



TRAIL TALES

FROM CLUB PRESIDENT Barry Murdoch:

Another year of growth, another year of change. For several years the membership has been growing at about 10% per year. This greatly impacts the job of the Club Hikemaster and all of the Leaders. These people have done an outstanding job in accommodating an ever-increasing number of hikers. Their task might have been even more difficult if it were not for our Orientation program that emphasizes safety and what it takes to hike with the Club. As a result, many attendees never take a first hike. People need to know that hiking with the Club is not a walk in the park. As for long time members now doing "C" hikes and asking themselves how long to continue hiking --that will always be a very tough call. As the Club grows more people will be required to assist in running it. I am constantly amazed at the wealth of talent that resides in its members and at their willingness to share their time and skills. Thank you, everyone.

Year 2000 - 01 Board Members are Barry Murdoch, Pres.; Carolyn Bird, Vice Pres.; Nancy Turner, Secretary; Dan Schroeder, Treasurer; Bob Kotz, Hikemaster; Ken Fleshman, Asst. Hikemaster; Winnie Kruper, Membership; Ruth Wenberg, Records; Florence Gado, Social; Mary Ann Jordan, Volunteer Services; Asa Chamberlain, Trail Maintenance. John Fanning has been appointed Orientation Chairman since Frank Jappel resigned because of health reasons.

Orientation is required before hiking with the Club. Preparing Hikers for their first hike with our Club is very important, and even more so with the growth of membership. Ensuring that these potential hikers are physically and mentally ready for their first hike, and ensuring that they understand the Club has certain rules which must be observed is a very worthwhile challenge. Three orientations a month will be given through April, 2001. There is a need for additional Presenters to join Al Dalen, Barry Murdoch, Lee Kuiken, and Mert Urness, with Frank Jappel and Marian Rumsey on call. Contact John Fanning, 625-2054, if you are interested. John is open to suggestions to improve the program. Please let him know.

It is important for new Hikers to understand the "protocol" of our Hiking Club...preparation, how to sign in (including driving and getting rides,) obligation to the Leader when going on a hike, and respecting our rules. "Safe and Enjoyable Hiking" is our motto. In a retirement community Club there is a wide range of ages and abilities. The GVR Hiking Club offers hikes from challenging to easy. There will always be hikers not challenged enough and hikers who are too challenged on any given hike. Often no one hike will suit all of the hikers on it. The "Safe" comes from more structure, the "Enjoyable" comes from the people on the hike, the beauty of nature, and the appreciation of our good fortune to be living in this beautiful area. Ours has always been a very congenial, caring Club. With growth it will take more effort to keep the Club at the friendly, cooperative, caring "family" level. Let's do it!

Club Logos on Clothing: Discount Embroidery, 3504 E. Grant

FROM HIKE MASTER Bob Kotz:

If you are the type person who likes hikes with fewer people, this article is for you. As we move into the busy season more hikes will be offered at each level: A, B, and C. This will often increase your opportunity to find that special hike with a smaller number of hikers. Here are some suggestions: FIRST, CHECK THE BULLETIN. Some hikes may have a special limit of 15 or 18 Hikers. Next, in the parking lot, walk past all of the hikes at your level. Look for those with fewer people standing around. Another method is to get a quick look at the sign-in sheet to see how many people have actually registered. You should know that the sign-in sheet usually has two pages. If you are looking at the second page there are already 20 people registered on the first page. The SECOND page is easy to identify because it does not have the hike name filled in near the top of the page or an amount, highlighted in green, in the Suggested Donation box. Following these steps should help the Small Hike Sleuth in a successful search.

STANDARD HIKE DEPARTURE TIMES. The Hikemaster's Committee was given the assignment of establishing a set of hike departure times that could be followed year after year by the Club.

Several issues were addressed before arriving at their decision. Some Hikers desired to have fewer time changes between months. An effort was made to plan for some degree of daylight in the parking lot during the morning sign-up. Taking advantage of the cooler morning hours in the warmest months was another consideration. It is important to start hikes earlier during the monsoon season to avoid electrical storms that develop later in the day. After weighing these and other factors, the following times were set: July--September, 6:30 a.m.; October--7 a.m.; November--February, 8 a.m.; March--7:30 a.m.; April--May, 7 a.m.. Some hikes will have special departure times.

The number of Leaders is a record high of 32. Jim McBride and Seija Suter have recently been appointed after being in training for several months. Thirteen Assistants are on the roster. Four "Leaders in Training," (LIT) are Mary Millar, Dan and Lavern Schroeder, and Walt Prue. "On the job" training has been started. A LIT is assigned to different Leaders during each month to learn and lead. This gives prospective leaders pre-leading experience with a number of Leaders. The program has had very favorable feedback.

IN MEMORIAM YEAR 2000

Eunice Yocum, Hiker
Harry Anson, Hiker
Mike Michael, Hiker

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON Winnie Kruper reports 543 members on October 12. There were 495 members Oct. 31, 1999, and 429 members October 31, 1998.

2001 DUES ARE PAYABLE NOVEMBER 1. PAST DUE JANUARY 1, 2001. Membership applications are available from Leaders Thursday mornings. Mail form and check to address shown on form. Use reverse side to show volunteer preferences.

