

President's Message



It's a privilege to serve as your president this year and to give back a little to a club that's given me so much: an extraordinary variety of glorious places to hike and wonderful friends to hike with.

The Green Valley Hiking Club is a well-oiled machine run by its many talented volunteers. Each president merely tweaks the gears a bit, hoping to improve it slightly. This year my vice president, Anita Woodward, and I are leaning in an environmental direction, hoping to reduce paper consumption, promote "Leave No Trace" principles (leave only footprints when hiking), and strengthen ties with Friends of Madera Canyon and the Forest Service.

We're also hoping to increase awareness of the accessibility of your Board of Directors. The board members' contact information is listed on the club's website: <http://www.gvrhc.org>. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact one of us. The board's meeting schedule appears in the club calendar below and on the website. Board meetings are open to all members and you are welcome to attend.

Finally, we're continuing the good work David Colpitts started last year in developing a club photo site and hope to have more to report on that soon.

See you on the trails.
Susan Beck-Brown, President

More About Susan

I took my first hike with the GVHC in December of 2006. I led my first hike in December of 2011 and joined the Board of Directors in 2012.

I hiked a bit of the C&O Canal towpath in Washington D.C. and MD in my college days, but didn't start serious hiking until a few years later trying to backpack short stretches of the Appalachian Trail on weekends while I was teaching elementary school. My summers were partly spent in New England on the Appalachian and Green Mountain Trails (and yes, I whined about the bugs and the weather then, too!). Marrying into a family with two small children put my hiking on hold for many years. In my 40s, I hiked a bit with the Maryland Mountain Club when my job as an information specialist in the public libraries allowed.

Moving to Durango, CO in 2000 and only working part-time at Durango Mountain Resort afforded me lots more time for hiking. I started leading hikes for Seniors Outdoors in 2001 and still love sharing my favorite places in the San Juan Mountains with hikers every summer.

Born and raised in Baltimore City, MD, I'm a city girl who doesn't like cities! I'm an avid reader and belong to three book groups. If you frequent the GV library on Friday mornings, you may bump into me as I try to make sure that you "find everything you're looking for"!



Summer hikers take a break on Carr Peak overlooking Sierra Vista

From the Hike Master. . .

May through September has seen good weather, no local fires, and safe and enjoyable hiking. I would like to thank the leaders and assistant leaders for making this possible.

The Hike Selection Committee has met twice to select hikes through December. Members of the Hike Selection Committee include: Wayne Moshier, Patsy Sills, Dan Schroeder, Helen Zaukas, Bill Hill, and myself. The Committee will be meeting in October to select hikes for January and February.



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Two new assistant leaders (aka "sweeps") were trained in May. We welcome Kathy Davisson and Ron Gogas. The Hiking Club Board approved a new "Assistant Leader Patch" that will be given to all assistant leaders. Also two new leaders will be in training in October; Terry Ferguson and Sue Kazmier. We would like to thank them in advance for making the commitment to be a hike leader for our club.

Over the summer I received retirement notes from two leaders, Tom Johnson and George Jones, and one assistant leader, Anna Jones. We thank them for their service to the club and they will be recognized at our Leaders Breakfast in January.

It is the time of year to check the dates of your State Land Permits. Many of our hikes require these permits. The forms can be downloaded from the club's web page (www.gvrhc.org) or are available from Hike Leaders on Thursdays.

Also, please check the hike bulletin on the club's web page weekly. Updates are posted on a regular basis (usually in red) regarding changes in hikes, departure times, and leaders. Please be in the parking lot at least 30 minutes before your hike is scheduled to leave. This is very important to leaders in the process of assigning cars and informing drivers of directions to the trailhead.

Finally, a special thanks to Bill Hill, our Assistant Hike Master, for his knowledge and support this summer.

--Larry Boehms, Hike Master

Some interesting stats from our 2013 Annual Meeting:

- Average number of hikers per hike during peak season: 14.8
- Individual hikes taken over the past year: 4,595
- Hikes in the club's repertoire: 451

Map, GPS, and Terrain Navigator Courses



The hiking club will be conducting courses on topographical map reading, using a hand-held GPS, and using the computer-based map program *Terrain Navigator*. The courses will begin in January and run over a period of six weeks with both classroom and field sessions.

