Toeniskoetter

In addition to managing the routine business of the Hiking Club, the Board of Directors had identified three goals for this past Board year. We made progress on each goal, but more work remains to be done.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE. The Club's Trail Maintenance program has been on hiatus since our last trail maintenance chair resigned in 2021. The Club has been unable to obtain a trail maintenance agreement with the Forest Service since 2020. With the news that the long-time Nogales District Ranger would retire at the end of 2022, the Board of Directors decided the Club would make a renewed effort to engage with the Forest Service on trail maintenance. In January, David spoke with the new Nogales District Ranger about our interest in trail maintenance, and Hikemaster David Linn met with two of his people. Forest Service people have told us they are interested in re-engaging with the Club and promised to follow up with us, but thus far we have received no further communication.

CLOUD-BASED STORAGE OF CLUB RECORDS. The Club uses a cloud-based service, Box.com, to securely store some Club records. Over the past year, the Board of Directors has begun using the Box site to store and share its records, including meeting agenda, minutes, financial statements and reports. The goal is to move away from binders full of paper records, and files on members' personal computers. We have made good progress in the past year, and digital storage of the Club's archival records is an opportunity the Board should explore in the future.

INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW. Following an auto accident on the way to a trailhead, and news from GVR about changes in its insurance coverages for GVR clubs, the Board began looking into risk exposures and potential insurance coverages for the Club. Last month the Board approved a change in the Policy Manual, clarifying that the Club's ride sharing is intended to be "shared-expense carpool arrangements" in order to assure our volunteer drivers are protected under their personal auto insurance policies. The Board is continuing to investigate insurance options; this work will continue into the next year.

NAVIGATION COURSES. In January and February of this year, the Club offered a free set of Navigation Courses for Club members. The four instructors were: David Colpitts for Map and Compass; Jim Chisholm for Garmin GPS, Dan Paxton for Gaia GPS, and Keith Blair for BaseCamp. The Navigation Courses were last offered in 2020. We made a few changes this year: moving all classes to daytime hours, and tightening the schedule. There were 55 participants among the four Navigation Courses. The four class presentations continue to be available on the Club's website.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Bill White, Toni Garreffa, and Barb Sincere found a strong slate of candidates for the Board to be presented to the membership.

5. Vice President's Report: David Kean

David served as master of ceremonies at the February potluck in the absence of the Club President.

GVR facilities reservations are completed and up to date for Club Meetings, potlucks and the West Center parking lot for Thursday hiking.

David attended the GVR Annual Club meeting in January and, working with our Club Treasurer, Membership Chair and other chairs as needed, completed the appropriate paperwork and documentation for the Club and submitted it to GVR by February 1, 2023.

A review of 2022 financial statements and activities was done by Janet Reynolds, a Hiking Club member not affiliated with the Board of Directors, who is a retired CPA. Janet's review resulted in a written report last month, which was shared with the Board of Directors. Janet's report indicated that all aspects of the financial position of the Club are thorough, organized and complete, and she commended our Treasurer for the way he maintains the Club records.

As Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee, David coordinated and oversaw the process which resulted in a new Hall of Fame member who is being announced to the membership.

6. Membership: Marysia Czachor

As of March 6, 2023, we have 332 members in the Club. This includes 37 members who are new to the Club this year. As a comparison, at last year's annual meeting we had 312 members. The membership is up by 20 so far this year.

Marysia continues to check the Green Valley Post Office Box maintained by the Club for mail; work in the Wild Apricot System to process renewals, update profiles, check information, and process new member applications; work with the Orientation chair and the Membership data assistant to make sure members have completed orientation; communicate with members to answer membership related questions; prepare weekly membership reports and send them to the Records Committee, membership and orientation data assistant, the Club President, and the Hike Master; and prepare the annual membership renewal letter which is sent out to members in late October.

