

Green Valley Recreation Hiking Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
Las Campanas Recreation Center, Ocotillo Room

1. Call to Order/Quorum

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by President Sue Palfrey at 6:00 p.m. Board members present: Sue Palfrey, Nancy White, Barbara Jepkema, Jeff Gross, Marysia Czachor, Josie Trobec, Jim Easter, Rich Calderazzo, Bob Senning, and Barb Fleshman. Absent: Steve Toeniskoetter. Committee Chairs present: Frank Surpless and Kristi Lund. Absent: Steve Delisle, David Kean, and George Chute.

2. Secretary's Report: Barbara Jepkema

The Minutes of the December 2, 2025 Board of Directors meeting, which had been previously provided electronically to all Board Members, were unanimously approved upon motion made and seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report: Jeff Gross

Attached is the financial report as of January 31, 2026, which was previously provided electronically to all Board Members.

4. President's Report: Sue Palfrey

Sue finalized the Survey and contacted Steve Toeniskoetter and Janet Gerdes to have it sent to the membership in January, collected the data, and then reviewed the responses and provided a copy to the Board Members prior to the meeting.

There has been no news from GVR with respect to scanning members' cards, and Sue is keeping her ears open regarding responses from other GVR Clubs.

5. Vice President's Report: Nancy White

Nancy has been backing up Sue with respect to the navigation classes, which are available in February, by reserving rooms, writing an e-blast, finding class helpers and setting up registration, etc. online. She has also continued working with the vendor for T-shirts, which will go live in late February/early March; and completed and submitted GVR required Club paperwork. She chaired the Hall of Fame Committee meeting, and there are no nominees this year.

6. Membership Report: Marysia Czachor

As of February 2, 2026, we have 287 paid active members in the Club, 44 of which are new and have joined since September 1, 2025. Last year at this time our membership count was 298. This year there were 13 members who paid their dues by check, which is higher than

the last several years; however, the trend was similar when we switched to Wild Apricot for the first year or two. The Membership Chair no longer needs to send out weekly membership reports since everything is available on the new Club website.

7. Awards Report: Jim Easter

There have been 17 awards given during the period from December 2, 2025 thru February 3, 2026:

50 miles	11
500	1
1000	2 (Gillian Batterman and Mark Batterman)
2000	1 (Steve White)
2500	1 (Duane Dotson)
3000	1 (Judith LeClair)

8. Social Activities: Josie Trobec

The Leader breakfast was held on January 28, 2026 at LaPosada, with 56 in attendance. A very interesting presentation was given by a member from SARA (Southern Arizona Rescue Association).

The Winter potluck is scheduled for February 15, 2026 at the West Center, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The speaker will be Bob McNamara, a National Park volunteer at Death Valley.

9. Volunteer Services: Bob Senning

Since our last meeting there have been 10 name tags ordered.

10. Orientation: Rich Calderazzo

Since January 27, 2025, we have conducted 24 orientation sessions with a total of 146 attendees. Of those, 65 individuals became members, representing a 45% conversion rate within the year. This is slightly higher than in 2024. Orientation sessions are currently scheduled through April 2026, with presenters already assigned. Rick and Deb Thrall will not be returning as presenters next year.

Since Rich be stepping into the role of Assistant Hikemaster in May, he will be stepping down as Orientation Chairperson. A new Chair will be appointed by the Board at the April meeting.

11. Hikemaster: Steve Toeniskoetter

Hiking Numbers: In December and January we had 181 hikers. This compares to the same period in 2024 with 182 total hikers and in 2023 with 192.

Leader/Assistant Leader Retirements and New Leaders/Assistant Leaders : Juliana Sandahl retired as an assistant leader effective December 31, 2025; Deb Thrall will retire as an assistant leader effective February 14, 2026; and Rick Thrall will retire as a leader effective

February 14, 2026. One leader and two assistant leaders are training or have completed training:

- Jeff Gross is starting leader training, date not determined
- Dick Nicholson is starting leader training in April
- Bob Huppert started assistant leader training January 30
- Paul Kaiser started assistant leader training January 30
- Stan Laidlaw is starting assistant leader training in April

New Hikes and Revisions: There were ten (10) new hikes run in the December-January timeframe:

