



# TRAIL TALES

HIKING CLUB

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

FALL 2012

## President's Message . . .

With fall comes an increase in the number of hikers and an increase in the number of hikes offered to accommodate the demand as the snowbirds return for the winter. I would like to welcome back our old hikers and extend a particularly warm welcome to those new to the club.

The club executive changed in the spring, but has been relatively dormant over the summer. The exception, of course, is our hikemaster, Frank Surpless, and his assistant, Larry Boehms, who have continued to organize hikes.

When I say "new" executive, I should note that two thirds stay on from last year; except for the hikemaster and assistant, executive members serve for three years. Three of the nine elected positions change annually. And last year, Larry Grove kindly offered to stay on for a second term as treasurer. Our new executive, then, has but two new faces: Sue Kazmier, who took on Orientation, and Susan Beck-Brown, who became vice president.

My thanks for a job well done to retiring board members Don Gfroerer, who had been responsible for Orientation, and Karen Chadwell, who had been vice president, president and volunteer coordinator in her three years on the executive. Thanks also to Jim Riley, my predecessor as president and now the volunteer coordinator. I appreciate the time and effort they put in so the club could function so smoothly.

The new executive is making a few changes to build on what our predecessors did to improve the hiking experience.

The first you may have already noticed – our weekly hike schedule now displays the amount of the suggested donation to drivers for fuel. No longer will it be a surprise, learned only when we sign up. Now we will know how much money to bring each Thursday morning, meaning no excuses for not having the right change. Also, based on a number of comments, we have eliminated the need to bring 50 cents by rounding all suggested donation amounts to the nearest dollar.

Also in the works is a club photo site where members can download pictures taken on a hike. Dennis Ernst has



Summer hikers enjoy the trail to Bellows Spring

## Club Calendar

### Board Meetings – *Members welcome!*

December 4, January 15, April 2

East Center Lounge, 6:30 p.m.

### Annual Meeting

March 27

Desert Hills Social Center, 8:00 a.m.

### Hike Leader Meetings

November 20, January 22, April 23

East Center Lounge, 6:30 p.m.

### Potlucks

November 4, February 10, April 7

West Center, 5:00 p.m.

offered to organize it. While it will take him some time to set everything up, once it is functioning, those who take photos on our hikes will be able to display their best pictures on the site while the rest of us will have access to them.

Our stats show that a relatively high proportion of people who attend our orientation sessions never take a first hike. In 2011, for example, of 131 potential hikers who attended orientation, just 84, or 64 percent, followed up and hiked with us. Why this discrepancy? Orientation chair Sue Kazmier will be looking at the reasons for this and means to change the stats for the better.

Tom Johnson is our librarian. He manages the online library, writing the articles and keeping them up to date, a valuable resource I'm sure many of us access regularly. He also has a small lending library with books related to hiking and to our area. While these books are available to borrow, members haven't been taking many out. Tom will bring some books to the potlucks and the annual meeting so we can browse through his selection and borrow those that strike our fancy.

GPS courses have proven to be popular in the past, and we hope to run them again this winter.

Finally, Cathy Hufault, who wrote the book *Death Clouds on Mt Baldy* about the 1958 tragedy that claimed the lives of three Boy Scouts in Madera Canyon and is the sister of one of the three surviving scouts, has asked the club to support a more formal recognition of the Boy Scout memorial at Josephine Saddle, an area we all know well. Many of us have heard Cathy speak, and the executive was pleased to send a letter in support of her request.

I am convinced that that the Green Valley Hiking Club offers a fine "product" to all of us who enjoy hiking, and those of us on the executive will continue to maintain and improve that product as time goes on.

Happy hiking.

*David Colpitts, President*



**FROM THE HIKEMASTER...**



The Green Valley Hiking Club continues to expand the horizons of newcomer and veteran hikers alike. Our hike leaders not only work hard to devise variations on so many of our older hikes, but also come up with brand new hikes which should interest and challenge our members of all ability levels.

Just the past year has seen new hikes appearing from the upper reaches of the Catalina Mountains to portions of the Tucson, Huachuca, and Pajaritos ranges, with a number of hikes focusing for the first time on the Tortolitas. Thus our returning snowbirds have much to look forward to.

The development of new hikes is an ongoing process. From its beginnings in the early 1980s, the club's hiking roster has grown to over 420 hikes. And it continues, with some leaders making as many as five or six scouting expeditions to make sure that a potential new hike meets the club's standards of "safe and enjoyable" (and scenic) hiking.

This summer proved to be a welcome contrast to the wildfires of the summer of 2011. Still, the extreme heat this summer, not to mention the threat of rain in a few instances, did affect our hiking numbers somewhat. As per the usual summer practice, early departures and hiking in the upper elevations helped to diminish our hikers' discomfort levels.

For this hiking season, I look forward to working with our hike leaders, our sweeps, and most importantly our hiking club members as we all venture out to experience some of the most spectacular trails in the entire Southwest.

