

President's Message

What a great summer we had, rain-wise! We had enough moisture that everything was green. As our Hike Master Bill Hill said one day as we looked across the Santa Ritas from the Nature Trail, "It looks a lot like Switzerland." There were flowers in abundance too. It is always amazing to realize how diverse our "desert" really is. If you were away for the summer but would like to get a taste of what the summer residents experience, visit the club's online photo gallery or ask to see our pictures. Most of us took a lot.

And now fall has arrived, and with it, more and more of our hikers are returning. We are happy to welcome you back! As always, a variety of great hikes are planned. Maybe you will choose one you have never done before, in a mountain range you haven't seen before. We are so lucky to have so many choices!

While many of us were gone our Social Committee chairs Pam Boehms and Kathy Davisson have been busy planning our potlucks. If you haven't ever gone I encourage you to sign up and try one. The speakers are interesting, the fellowship is always fun, and it's great to see how we all look in something other than our hiking clothes! Our first potluck of the season is Sunday, November 2. Our social hour begins at 5:00, with dinner at 6:00. 

We are very fortunate to have so many volunteers who give so much to the club. Among those volunteers are the board members. All board meetings are open to members, and I encourage you to come and hear about all that is going on. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, December 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the East Center.

As always, enjoy your hikes and stay safe.

--Anita Woodward, President 

Anita and her husband, Jim, started hiking after buying their home in Green Valley in 2005 and joined the club several years later. She thoroughly enjoys hiking and the wonderful people in our club and is happy to help out in her role on the board and as an assistant leader.



Have you visited our photo gallery recently?

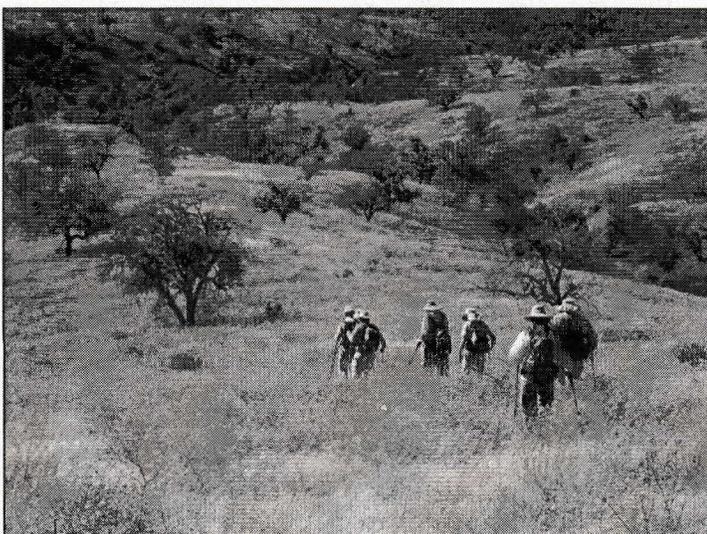
The Hiking Club's photo gallery is at <http://greenvalleyhikingclub.tumblr.com>. This summer many snowbirds enjoyed looking at photos of the hikes they missed. Members new to the club will see our great hikes. All members are encouraged to post their photos to the gallery site by email. The address is: 4er5k7bm4nxke at tumblr.com. (Each photo should be smaller than two Mb and in jpg format.) You can also go to the club's website at gvrhc.org and click on one of the links under *Photo Gallery* to view or upload photos.

Visit the site often to see your fellow members on the trails!

--Stephen Herron

How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days.

--John Burroughs 



Hikers are swamped by flowers on the Sycamore Canyon Upper Hike Oct. 16. Photo by Frank Surpless from the gallery.



From the Hike Master



We had a hike with Regina Ford (*GV News*) in August. She wanted to do a story on hiking. Ron Barry led the hike to Josephine Saddle. Regina stopped at Sprung Spring to put on her special "bear deterrent" jewelry (see photo). There were 15 people on this hike. She followed up with a huge story with a Front Page photo!

Jean Ross fell and broke her ankle on the Pipeline Trail in May. The Green Valley Fire Department came up the trail to bring Jean down to the ambulance at Roundup.

We've had a great monsoon. It's been so good that the fire danger has been LOW in Madera Canyon. And Patsy Sills had a streak going – for getting rained on while hiking. I think it was eight hikes in a row. So if you want to see rain – hike with Patsy!