- Beyond Rogers' Rock, a difficult C created by Barbara Jepkema
- Oak Tree Canyon and Ridges, an easy B created by Susan Hoekema
- Temporal Gulch Feeder Trail Loop, a moderate C created by Jim Chervenka
- Dripping Springs, an easy C created by Susan Beck-Brown
- AZ Trail - Sahuarita South - A, an easy A created by Jim Chisholm
- Big "A", a moderate C created by Rhonda Wills
- Patagonia Lake Vistas, a moderate C created by Marysia Czachor
- AZ Trail - Sahuarita Road - Davidson Canyon, an easy A created by Jim Chisholm
- Bren Mountain Ridge Loop, a moderate A created by Jim Chisholm and Russ Bunner
- AZ Trail - Rainbow Canyon, a moderate C created by Jim Chervenka

More new hikes are coming in the following months!

New Software: Records has switched over to the new software. Jim Chisholm held an early January training session with the entire Records team, which went well. Awards has switched over to the new software. Jim Easter is now able to run the awards report himself. In addition, he is now updating in the system who made the award. Thanks go to Jim Chisholm for also training Jim Easter. And because who made the award is now being updated in the system, hikers will be able to see this information from their home screen. Finally, a new feature has been added that will allow hike leaders or sweeps to enter a hike "note" for their hike so Leaders can have some fun advertising their hikes. They are limited to 100 characters.

12. Assistant Hikemaster: Barb Fleshman

Barb continues to work closely alongside Steve Toeniskoetter; participating with the hike selection process; hike assignments; contacting border patrol to advise of Club hikes in specific areas; preparing first aid kits for weekly hikes; restocking supplies in first aid kits as needed; and ensuring that supplies are not outdated and tracking supplies. Band-Aids continue to be the top item used from the kits. In November, we had two serious falls on two separate hikes that resulted in a lot of supplies being used.

Barb also advised that she has a Hike Selection Committee put together for when she takes over as Hikemaster in May.

13. Committee Reports

A. Historian/Librarian Kristi Lund

No report.

B. Trail Tales

Frank Surpless

Frank reported that for the Spring Trail Tales, he and Duane are considering articles on the following members, space allowing: Dan Schroeder, Dick Paige, Judith LeClair, Rhonda Wills, Barb Fleshman, Jim Chervenka and Terry Ferguson. Frank also advised that, after 10 years of working with Duane Dotson, he will be resigning as Chair of Trail Tales sometime in the next few months, as he and Margaret are putting their house up for sale and moving from Green Valley.

C. Webmaster:

Steve Delisle

Steve continues to do updating of documents, updating of website links and other tasks associated with maintaining our website.

D. Records:

George Chute

No report.

E. Trail Maintenance David Kean

No report.

14. Old Business:

a. 2026 Budget. Upon motion made and seconded, the attached Budget for 2026 was unanimously approved.

b. Feedback from January Survey to Club members. The results of the Survey to the Membership, which had been provided to Board Members prior to this meeting, was discussed, and will be presented to the Membership at the Annual Meeting on March 3.

c. Follow-up on Dick Paige's request to receive assistance from the Club for a reunion of retired hike leaders. Barb Fleshman clarified that the reunion was to be of retired Hikemasters, not hike leaders. After further discussion, upon motion made and seconded, it was unanimously approved that the Club would contribute up to \$250.00 for a gathering of retired Hikemasters, when set up and requested by Dick Paige.

d. Club possible connection to tucsonaccesstrails.com/i.e. post on our website. Upon further discussion it was agreed not to become involved with this group.

15. New Business:

a. Report from the Nominating Committee. Sue reported that the Nominating Committee, consisting of CeeCee Barron, Patsy Sills, and David Hoekema, have found and recommended the following individuals for the three (3) open Board positions, each for a three (3) year term, to be approved by the Membership at the upcoming Annual Meeting:

Keith Blair
Barb Sincere
Kay Pasley

Secretary
Membership
Volunteer Services (to be followed by Vice President
and then President)

b. The GVR Showcase is March 2, 2025.

c. Sue asked that Board members look at their job description and send her any necessary updates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 3, 2026, beginning at 7:30 a.m., at the Desert Hills auditorium.

The next Board Meeting will be in April, the date of which will be determined by Nancy White, and notice sent to all Board Members in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jepkema, Secretary