*Frank Surpless, Hikemaster*

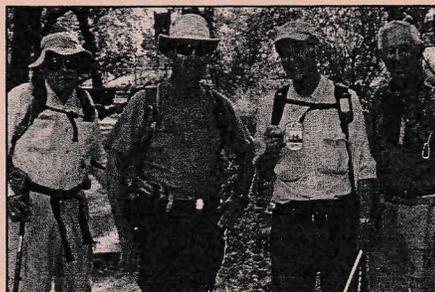
**Club Members Join National Trails Day Celebration**

Eighteen Hiking Club members were among thousands commemorating the American Hiking Society's 20<sup>th</sup> annual National Trails Day on Saturday, June 2.



Since 1993, NTD enthusiasts have celebrated America's magnificent trail system by participating in hikes, bike rides, trail maintenance projects, paddling events, trail dedications, and more. According to the AHS's final report, this year's celebration was the largest to date, with nearly 2,200 trail-related activities celebrated in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Canada, bringing an estimated 157,000 people outside on trails.

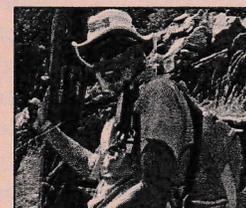
The club's NTD hike on the Madera Canyon Trail was especially memorable for hikemaster Frank Surpless, who received his 2,000-mile patch from former hikemaster George Chute.



Frank accepts his patch from George as former hikemasters Ken Fleshman and Larry Boehms look on

**Meet Our New President**

Unless you're an "A" hiker or have been lucky enough to be on a hike he's led or to enjoy his one of his potluck presentations, you may not know our new president, David Colpitts. Here's a little bit about him, in his own words.



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I have been a member of the club since 2003, a hike leader since 2010 and on the executive since 2011.

I live in Canmore Alberta in the Canadian Rockies, and come to Green Valley in winter. Prior to retiring and moving to Alberta, I had lived in the Northwest Territories (NWT) for 18 years. My first career was with the Canadian army, but when I was transferred to the north, my wife Wendy and I found we liked it. I left the army and joined the government of the NWT where I held senior policy and planning positions.

I remain active with a broad range of interests and activities. In addition to hiking, I immerse myself in many of Green Valley's activities, do some writing, play harmonica (sort of) and am active in Scottish country dancing. In summer, I canoe and back pack in the Canadian Rockies.

I am also interested in travel, namely soft adventure (or is it tough tourism?). My trip this past summer was a tour to central Asia and part of the Silk Road, namely Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Should you hike with me this winter, by all means ask about my latest trip – just don't ask me to spell any of the spell-check challenging "Stans."



**IN REMEMBRANCE**  
 Carolyn Bird  
 Tommy Thompson



### Memorial Day Flag Project

You have probably noticed that on certain holidays in Green Valley, approximately 100 American flags are displayed along LaCanada between Continental Road and



Esperanza. What you may not know is that these flags are all put up and taken down by volunteers and that the Hiking Club has performed this service on Memorial Day for many years.

Pictured are this year's flag crew: Dick Huey, Valerie Robinson, and Doug Wood (Richard Shimanek is behind the camera). Please consider joining this group next year. Your membership form provides many options for you to help the club and provide community service.

### Treasurer's Report

In April we switched our financial accounts from Bank of America to M&I Bank, which has no service charges. Our checking account at Bank of America was closed out the middle of May and our CD was cashed in in August. As of August 31, 2012, our checking account balance at M&I is \$6,952.65, which includes \$5,523.43 from our cashed-in CD. Since current CDs and savings accounts are only paying a fraction of a percent in interest, I've decided that it's not worth tying up our excess cash, so I've left it in the checking account for now. At our first Board meeting in the fall, we'll discuss investment alternatives.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Larry Grove, Treasurer*

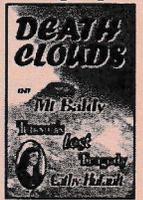


Sometimes we're lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the elusive creatures that share our trails . . .

### Social News

Lauren Bailey from the Public Affairs Office of the Border Patrol and her supervisor, Leslie Lawson, Nogales Station Patrol Agent in Charge, will speak at the November 4 potluck. My thanks go to David Colpitts, Frank Surpress, Larry Boehms, Jim Riley, and Dan Schroder for arranging them to speak.

Cathy Hufault and Ralph Coltrin, Jr. are the speakers for the February 10, 2013, potluck. Ralph is one of the survivors of the Boy Scout tragedy, and Cathy is his sister and author of the recounting of the event, *Death Clouds on Mt. Baldy*.



The Leaders' Breakfast is set for January 7, 2013 at East Center.

The food banks of GV and Amado deeply appreciate the food and money donations given at the potlucks.

I am especially appreciative of the wonderful and generous volunteers at the potlucks.

*Rose Marie Lemke, Social Chair*

### Awards

Awards Chair Bev Rosenthal reports that since March 15, 2012, the club has presented patches representing more than 16,150 miles. Especially notable are the following:

- Phil Gray - 3,000
- Frank Surpress - 2,000
- Lee Huey - 3,500
- Wayne Moshier - 3,500
- Tom Johnson - 4,000

Congratulations to all the awardees!