(Over)

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: In August the installation of 13 new, metal trail signs was completed within lower Madera Canyon. Unable to find a supplier to undertake the project from concept to installation, a design was created in keeping with Forest Service standards. A supplier of aluminum blanks was found where 15 blanks were purchased. An anodizing process to coat the blanks with a hard oxide finish to resist corrosion and surface damage was done by a metal plating company. Then a lazer engraver entered the copy into a computer where the design was edited, centered, and directionalized. The lazer engraver removed the oxide coat from the letters, numbers, etc. Directions shown on each sign are engraved on the original aluminum blank and will be a part of it indefinitely. Two more signs showing the Club's involvement in construction and continuing maintenance of the trails are being considered. The wooden signs were removed in August, new steel posts were set in concrete, and the signs were secured with one way bolts and locking nuts. Our Club continues to enhance the Madera Canyon Hiking experience!

Construction of the paved trails began in 1987 and was completed in 1988 as a joint venture between the Club and the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service provided materials and direction, the Club provided hundreds of hours of voluntary labor. The Club maintains these and other lower canyon trails on an ongoing basis. Contact Asa Chamberlain for more information.

TREASURER Dan Schroeder reports that the Club had a cash balance of about \$4600 at the end of September. The new Madera Canyon trail signs were a major expense. Anyone with bills to be reimbursed for this calendar year is asked to submit receipts to Dan in time for payment in 2000.

At a special Board Meeting May 5 a motion to pledge \$1,500 of Club money to the Friends of Madera Canyon to assist them in acquiring 244 acres of land located just north and northwest of the Proctor parking area and the teaching ramada was approved. The pledge will be used only if the land acquisition is made.

A new project for the Club is the coordination with the Arizona Trail Association in doing light maintenance work on some of the Arizona Trails. Twelve Club members will be able to combine this with a hike on selected Thursdays as indicated in the Club Bulletin. Contact Jim Perkins for in-depth information.

BYLAWS CHANGES: Last March a special bulletin was mailed to each member to describe the Bylaws changes to be voted upon at the Annual meeting. The changes were approved.

ATASCOSA LOOKOUT UPDATE: Work has been postponed because of the weather, and Forest Service Personnel were called for firefighting duty.

Jim Kuhns, who has done hike bulletins for over eight years and also hike write-ups for the Hikemaster, is resigning as of the end of the year. He will be truly missed for his contribution of time and effort and the great job he has done during this time. Thanks!

DATE CHANGES FOR POTLUCKS AT WEST CENTER: October 29; February 18, 2001; April 22, 2001. Always on Sunday! Cochairgals for October are Marie Gabbert and Anna Mae Sublett with twelve committee members. The February committee is already making plans for Entertainment with a home grown taste!

HIGH MILEAGE AWARDS since the last Trail Tales:

4000 – Lillian Monson; 3500 – Margaret Bieber; 3000 – Win Durant; 2500 – Charlie Delbacq, Jim Moore, and Ted Mouras; 2000 – Marie Gabbert and Anna Gebhardt; 1500 – Doris Gerganoff; 1000 – Marilyn Snyder, Fred Oehler, Tom Johnson, John Altseimer, Amelia Chamberlain.

Totals for each category – 4000 - 2; 3500 – 7; 3000 – 3; 2500 – 15; 2000 – 8.

Frank Jappel has resigned his position as Orientation Committee Chairman. Since the late 1980's he has served the Club in various positions: two years as Asst. Hikemaster, one year Hikemaster; two years as President; several years working on Trail Maintenance and heading that committee; several years as an Orientation presenter and as Chairman of that committee. Frank's many years of dedication and hard work have helped to make this Club work. He has hiked many miles with the Club, and his Suburban carried many Hikers to destinations where other drivers feared to go! Best wishes for regaining good health, Frank!

Your GVR number is used to give you hike credit. Memorize your number or have your card ready when you sign in.

YOU CANNOT SIGN IN FOR SOMEONE ELSE. Please respect this rule.

LEAVE THE SIGN-IN CLIPBOARD AT THE LEADER'S CAR. The Leader needs to see who is signing in. And that is the time to pick up bulletins, applications, and other handouts.

UNTIL YOU HAVE A RIDE OR A FULL LOAD IF DRIVING, stay close to the Leader. Report how many you have in the car, and if you can take one more "in a squeeze" stay within eye contact of the Leader.

IF YOU ARE A FIRST TIME HIKER, make a checkmark in the right hand column.

.IF YOUR GVR NUMBER HAS CHANGED:

Make a note in the right hand column.

DO YOU REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DRINKING WATER? In this dry climate where "desert" hiking is a reality are you taking a drink everytime you stop whether you are thirsty or not? Bring plenty of water – better to have some at the end of the hike than to run out.

DO NOT SWING STICKS HORIZONTALLY!

When you go on a hike the Leader is in charge to see that it is a safe and enjoyable hike. When you sign up for a particular hike you have taken a spot on the roster and you are expected to do the entire hike unless an unexpected health problem occurs.

Thursdays no cars belonging to Hikers are to be left in the paved lot when leaving to hike. Thanks for your cooperation.

Bulletins are available at major GVR centers. Identify yourself as a Hiking Club member when you ask for a copy.

Information about the Club since it began in 1981 has been compiled and stored in a space at Desert Hills Center.

Hike area information of interest to members and topo maps, many donated by Frank Jappel, are available.

Trail Tales, published twice yearly since 1991, is intended to help you feel more a part of the organization.

Lillian Monson, Editor