The courses will initially be restricted to hike leaders and assistant leaders, who are expected to take up most of the available places. The decision on whether to run the courses again will depend on interest and on the availability of instructors and classroom space. If you are interested in possible future training, please contact Bill Hill at bill.last.hill@gmail.com or 300-5919.

--David Colpitts

Club Calendar 2013-2014

Board Meetings – *Members welcome!*

October 15, December 3, January 14, April 1

East Center Lounge, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting

March 11

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

Hike Leader Meetings

October 22, December 10, January 21, March 25

East Center Lounge, 6:30 p.m.

Potlucks

November 3, February 9, April 6

Memorial Day Flag Project

Our Memorial Day Flag Project was once again a big success. Thanks to all of the volunteers who came out to help with this community project.



The volunteers from the hiking club included Bert & Inge Mueller, Carl Bowman, Joe MacIsaac, Barb Schild, Larry Boehms, Gerry Kontz, Lee Huey, Bev Rosenthal, Judith LeClair, Carol Lagden, and Lynn & Jim Chisholm. We were also assisted by Ray and Kay Robinson from the Green Valley Community Council. Volunteers loaded 95 flags, placed them in their appropriate holders in the morning, removed them in the evening, and reloaded them in their storage area at Fire Station #152.

--Jim Chisholm, Trail Maintenance Chair

Membership Update

Sandra Rooney, Membership Chair, reports that as of September 14, we have a membership of 460, 98 of whom are new to the club this year.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Vicki Mattox
Ed Zaukas





Treasurer's Report

As of August 31, 2013 the club had a balance of \$6,571.80. For the year to date we had income of \$2,940 and expenses of \$4,628.68. Major expenses were: Patches, \$1,232.89; Leaders Breakfast & Pot Lucks, \$972.07; Donations to other hiking-related organizations, \$800; and Printing & Copying, \$803.50. As we go into the fall and winter, income from dues for 2014 begin and expenses should be lower. Additional details regarding the club's finances can be obtained from Larry Grove, Treasurer, at LGroveAZ@Cox.net or by phone at (520) 625-3053.

--Larry Grove, Treasurer

Awards

Awards Chair Mary Bashore reports the following major patches presented since April:



Presenting his 3,000-mile patch, LaVern reminds Dan that she got hers first!

LaVern Schroeder - 3,000
Inge Mueller - 2,500
Dan Schroeder - 3,000
Joe MacIsaac - 2,000
Bert Mueller - 3,000

Congratulations to all members who have earned patches!

Social News

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 3, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. for the first potluck of the 2013/14 hiking season. We'll be hosting this event at the West Center. You will be able to indicate your attendance and specify the food item (for ten, please) you are bringing by signing up in the parking lot at West Center prior to hiking on the following Thursdays: October 17, 24 and 31.

Our guest speaker for the fall potluck is Jeff Babson who teaches classes frequently for GVR. He'll educate us about the various raptors we'll find during autumn hiking season in southern Arizona.



Please consider volunteering to help with the potluck. We have all kinds of opportunities available for you to assist: everything from pre-potluck set-up to helping in the kitchen, at the sign-up table or with clean-up. Volunteering to help at a hike club potluck is a good way to get to know people and give back to an organization we all enjoy so much!!

We will be collecting non-perishable food items and checks for the food bank. After a long summer with fewer donations, the food bank is in dire need of our assistance. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Questions???? Please call Pam Boehms (829-7270) or Kathy Davisson (777-3738).

--Pam Boehms, Social Chair

Friends of Madera Canyon Has Much to Offer

By Susan Beck-Brown

The trail map or informational brochure you pick up while in Madera Canyon has been placed there by the "Friends of Madera Canyon." Just what is FOMC?

FOMC was formed in 1987 when local residents and businesses came together in response to an appeal by the U.S. Forest Service for volunteers to help preserve and protect Madera Canyon. Affiliated with the U.S. Forest Service, FOMC is a non-profit volunteer organization that provides informational brochures, clean-up crews, research and education programs for adults and school children, maintenance of trails for the handicapped, trail and nature signs, and financing for the building of many of the facilities throughout the canyon.

