



# TRAIL TALES

GVR HIKING CLUB

P. O. BOX 1074, GREEN VALLEY, AZ 85622

AUTUMN 1999

**FROM CLUB PRESIDENT Vicki Mattox:**

A long range planning committee to address the increasing membership has been appointed. The first task was moving the hike departure area to the west side parking lot. We hope to minimize early a.m. confusion in winter months. My thanks go to Tracy Ackerman for his ideas and to Barry Murdoch and committee for their planning and work. Coronado District Forest Service Ranger Keith Graves is working with Ken Fleshman and Bob Kotz concerning road and trail maintenance and improvement. The National Conservation Area plan that will incorporate the BLM land of the Empire ranch and portions of the Cienega Creek and Babocamari River watersheds is being monitored by Ed Bieber. Supportive letters from you to U.S. Interior Secretary Babbitt and Rep. Jim Kolbe will help. I want to recognize Club Volunteers who have given time and labor to make this Club successful.

**BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1999-2000:** Vicki Mattox, President; Barry Murdoch, Vice President; Nancy Turner, Secretary; Ted Haartz, Treasurer; Jim Moore, Hikemaster; Bob Kotz, Assistant Hikemaster; Winnie Kruper, Membership; Bill Zwicke, Orientation; Carolyn Bird, Social; Asa Chamberlain, Trail Maintenance. Ruth Wenberg has been appointed Records Chair after the resignation of Russ Hartley.

**WHY ORIENTATION?**

Before Orientation became a prerequisite to hiking with our Club, problems were arising with people obviously unprepared for our type of group hiking in this terrain.

PRE-HIKE ORIENTATION became a policy of the Club to better prepare Hikers for their first time hiking with OUR CLUB. It informs them about rules of the trail, club history and development - why things are done the way we do them. It is to insure "safe and enjoyable hiking," our club motto.

Over 20 people showed up for the first session. Ted and Lee Haartz were in that first group. Lee served as Social Chairman later, and Ted served as Hikemaster and now Treasurer.

Attendance at Orientation BEFORE hiking with our Club is a rule. Until more sessions are scheduled, people who want to start hiking before the next Orientation may call Chairman Bill Zwicke who will arrange a special Orientation. Since January 4, 1993, over 1300 people have attended sessions. In 1998 over 240 attended, but almost 40% decided hiking was not for them.

Knowing ahead of time what you are getting into makes it easier to decide if the activity is compatible with interest or capabilities. Some don't like hiking in large groups; some don't want to be slowed down; some don't want to invest in equipment; some find it interferes with golf.

This successful program has made being on hikes and leading hikes much more pleasant.

**SIGN-IN AT THE WEST LOT OF WEST CENTER**

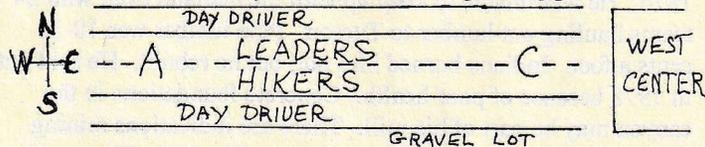
This major change started in September. Only Leaders park in the middle section of the paved lot. Leaders park facing north. The space south of each Leader car is for Hikers who are signing in. "C" hikes start at the east end closest to the Center, and "A" hikes are at the west end of the west lot.

Drivers of the day may park in the spaces on the north and south sides of the lot. Drivers who plan to drive but do not are to MOVE THEIR VEHICLES BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE DAY. There are to be NO Hikers' vehicles left in the paved lot west of the Center.

All other drivers are to park in the gravel lot or in the north lot where the Club met previously.

Signs in the lot are Reminders of this new plan. Transition is going well. Club members are responsible and willing to support the change.

GVR wholeheartedly endorses the new parking plans.



**HIKING NEWS:** Five new Assistant Leaders have been appointed recently - Mary Overby, Valerie Ralph, Richard Paige, Wayne Moshier, and Barry Murdoch. It takes practice and concern to become a good Hike Leader. Hike Leaders are expected to know where they are going, how to get there and back, frequently look back to check on the group, be aware of how Hikers are doing, and set the pace according to the level of the hike and the ability of the Hikers.....if someone has a problem the Leader adjusts the hike accordingly.

Assistants as Sweeps are the "eyes" to let the Leader know how things are going, any problems, if the pace is too slow, too fast, or just right, etc. At sign-in Sweeps watch to make sure Hikers are properly equipped, help coordinate drivers and riders, and generally keep an eye on things to assure all is going smoothly.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2000 DUE JANUARY 1** are available from Leaders on Thursdays. Send completed forms with your checks (no cash) to the address on the form. Please indicate your volunteer preferences as indicated on the form.

October 1998 - 429 Members. October 1999 - 494 Members!

Club Directories are available from Leaders at Sign-in. New ones will not be out until March 2000.