Sue Kazmier came across a bear while scouting one of her hikes. She was with Helen Zaukas and Bob Porterfield. It was where the Fern Trail ends and the Pipeline Trail begins. The bear walked across Kent Spring Road. It was so sudden that Helen completely forgot about her bear spray. The following Thursday as Sue was leading the hike down the Fern Trail, she almost stepped on a Mohave Rattler. That got everybody's adrenaline going.

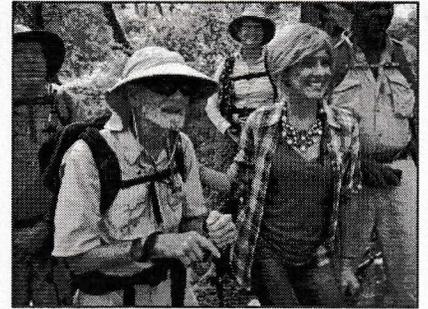


In September, we had a Thursday where it was raining at the West Center. We decided to go to Helen's Waterfall. Starting out in ponchos (seven of us) – Helen said, no snacks, no lunch, no splits – we'll just go see the falls and come back. The next week we decided to add the hike to the schedule, so everyone would have the opportunity to see the falls in their splendor. Duane Dotson showed up in mask and snorkel.

You'll see some new "sweeps" on the trail. Joanie Rogucki completed her assistant hike leader training in May, and Bill Willmering is currently in training.

In May, we had 201 hikers, July – 143, August – 130 and September – 133.

-Bill Hill, Hike Master



Treasurer's Report

As of September 30, 2014 the club had a balance of \$6,291. For the year to date we had income of \$2,095 and expenses of \$4,301. Major expenses were: Leaders' Breakfast & Members' Pot Lucks, \$1,132; Donations to Other Hiking-related Organizations, \$800; Printing & Copying, \$764; Rental of Storage Facility, \$445; Awards & Patches, \$358; and First Aid Supplies, \$242. As we go into the fall and winter, income from dues for 2015, the bulk of which are collected in the last quarter of the year, begin and expenses are usually 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.

Membership Update

Sandra Rooney, Membership Chair, reports that as of October 14, the club had 473 members, 93 of whom are new. These numbers are consistent with the last several years. The 2015 application form will be available on the club website, www.gvrhc.org, after November 1. Memberships renewed during November and December will be good through 2015. Renew before January 1 and you'll be ready to hike on New Year's Day.

News from Volunteer Services

The club once again participated in the annual Memorial Day flag project under the leadership of our new Volunteer Services Chair, Jim Palazzolo.

Many thanks to the 2014 flag team: Lynn & Jim Chisholm,



Lee Huey, Ken Sink, Jim Riley, Richard Shimanek, Bev Rosenthal, Carl Bowman, Barb Schild, Judith LeClair, Anita and Jim Woodward, and Jim Palazzolo. If you are interested in volunteering for this project in 2015, please contact Jim at 393-1720.

Volunteer opportunities for trail maintenance projects will be included in the monthly hike bulletins in March, April and May 2015. Work teams will be developed and everyone who volunteers is guaranteed an assignment!

Bylaws to be Reviewed

A committee has been established to review the club's bylaws. Committee members are Larry Boehms, Karen Chadwell, Jim Chervenka (chair), Phil Gray, and Judith LeClair. Because it has been more than six years since the bylaws were last reviewed, the committee was chartered to determine whether any changes are appropriate. Any recommended changes will be submitted to a vote of the membership, most likely at the 2015 annual meeting on March 10.



Social News

Welcome back to the 2014/2015 hiking season. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 2, 2014 for the first potluck of the season. We'll be hosting this event at West Center beginning at 5:00 p.m. Summit Hut is sponsoring our speaker. The content will include an overview of old and new hiking trails, as well as a demonstrations and pointers on selecting hiking equipment to be comfortable and safe on the trail.

Please consider volunteering to help with the potluck. We have all kinds of opportunities available. Volunteering to help at a potluck is a good way to get to know people and a way to give back to an organization we all enjoy so much. And it's a ONE night commitment!!