7. Awards: Mary Pulkrabek

68 awards were given in the past year, from March 9, 2022 to March 7, 2023:

50 miles:	16	
250 miles:	15	
500 miles:	13	
1,000 miles:	8	(Gordon Craig, Liz Blair, Dave Hinkel, Patrick Melby, Henry Maus, William Kayser, Marysia Czachor, Geneva Halliday)
1,500 miles:	2	(George Higginson, Pat Boeck)
2,000 miles:	3	(Stephen Herron, Duane Dotson, Kay Pasley)
2,500 miles:	5	(Patsy Sills, Jim Easter, Janet Gerdes, Kenneth Sink, Joe Frazier)
3,000 miles:	3	(Terry Ferguson, Bob Koons, Laurie Koons)
5,500 miles:	1	(Kathy Chute)
6,000 miles:	1	(George Chute)
6,500 miles:	1	(Wayne Moshier)

8. Social Committee: Rhonda Wills

We have had three events so far this year, with one more potluck scheduled for March 26, 2023, at which time there will be a presentation by Steve Lewis, the Executive Officer of the Arizona Rangers-Madera Company.

The season started with the November 13, 2022 potluck, attended by 99 members and guests. We collected \$80 in cash and 125 pounds of food, which Rhonda delivered to the Food Bank.

The annual Leaders Appreciation Breakfast was held on January 10, 2023 at LaPosada. There were a total of 61 leaders, assistant leaders, and emeritus leaders in attendance.

The speaker was David Dean, a Sabino Canyon volunteer naturalist, who did an outstanding presentation on the mountain lions of the Santa Catalina's. Feedback from those in attendance was very positive for both the food and the presentation.

The February 19, 2023 potluck was attended by 101 members and guests, with a presentation by Ron Pohlen, one of our Club members, who spoke about his 2400+ mile through hike on the Appalachian Trail. We collected \$105 and 96 pounds of food, which Rhonda delivered to the Food Bank. When Rhonda made the delivery, she noticed that the shelves were pretty bare, so the Club should be proud of its contribution and the difference it makes.

Our fall potluck is scheduled for November 12, 2023.

9. Volunteer Services:

Mark Buchholz

Mark organized the Pima County Adopt-A-Roadway trash cleanup on the Club's two-mile section of Madera Canyon Road twice this year, in April and November of 2022, with a group of about 20 Hiking Club volunteers involved in each of the roadside cleanups. The Club recently completed a mandatory Pima County training, and has qualified for and committed to the Adopt-A Roadway program through January of 2025.

The Club participated in the Memorial Day Flag Display along La Canada Drive between Continental and Esperanza again this year. This involves many Club volunteers for both the morning set-up crew and the afternoon take-down crew, setting almost 100 flags along the street sides.

A big "Thank You!" to all who participated in these volunteer activities.

The Summit Hut Discount Days annual event for the Club featured a 20% discount on all in-store merchandise at both Tucson Summit Hut stores, and ran from January 8– 22, 2023. Summit Hut managers reported that many Hiking Club members took advantage of this special event.

This past year we had 28 new name badge orders, indicating many new members joining the Club.

The Board decided to run a T-shirt sale again this year, as the last T-shirt sale was in 2019. Club members placed orders for the limited time sale on the Club website December 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, and the orders were sent to our vendor in Tucson. We received 110 orders, and began distributing the T-shirts to Club members on February 16th. T-shirts that members have ordered are available for pickup each Thursday morning before hiking.

10. Orientation:

Barb Fleshman

This Annual Report covers all of last year as well as January, February and the first week of March.

Orientation continues to be the Club's tool to introduce people to the Club, to give them a sense of what our Thursday experience is, and to convey whether the Club is a good fit for their interests. Orientation sessions are held three times per month fall, winter, and spring when the demand is greatest. All registration is done online and provides for a very streamlined system of keeping the records. Dates are posted and available on our Club website one month in advance.