Special congratulations to Dick Paige, who received his Emeritus Leader patch at the Leaders' meeting on April 24. Dick, who served as hikemaster from 2002-2003, is shown here accepting his patch from Dan Schroeder, outgoing hikemaster.

### Sample Our Lending Library

The Hiking Club Library has a variety of books and materials that are available for checkout by club members. In an effort to make everyone more aware of what is available, I will bring a representative sampling of the resource material to the next three potlucks. Stop by the Lending Library checkout table and see if we have anything that you would like to peruse.

*Tom Johnson, Librarian*



## A Tale of Two Birthdays

We are pleased to share these stories of two remarkable former members of our club who celebrated milestone birthdays this summer.

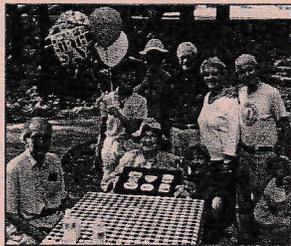
### Olive Walker's 101<sup>st</sup>

as told by Valerie Robinson, who works as an LPN at LaPosada, where she helps care for Olive

I was hiking with Bill Hill on June 21. I casually mentioned how much I wished I could get Olive up to Madera but due to liability reasons as an employee of LaPosada, I was not allowed to drive her. Bill immediately offered to pick her up and drive her.

The following day, I received permission from my administrator who in turn advised Olive's son who was also thrilled at the prospect.

The news of celebration spread like wildfire. Helen Zaukas sent me a couple of stories about Olive's hiking days and how she used to walk everywhere in Green Valley. Helen then contacted George Chute who checked the roster and confirmed to me that Olive received her 2,500 mile patch at 86 yrs. old in 1998. He also sent me the date of April 27, 2000 as Olive's last hike with the club ..... 88 yrs. old!



I wanted to present Olive with some kind of special patch and Bev Rosenthal suggested a HIKER EMERITUS patch and she was able to get this wonderful gift completed in less than a week! I also asked Bev if I could have a duplicate of every patch Olive ever received. She obliged. I framed all of the patches and that is what we gave to Olive. It's hanging up in her room right now and she loves it!

As you can see by the pics, it was a great day. Those attending were Winnie and Don Kruper, Jim Campbell, Tracy Ackerman, Bill Hill, Joanie Rogucki, Valerie Robinson, and Byron Walker (her son) from California. Thank you not just to those that attended, but also to Helen, Bev, George, and my administrator, Steve Kolnacki.

May I also say that we have other GV Hikers on my Unit that I care for. The one thing each of them talks about the most are their fond memories of hiking with the club. The joys and pleasures and challenges of the hikes are deeply imprinted inside of them. When we were pushing Olive on the Proctor Trail and she saw and recognized Elephant Head, she said, "Now that was a tough one."



### Lillian Monson's 90<sup>th</sup>

by Pam and Larry Boehms



Congratulations to Lillian Monson, who turned 90 in August. Lillian celebrated this milestone birthday at several parties with friends and family in attendance. Lillian is a former hike leader with a list of hiking accomplishments as well as many contributions to the

Green Valley Hiking Club.

*Did you know . . .*

- Lillian was club treasurer, the first historian, assistant hike master, hike leader and developed the first club orientation sessions. Lillian also created the original hike club newsletter.
- She designed the 1,000 mile patch as well as the other large patches. Did you notice that the 1,000 mile patch has one hiker, 2,000 mile patch, two hikers, 3,000 mile patch, three hikers, etc.? Designs and ideas, all Lillian's!!
- Lillian was the first hiker to receive both the 5,000 and 5,500 mile patch. Only six club members have earned a 5,000 mile patch to date and Lillian is one of two members who have earned a 5,500 mile patch.

As a dedicated hike leader, Lillian earned the reputation of the "Energizer battery bunny in the red hat."

Her sense of direction, good humor, knowledge of the trails and sincere desire to improve the club have been appreciated by many. A story retold many times featured a new hiker who thought he was signed up for a "walk in the park" when he participated in one of Lillian's hikes. He returned from the hike winded and exhausted, admitting that the "little lady in the red hat" had set quite a challenging pace.

Congratulations to Lillian Monson, 90 years young!!!!  
(Thank you Helen Zaukas and Kaye Gray for the information in this article.)



### Odds + Ends

- The club is still in need of a new historian. If interested, please contact Pam Boehms.
- If you have story ideas, photos, or suggestions for future issues of *Trail Tales*, please send them to Katherine Carlson, editor, at [carlson.katherine@gmail.com](mailto:carlson.katherine@gmail.com).
- Special thanks to the following members who sent me news over the summer: Pam and Larry Boehms, Karen Chadwell, Kathy Chute, Kaye Gray, Valerie Robinson, Dan Schroeder, and Richard Shimanek. Thanks also to Larry Grove, Bill Hill, Bob Porterfield, Richard Shimanek, Chuck Willard, and the Boehms for their photos.