We will be collecting non-perishable items and checks for the food bank. It's a good time to donate and fill the shelves for hungry neighbors. Please consider helping. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

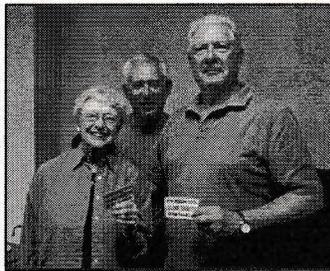
Questions??? Please call Pam Boehms (829-7270) or Kathy Davisson (777-3738).

We're looking forward to seeing you!!

Awards

The following major awards have been presented since our last issue in April:

Lee Huey – 4,000 miles
Wayne Moshier – 4,000 miles
Bob Porterfield – 2,500 miles
Jim Palazzolo – 2,000 miles
Bill Cummins – 3,000 miles



Congratulations to these hikers on their achievements and to all who have earned patches. Congratulations and thanks also to recently retired leaders LaVern Schroeder and Phil Gray, shown here receiving their Hike Leader Emeritus patches from Larry Boehms.

These Boots Were Made For Hiking

How many miles is a lot? Well, among current 2014 Hiking Club members we have one person who has reached 6,500 miles, one who has reached 5,000 miles, three who have reached 4,000 miles, two who have reached 3,500 miles, and six who have reached 3,000 miles!

Here are the 25 all-time mileage leaders in the 30 plus years of the Hiking Club as of September 2014:

Helen Zaukas 6,692 Lillian Monson 5,782* Jim Campbell 5,376 Tracy Ackerman 5,075* Margaret Bieber 5,054* Andy Juhasz 5,005* Winnie Kruper 4,823* Helen Berbick 4,753* Freddie Carter 4,578* Bob Lund 4,501* Tom Johnson 4,438 Ted Haartz 4,228* Jim Moore 4,179* Lee Haartz 4,144* Wayne Moshier 4,116 Lee Huey 4,095 Wally Morrell 4,053* Mag Turner 3,878* George Chute 3,864 Marion Kole 3,773* Ken Fleshman 3,738 Svend Kristensen 3,640* Milt Foster 3,598* Phil Gray 3,444 Kathy Chute 3,416
*no longer hiking with the club

How do they do that?

It's Thursday morning, and you're in line at West Center to go on another wonderful hike. It might be a hike you had been planning to take, or it could be a spur of the moment decision after perusing the bulletin that morning.

Part way into the hike, possibly at some memorable summit or scenic destination, your hike leader gathers the group together and announces that you have attained a new mileage milestone, passing a threshold to qualify for a new patch. Now I ask you, by what mystical sorcery did that hike leader know today was your day, and how did he or she manage to pull a brand new patch (with the correct mileage no less!) out of a pocket to give to you?

Ah, there is much going on behind the scenes. The Hiking Club has a master hike file that is maintained by the club's Records Committee. It is a multi-worksheet Excel workbook containing the hiking histories of current and past members. Each week, a committee volunteer (Phil Gray, Karen Chadwell, or George Chute) enters the previous Thursday's hikes and hikers into the file, generating an awards report of hikers who will reach a mileage threshold the next time they hike. That information is then given to the board member in charge of awards, currently Mary Bashore—affectionately dubbed the "Patch Fairy". She quietly roams the parking lot on Thursday mornings, checking leaders' sign-in sheets for hikers due to receive an award. When she finds one, she surreptitiously slips the correct patch to the leader for later presentation.

An additional report generated from the master hike file is a listing of hikers who have (inadvertently, of course) neglected to pay their dues. This goes to the board person in charge of membership (currently Sandra Rooney), who gently follows up on overdue fees. Occasionally—especially in winter when Orientation classes are full—the hike file data entry process comes across a hiker for whom there is no record. Then it's time to consult the membership file to determine if it is a first-time hiker who has recently attended Orientation. The membership file is another Excel record used to keep track of Orientation attendees and to generate the annual membership directory. It is currently maintained by Thom Davies (soon to be replaced by Sue Palfry).

So it's not sorcery after all. There really is some wizard behind the curtains pulling the levers and keeping things running smoothly (several wizards, in fact).