Visit FOMC's lovely and informative website at <http://www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org/> for a history of Madera Canyon, anecdotes about local flora and fauna, fantastic photos, an online store that offers great books about Madera Canyon, and a schedule of upcoming events, including the following:

- Most Thursday mornings, Doug Moore, FOMC's education director, leads nature walks with 4th graders along the Proctor Nature Loop. Doug will also be lecturing on the "Nature of Madera Canyon" at OLLI classes this fall.
- FOMC's "Nature Series" will be offered at the Community Performance and Art Center (CPAC) at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

December 5 - Nature of Madera Canyon

February 13 - Flowers of Madera Canyon

April 3 - Birds of Madera Canyon

Tickets (\$5) will be available at the Chamber of Commerce one month prior to each event.

- Look for FOMC's "Music in the Canyon" series this spring. Volunteers from our hiking club will be the major organizers of the music program this year.

You, too, may volunteer with FOMC, or just become a member to support this worthy organization that helps keep one of our favorite hiking areas pristine and vibrant.



Hikers learn how a bridge over Madera Creek was installed

A note from the editor:

On behalf of the club, THANK YOU to Jim and Anita Woodward, Tom Johnson, and Larry Boehms for contributing stories and photos of the club's activities and local "Great Hikes" to the *Green Valley News* over the summer.

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. Special thanks to Jim Chisholm, Richard Shimanek, Anita Woodward, Bill and Nan Jessberger, and Bill Hill for sending photos for this issue.

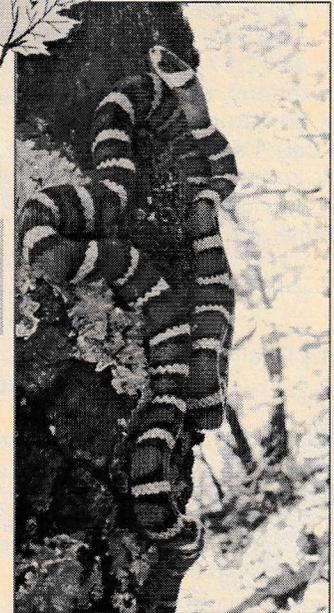


On the Trail . . .

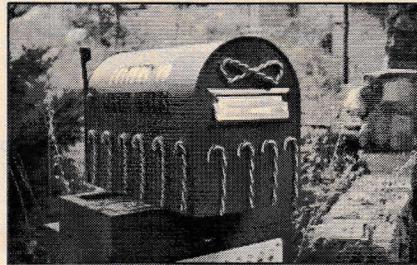
You never know who (or what) you're going to run into on the trail!



This Summerhaven resident and her donkey, "Jasmine," were out for a stroll on the Aspen Draw trail and stopped to pose for a picture with Kathy Chute and Betty Johnson.



Richard Shimanek spotted this King Snake on the trail coming down from Josephine Saddle.



It's never too early to mail those letters to Santa! This box is conveniently located on the Summerhaven Loop trail.

"Red touches yellow, you're a dead fellow; red touches black, you're all right, Jack."

Tom Johnson's many contributions to the Green Valley Hiking Club were recognized in an article by Kevin Duke in the *Green Valley News* on August 27.



Tom in the Dragoon Foothills

The article cited Tom's many achievements with the club: He "established a permanent place for the club's library and in 2002 was appointed as club librarian; he's written around 60 hike descriptions used by hike leaders on club hikes; he's participated in 594 club hikes, been the hike leader for over 200 of them and developed 34 new hikes for the club; he was named an assistant hike leader in 1997 and a hike leader

in 1998, and served on the Hiking Club Board of Directors and as Volunteer Services Chairman; he received his 4,000 mile patch last year."

The article also highlighted Tom's interest in local history and the nearly 100 articles (or links to articles) he's written, all of which are posted on the club's website.

Tom led his last hike with the club on September 5, but plans to keep hiking twice a week and maintaining the club's library. Whether leading or not, he continues to inform and inspire us.

--Katherine Carlson

This September photograph shows a group of Green Valley Hiking Club members venturing far from familiar southern Arizona territory to explore the scenic mountain ranges near the Purgatory ski area just north of Durango, Colorado. Hostess Susan Beck-Brown set up the lodging for the group, with Janet Gerdes organizing the logistics for travel and meals. Participants came from Montana and Wisconsin, as well as Green Valley. Just goes to show that the ties that bind together so many of our club's members can lead to exciting and meaningful experiences in far-flung locations.

--Frank Surpless



(left to right): Valerie Robinson, Ken Fleshman, Susan Beck-Brown, Bill Hill, Sue Kazmier, Frank Surpless, Wayne Moshier, Janet Gerdes (Elaine Spindler not shown, hadn't yet arrived)