

**FROM PRESIDENT PHIL GRAY:**

This summer has been difficult for our Hikemaster, Ron Barry, since the fires closed summer Mt. Lemmon hikes, and during July Madera Canyon was closed. Now the roundup parking lots in Madera Canyon are closed! Nevertheless we've had a great summer season of hiking and look forward to all our hiking friends returning for an equally great fall and winter of hiking.

Recently the Dept. of Energy has been conducting hearings on their Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Tucson Electric Power request for a presidential sign-off on their proposed line expansion from Pima Road substation to Nogales. It's difficult to see how an agency can conduct an impact analysis when neither they nor the power company have any site-specific plans for the precise location of the plan. There has been no endangered species assessment and TEP has not communicated with either the Marley Ranch or Caterpillar about potential encroachment through their properties. The route would affect over 35 hikes we have in the Atascosas, Tumacacoris, and Peck's Canyon.

Several Club members presented statements at these hearings. As a representative of the Hiking Club I made a statement focused exclusively on the recreational and visual impact of the line. If you wish to participate in our efforts to derail this proposal, write the U.S. Forest Service requesting they take NO action on the TEP request. Address comments to John M. McGee, Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service, 300 W. Congress, Tucson, AS 85701.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2003 – 2004:**

President Phil Gray, Vice Pres. Jan Dalen, Secretary Mary Ellen Lesko, Treasurer Joe MacIssaac, Hikemaster Ron Barry, Asst. Hikemaster Peggy Smith, Records Lee Huey, Membership Doris Gerganoff, Social Judith LeClair, Orientation Lee Kuiken, Volunteer Service and Librarian Tom Johnson

**HIKING CLUB WEBSITE: <http://gvrhc.org>**

Information included – Bulletins, Club Policy, Membership applications, Past Leaders' Hall of Fame, etc.

A Nominating Committee will be formed to secure nominees to replace Phil Gray, Mary Ellen Lesko, and Tom Johnson who complete their terms May 1, 2004. Speak with Phil Gray concerning suggestions for the committee and nominees.

**MADERA CANYON UPDATE: from Kathy Chute**

Both the right and left parking lots at the Upper Roundup in Madera Canyon are closed for crews to work on a new one-way loop road between the two sites. This project includes repaving all roads and parking lots, repairing picnic facilities, replacing a restroom and improving trailheads. Renovation should be completed by early 2004. Hikers will still have pedestrian access to the Super Trail and Old Baldy Trail and will be able to use the Amphitheatre parking area. The Forest Service Deferred Maintenance Funds are being used to pay for improvements.

**FROM HIKEMASTER RON BARRY:**

It was another interesting summer. The Aspen fire and then the temporary closing of Madera Canyon meant our normal high elevation hikes had to be substituted by others, with frequent repeats of hikes to popular spots like Rogers Rock, Daniel's Mine, and Dutch John Spring. Despite the problems, there was a good turn out of Hikers over the summer. Now construction of the Madera Canyon Roundup parking lots and picnic areas through next February restricts our ability to make use of Baldy Trail or Super Trail hikes. Fortunately we have a good number of hikes in other areas.

**A NEW HIKE RATING SYSTEM WAS IMPLEMENTED** in July. It is intended to help Hikers judge which hikes are appropriate for them. In addition to A, B, and C classification, WITHIN each classification hikes are rated Difficult, Moderate or Easy. Trail and Road conditions are described by number from 1 through 5. Paved: 1. OK dirt: 2. HCV: 3. HCVw/4WD: 4. Jeep: 5.

Helen Zaukas and committee put in a lot of work defining the rating of the hikes. Because hike conditions change, Leaders may poll Hikers after a hike to see if its rating needs adjustment.

Our inventory of hikes continues to expand: 120 A hikes, 91 B hikes, 94 C hikes, and 9 D hikes for a total of 314 hikes over 23 mountain ranges.

Charley Delbacq and Mary Millar resigned as Leaders. Bill Cummins is a new Leader. Jim Plansky, Bob Porterfield, and Bill Snyder, new Assistants. We have 40 Hike Leaders and 12 Assistants. Phil Gray and Jan Jordan as Leaders-in-Training, and two new Assistants-in-Training, Larry Cover and Steve Mossholder, will be joining the staff in late Fall.

To help maintain our cap of 25 Hikers per hike, additional hikes will be added over the winter months.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Forms for 2004 will be available after Nov. 1 from Leaders on Thursdays and from the Website. The form and check are TO BE MAILED to the address on the form. No membership business is transacted in the parking lot. Leaders do not accept forms and checks. January 1 deadline.

Do not staple checks to Membership Forms. ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO CARRY THE MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM in the plastic holder provided by the Club. Please include tetanus shot information. Forms and holders are available from Doris Gerganoff each Thursday a.m.

Oct.31,98 -425 members, Oct.31,99 -495 members, Oct.12,00-543 members, Oct.19,01 -515 members, Oct.17,02 -485 members. Oct.14,03 -486 members.

National Forest Fees: collected for daily and annual passes. More information: visit the Forest Service Website:

[www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado)

Sign in to hike individually. Do not sign for spouse or friend. (Over)

**LIBRARY WEB SITE** – The next time you access the Hiking Club Website ([www.gvrhc.org](http://www.gvrhc.org)) notice that a new link has been added. We now have a link that will connect you to the Hiking Club's Library Website. The resource catalog is organized on a three tier basis consisting of mountain range, sub-area if applicable, and resource title. We are just getting started in developing the website, but you can currently access over thirty individual items applicable to fourteen different mountain ranges. Additional items are being added to the catalog as they are developed. If you are going on a hike and would like to know a little about the area where you are hiking, check out the Library Catalog and see if there is any information pertaining to that location. Some links will provide you with a summary of the area, and other links will connect you with other websites that have pertinent information.