A couple of closing thoughts. First, please be sure you print your name and GVR number legibly on the sign-in sheets. You might not get credit for your hike if the Records Committee person can't determine who you are. And know that if you roll into the parking lot on two wheels minutes before hikes depart, it's possible that the Patch Fairy might miss you if you're up for an award.

--George Chute, Records Chair



Mt. Wrightson C Hikers Accomplish Goal

On April 10th, 2014, 12 brave hikers headed to the Wrightson Trailhead at 5:30 a.m. The goal was to reach the Wrightson Summit at a "C" pace in 5½ hours and return in 4½ hours. The total length of the hike was 11 miles, which included a 4,400-foot climb. With the support and guidance of seven leaders and assistant leaders, all 12 were successful.

Congratulations to the following hikers on their conquest of Mt. Wrightson for the first time: Janet BeMiller, Joan Christie, Judith Ellyson, Phyllis Fuemmeler, Barb Nelson, Jim Palazzolo, Marce Pross, Rebecca Sloan, Bill Studer, Paul Wolford, Carl Woloszyk, and Gary Zech.



Leaders and assistant leaders who helped with the climb were Larry Boehms, Jim Chervenka, Bill Cummins, Terry Ferguson, Geri Lancia, Judith LeClair, and Jim Woodward.

As Mark Twain once said: "There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded."

Congratulations to the Wrightson C hikers! *--Larry Boehms*

From the Lending Library

Our library contains a wide variety of books available for checkout. One of these books is titled "Hidden Treasures of Santa Cruz County" by Betty Barr. The book contains numerous short articles pertaining to the pioneers and early settlers of Santa Cruz County. Remember our Hathaway Line Cabin hike? The book contains four articles on the Hathaway family. The club has three hikes in the vicinity of the Sunnyside ghost town, and there are four articles on Sunnyside to give you a little background on the town. Just about everyone has taken a hike along Proctor Road, but who was Proctor? There is an interesting article on the Charles Proctor family. The Empire Ranch? There are two articles on the Vail family who started the Empire Ranch and one about the Boyce family, the last private owners of the ranch. We could list many more locations and names you might be familiar with that are presented in the book, but this should be enough to whet your interest and encourage you to immerse yourself in the book for a thoroughly enjoyable read. Just contact Tom Johnson at tomjohnson34@gmail.com, 648-7915, or catch him in the parking lot on hike days to sign out the book.



- Take care when swinging your sticks. It is considered bad trail etiquette to swing sticks back and forth horizontally. Keep them upright always, and carry them in the vertical position when not in use.
- Rock kickers: Be careful where you aim, someone may be on the trail below!
- Remember "TGIF," Toes Go In First, when going downhill.

2015 Summer Hikers Will Take July Off

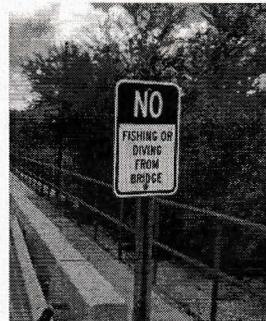
The club's board has voted to go ahead with a one-year trial of changing the summer break month from June to July in 2015. This had been requested by several of the summer hikers for the reason that organized hikes up in the mountains often expose hikers to dangers from the monsoon rains such as lightning, wet and slippery trails, road closures on the way home, etc. After much research into weather websites, I conducted an email survey of 42 of the summer hikers and found solid support among most for changing the break month to July. Others simply said that either month was fine because they always have hiked both months anyway.

--Jim Riley, Assistant Hike Master

Some Things Never Change

Here are some trail safety reminders from past editions of *Trail Tales* that bear repeating:

- Carry enough water and take drinks often, every time the group stops at least. If you don't have enough water, don't be embarrassed to let your hike leader or assistant hike leader know.
- Advise your hike leader or assistant hike leader of any medications you may require and where they can be located in your pack (the smallest pocket is suggested).
- Be sure your tetanus vaccine is up to date (a booster shot every ten years).
- If using hiking sticks, allow 6 to 8 feet between you and the hiker in front of you, especially on slippery slopes.



Bill Hill caught this shot on Camino del Sol in September. Boy, it must have been some monsoon season!

Got News?

Email Katherine Carlson, *Trail Tales* Editor, at carlson.katherine@gmail.com.

Be sure to check out this issue of *Trail Tales* online at www.gvrhc.org!