In 2022, we had a total of 24 sessions which were attended by 106 people. Of those, 55 went on to take their first hike which represents 52%! The attendance was down a little bit compared to 2021, but the first hike percentage is way up. For 2023, we have 12 sessions scheduled through April and expect to have 12 additional sessions scheduled for the fall/winter season. To date in 2023, we have had 49 attendees. This is a slight increase over the same period last year. Additional data about First Hikers and those who go on to take their second hike and become Club members is maintained by our other volunteer recordkeepers.

Last year we had an engaging set of presenters: David Colpitts, Duane Dotson, Sue Kazmier, Jim Chervenka, Keith Blair, and Bill White. This year, our Club's orientation presenters are Dave Toeniskoetter, Rick Thrall, Keith Blair, Bill White, and Barb Fleshman.

Orientation continues to be an important first impression for prospective Club members.

11. Hikemaster:

David Linn

Hiking Activity: Number of hikers is up from last year by over 6%, with an average of 84 hikers/week.

Operations: We continue at full capacity of 24 hikers/hike.

COVID: The COVID policy continues and is updated for current pandemic conditions, as is spelled out in the monthly bulletin and on the Club website.

Leader Activity: We have one new leader, Steve Toeniskoetter, with Scot Tewksbury in on-hold training due to family circumstances. There are four new assistant leaders/sweeps: Bob Senning, Steve Delisle, Rich Calderazzo, and Ron Pohlen. All are active, sweeping and leading. Inquiries continue to be made for individuals for these positions. Three sweep resignations have been tendered: Janet BeMiller, Barb Powell, and Peter Burgard, and there has been one leader retirement: Bob Porterfield. We now have: 39 leaders and 33 assistant leaders.

Online Reservation Program: This is proceeding smoothly with 14 slots available for online reservations, leaving 8 slots for walk-ups. Since last May, 43% of all hikers have

used the program. The trend is up though, in that in the last two months we have seen rates of 65%.

Appreciation Breakfast: On January 10, 2023, we had a Leaders/Sweeps appreciation breakfast with 61 attendees and an excellent presenter who spoke on mountain lions of the Catalina's.

Hike Information: Starting in May, 2022, we had active 525 hikes. Currently we have 540, with 15 new hikes added. Jim Chervenka has been busy developing new hikes in new areas around Green Valley.

12. Assistant Hikemaster

Kim Boswell

The use of the first-aid kit supplies has been minimal since May 1, 2022. Kim completed a full inventory of all first-aid kit supplies on December 3, 2022, and will conduct another review later this month and replace expired supplies.

Each month she has emailed a list of the Club's scheduled hikes that cross CBP checkpoints to the designated Border Patrol agent, and will continue to do so through April, 2023.

Kim has partnered with and supported our Hikemaster with his duties, including loading hikes into the Wild Apricot membership software for weekly online hike reservations, assisting with creating the weekly sign-in sheets, and participating in orientation meetings for new hike leader and assistant hike leader candidates.

Other accomplishments this past year include:

- Creating an Assistant Hikemaster folder on the Box cloud site and uploaded documents pertaining to the position.
- Acquiring a Windows-based desktop computer with keyboard, mouse, and monitor from the Camera Club. With Jim Chisholm's assistance, this computer was set up for the assistant hike master.
- Updating and reformatting the Hike Leader Training Notes and Assistant Leader Training Notes.
- Arranging a review of the first-aid kit contents by Jim Richardson, assistant hike leader and retired MD.
- Having David Hinkel, assistant hike leader and retired navy nurse, review the first-aid kit contents at the December 2022 leaders meeting.

The new Assistant Hikemaster starting May 1, 2023 will be Kay Pasley.