**CLUB LOGOS:** Discount Embroidery, 3504 E. Grant, Tucson

(Over)

The Hiking Club Treasurer reports that the Club will end October 1999 with a cash balance of \$5,240.00. This will decline over the next two months to cover expenses incurred. Income received will be in the form of prepaid 2000 dues which will then be income for 2000. The Treasurer would appreciate it if anyone incurring reimbursable expenses for 1999 turn in the receipts before year end for payment in calendar 1999.

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**NOW COMPILED AND STORED AT DESERT HILLS CENTER:** Organized information about our Club since it began in 1981. This project was completed in February 1999 by a committee chaired by Bob Lund. Operating records, documents and controls, membership, communications, annual reports and summaries, trail maintenance, correspondence, committee reports, publications, history, and non-hiking activities are available for use by Club members. Check with the Secretary.

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**FACTS OF HIKE AREAS AND MAPS OF MANY OF THE AREAS WHERE WE HIKE** have been compiled. The information is available by contacting Bob Kotz. Let's use this to make hiking that much more interesting. Additional information is appreciated.

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**A TALE OF THE TRAIL: SAWMILL CANYON:** Frenchman Alphonse Lazard began operating sawmills in the canyon in 1870. He was unable to keep up with the demand even with 24 teams hauling cut lumber to Tucson. Pine lumber was 10-12 cents a foot. Indians burned him out, but he rebuilt. He sold out in 1978 because of poor health. Concrete foundations in the canyon may be part of his mill. There are indications mining occurred in the post-war 1950's and possibly 70's. The wooden "sluice" was a track for an ore cart, but lack of wear indicates it was little used in the search for copper. The mine name is unknown.

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**A GOOD MONSOON SEASON** caused canyon vegetation to grow with abandon. In early August there were 12 "stalwarts" who responded to Asa Chamberlain's plea. Using three weedwackers and two power blowers, they cut enough hay to make a farmer proud! Maintenance chores that were bypassed during "haying season" need doing, so come on out, Hikers! Set aside the first Tuesday of the month to help keep trails in good shape. Watch the bulletin for the time and meeting place.

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The Hiking Club maintains the Handicap and Nature Trails in Madera Canyon. Since visitors to the Canyon have noted problems identifying trails and the lack of markings, the Hiking Club Board is working with the Forest Service to be responsible for about 25 signs to be constructed to minimize vandalism. Hopefully these permanent signs will be in place for the Spring season of Hikers and Birders.

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The November 7 Potluck chaired by Ruth and Bob Mounts, and their committee of Peggy and Pete Smith, Connie and Don Evenson, Mary Ann and Jim Jordan, and Patty and Willis Greimann, starts the season off with a bang. The February 6 speaker will be from the Border Patrol and should elicit a myriad of questions. Please contact Social Chairman Carolyn Bird, 625-2766, for the opportunity to help on a Potluck!

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**A FOUR THOUSAND MILER!** Helen Berbeck, a Club member since 1981, received the first 4000 mile patch. Since the last newsletter 3500 mile awards have gone to Marion Kole, Mag Turner, and Bob Lund. Congratulations to all of you!

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Obtaining Monthly Bulletins, for members returning to the area and those who have been on vacation, remains a problem. Call Hikemaster Jim Moore with any questions about hikes. Board Members and Leaders are happy to answer any questions. Questions about a listed hike? Call the designated Leader!

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**PLEASE NOTE:** If your GVR number changes, use your new number AND make a notation in the right hand column of the sign-in sheet that it is a change from your old number. Also notify Records Chair Ruth Wenberg to assure correct credit.

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Registration forms from every Orientation attendee are filled out, and each name is entered into a data base. Prospective members join by mailing Membership forms and checks to the address on the form. The Membership Chairman receives each new Hiker's name and date of first hike from the Club data base. This procedure gives a record of who attends Orientation and how many actually join the Hiking Club. This data is used to project membership and hiking trends.

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**A USED HIKING EQUIPMENT SALE IS BEING PLANNED.** Books, shoes, backpacks, etc. will be included. Watch for more news. Jim Campbell is the chairman.

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Club members hope the Leaders who are experiencing health problems will be well soon and back hiking at the head of the pack!

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For July, August, and September, we have hiked 14 days with 693 hikers. This is an increase of 30% over the past average number of Hikers for that time.

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The Southern Arizona Rescue Association has thanked the Club for our contribution to their cause. This volunteer group responds when the Sheriff's department requests help in searching for and rescuing lost and injured people.

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Always feel free to communicate with your Leader, whether it be for a breathing break, water break, or split the group break!

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Drink early and drink often. Then drink after! Beverages with diuretic properties such as coffee need countering by an equal amount of water. Milk, juices, and salty drinks are not counted as replacement fluid. High water content foods such as carrots or cantaloupe count as water. Cooler, flavored drinks (such as gatorade) will help you drink more. Just drink a lot!

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If you carry a stick: Have mercy on the one behind you!  
**SIGN IN ONLY FOR YOURSELF!**  
Don't "push" the leader. Six feet between Hikers, remember!  
Keep the sign-in sheet at the Leader's car, sign, then step aside for the next in line. Don't pass the sheet back.

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"Trail Tales" twice yearly. Lillian Monson, Editor