It was in the Spring of 1999 when Bob Kotz chaired a committee to gather hike information and maps to be used by Leaders. Tom Johnson has been working hard on this development. Jim Perkins started developing a Website 99/00. Ron Barry expanded it and maintains it now.

Each year on Memorial Day the Hiking Club is responsible for setting up and taking down the flags displayed along LaCanada Drive. Lee Huey served as chairman and coordinator this year. Don Campbell, Mayme Clark, Gudie Cole, Bill Cummins, Jan Dalen, Gerald Davis, Jack Davis, Russel Denmark, Jim Doherty, Terry Flanigan, Barbro Laud, Nello Modesto, Bert Mueller, Jim Plansky, Ramon Quinones, All Ross, Bill Snyder and John Walker assisted Lee.

Beyond hiking adventures on trails, members of the GV Hiking Club delight in an active social calendar of good food and entertaining programs shared with hiking friends.

In August 2003 those in town had the opportunity to enjoy a "keep it simple" potluck dinner that was coordinated by Kathy Chute, Ann Derr, and Helen Zaukas. With the assistance of a willing cast of summer volunteers, 87 enjoyed a delicious meal of appetizers, salads, and desserts at Canoa Rec Center.

Potlucks this season will be Nov. 2, February 1, and April 4. This Autumn's potluck has a Harvest theme. Participants will enjoy a special program from Friends of Madera Canyon. Potlucks are for Paid members and spouses (and SO's). Any guest must live 20 miles out of Green Valley. (GVR rule.) Sign up sheets have members names and GVR numbers listed. Hikers who volunteer on the Membership forms are the source for Potluck Teams. Additional volunteers are needed for Winter and Spring – if you want to help, please contact Judith LeClair, Social Chairperson.

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE:** The Hiking Club has been involved in taking care of the Nature Trail since almost the beginning of the Club in 1981. In coordination with and a contract with the Forest Service, Members worked hard, putting in many hours of labor, developing the hardtop surfaces. Club equipment makes it easier to control growth over the trails. Many hikers have signed up to volunteer for Trail Maintenance. **WILL ONE OF YOU** coordinate the project? Information is available from past years to help you get going! Contact Phil Gray or Tom Johnson.

Lillian Monson, Editor

**ORIENTATION** – Anyone interested in joining the Club must attend an informational meeting. Six volunteers and two subs give the orientation, which for the next few months will be every Monday, 8 a.m., East Center. Two free hikes are allowed so people may determine if it is a suitable activity for them. After doing the two free hikes, **NEW** members joining the Club for the first time after November 1 pay dues good through 2004. A third hike before November 1 cancels that "perk."

**HIKE DEPARTURE:** Nov/February - 8a.m. March 7:30a.m.

**IN CASE YOU WONDER:** Driver donations: 6 cents per mile. \$2.00 surcharge for road conditions listed 3, 4, or 5. Unless there is a reason please take your turn driving.

**A FEW DO'S AND DON'TS:**

- Do feel free to volunteer within the Club!
- Don't swing your sticks, someone may get struck down!
- Do stay six feet between hikers on a single file trail.
- Don't forget to drink water often.

**CLOTHING LOGOS:** Discount Embroidery, 3504 E. Grant.

**CLUB T SHIRTS:** Creative Coyote Shop, Tubac

The Treasury is in good shape. As the Club grows so grows the amount of money required. Some of the expenses include printing, patches, computer expenses, programs, potluck expenses, donations (as Southern AZ Rescue Association), first aid supplies. Think of where costs would be without all of our qualified volunteers!

From Oct. 2, 2002 through September, 2003, a total of 153 patches were awarded. 65 – 50 mile patches, 36 – 250 mile, 27 – 500 mile, 10 – 1000 mile, 10 – 1500 mile.

Five receiving 2000 mile patches were Bob Kotz, Shelton Howland, Doris Gerganoff, Ken Fleshman, and Florence Gado.

Four receiving 2500 mile patches were Anna Gebhardt, Marie Gabbert, Lee Hartz, and Ted Haarts

Two receiving 3000 mile were Jim Moore and Mert Urness

Two receiving 3500 mile were Helen Zaukas and Tracy Akerman.

One receiving 4000 mile patch – Margaret Bieber

One receiving 4500 mile patch – Andy Juhasz

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

In 2004 the first 5000 mile patch should be awarded---WOW!

At the last Board Meeting it was agreed to cooperate with Friends of Madera Canyon in producing a map of hiking trails in the Canyon.

**STATISTICS:** The number of hikers over the past few years:  
1997/98 – 4750      1998/99 - 5662      1999/00 – 5893  
2000/01 – 5545      2001/02 – 5255      2002/03 – 5437

**IF YOU HAVE A CHANGED GVR NUMBER, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL, OR NAME:** This is what you do. Notify in writing: GVR Hiking Club Membership Chairman, P.O.Box 1074, Green Valley, AZ 85622. This information must be kept current.

Godspeed and Good Luck to Amelia and Ace Chamberlain in their move to Johnson City, TN. We will miss you.