13. Committee Reports:

a. Historian:

Anita Woodward

The Library consists of two main elements that are available for use by Club members: the Library Web Site and the Lending Library. Tom Johnson continues to maintain and update these two elements. Since the last Annual Meeting, three articles have been

updated and six new articles have been prepared and posted to the Library website. One of the updates adds interior views of the Fairbank Ghost Town school house. Club hikes to Fairbanks are on Thursdays when the school is closed so there is now a source to see what the school interior looks like. Four of the new articles are in direct support of Club hikes. These are the Amole Mining District, the Sutherland Wash Archeological District, Cocoraque Butte, and the Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate. The other two are general information articles: one on Desert Mistletoe and the other on Wood Water Troughs in the Huachuca Mountains. The Lending Library is the other resource that is available to Club members. The Library contains a number of books and other items that are available for check-out. All of the items in the Lending Library have been donated and there have been eight donations since the last Annual Meeting. A complete listing of the Library items may be found in the Library website under the General category. A representative sample of these items is also provided at the Club potlucks. Since the last Annual Meeting, there have been 15 items that have been checked out. Tom plans to have the Lending Library available at the March 26, 2023 Potluck as a convenience to our hikers.

Anita continues to review the records in the Desert Hills storage lockers with the intention of creating an inventory of the documents, eliminating duplications, and possibly eventually digitizing some or all of them.

b. Trail Tails: Frank Surpluss

No report was given at the meeting.

c. Webmaster: Stephen Herron

Steve DeLisle has taken over as administer of the primary website and the gallery website. Altogether, we have 15 volunteers that maintain our three websites: the main website, GVRHC.org; the Gallery website; and the member website.

d. Records: George Chute

The Records Committee is responsible for the maintenance and retention of the Club's master Hike File and weekly updates of hikers and hikes. The file is a multi-worksheet Excel workbook, and contains information by individual hiker including GVR number, name, date of orientation, date of first hike, date of most recent hike, dues status, mileage award level achieved, number of hikes to next award, and cumulative hikes taken by year. Each week's Hike File resides on multiple computers (all members of the Records Committee: George Chute, Kitty Carlson, Sue Palfrey, and Judith LeClair) for security and backup purposes.

Following each Thursday's hike, the sign-in sheets are emailed to a member of the Records Committee for data entry. The Records person enters all hikers by hike taken, and performs various computer processes that generate three weekly reports. The Hike Report displays data on all hikers who have hiked in the current year and is delivered to the Awards chair. The Awards Report shows members who have qualified for their next patch and is delivered to the Awards chair. It is used the following Thursday to identify hikers eligible for a patch, which is then given to a Hike Leader for presentation on the

hike. The Dues Report indicates which members are in arrears and is delivered to the Membership chair to pursue payment.

14. New Business

a. Election of New Board Members:

i. Voter Eligibility: David Toeniskoetter

All present and current in their dues may vote.

ii. Nominating Committee Report: Bill White

The Nominating Committee is putting forward three board candidates for nomination to the Board by the membership. Brief biographies of the new candidates were provided with the eblast announcement of this Annual Meeting.

For Board Secretary, we are nominating Barbara Jepkema. Barbara is just completing her first three-year term on the Board. She has been Board secretary during that time, and she has done an outstanding job. She is deserving of a second term.

For Membership chair, we are nominating Marysia Czachor. Marysia also is completing her first three-year term on the Board. She has served as Membership chair during that term, and she, too, has done an outstanding job. She is deserving of a second term.

For Volunteer Services Coordinator, we are nominating Sue Palfrey. This position is a three-year track culminating in the Board presidency in year three. Sue is an excellent candidate for this position. She has been an energetic player in our Club behind the scenes for many years, particularly as a keeper of hiker records. The Club will be in good hands with Sue in this position.

iii. Election David Toeniskoetter

A motion was made and seconded to approve Barbara Jepkema, Marysia Czachor, and Sue Palfry as Board members. The vote was unanimous.

b. Hall of Fame

The one individual presented by the Hall of Fame Committee to be inducted into the GVRHC Hall of Fame was unanimously approved by the Board at their February Board Meeting. Jim Chisholm presented Bob Porterfield to the membership as a new inductee, citing his many outstanding contributions to the Club. His picture and list of contributions to the Club will be added to the Club's website.

15. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Jepkema
Secretary