



Bill White, our Hike Master

Well, we have been blessed and cursed with interesting times, haven't we?

First, I must salute my predecessor as hike master. Duane Dotson's stewardship got our club back to hiking in the depth of the pandemic, with mask mandates and prudent restrictions on hike sizes and carpooling, among other changes.

Our hiking club continues to edge back toward normal times, but we're not all of the way back yet. Vaccination among our members is widespread. As this fall begins, our maximum hike size is up to 16 people, still short of our previous 24. We've also loosened the mask mandate for fully vaccinated members and resumed carpooling to trailheads for those fully vaccinated. Assistant hike master David Linn and I continue to monitor the pandemic's twists and turns, and we are prepared to pull back with tighter rules or move forward toward the way we operated before the pandemic began.

That said, the pandemic era has had other effects, good and bad, on our club. Our membership is down, and we haven't seen many of our Canadian friends for well over a year. Some active members in town are cautious about hiking in groups, as expected. Since my term as hike master began in May, the number of hikers is down about 30 percent compared with the same period of 2019 (the pandemic and GVR shut down our club in the spring and summer of 2020). But we're offering just as many hikes as before, and those hiking on Thursdays seem glad to be enjoying the experience.

Our hike leaders and others have been busy developing hikes. As of this writing, we offer 517 different hikes, about 50 more than when the pandemic began. Sue Kazmier, Jim Chervenka and Bill Hill have been particularly prolific in conceiving new hikes. We've already offered many of these new hikes, and the remainder should show up on our hike schedules this winter.

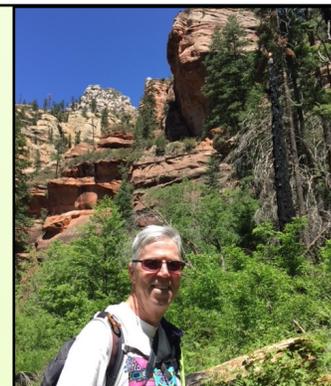
Our leaders' lineup continues to evolve. Barb Fleshman has become a leader and in August led her first hike. George Pavey and Frank Surpless have retired as leaders after serving many years heading our hikes. Plus, a handful of our hikers have volunteered for leader and assistant-leader training.

We're back hiking in the Catalinas after taking a bye for most of 2020 due to the Bighorn fire and the resulting trail closures. It's fascinating to see the devastation of that wildfire. And it's fascinating to see how nature has begun to heal the Catalinas – although I personally could forgo the rebound of thorny shrubs.

Also this summer, our club began offering our members the opportunity to make online reservations for their hikes of choice in advance of Thursday. This new initiative appears to be popular, as most of our hikers since May have used the new system to get on hikes.

Probably what I'll remember best about this summer, though, is the robust rainfall. The "green" is back in Green Valley! Hikers in Madera are all smiles as they splash across the coursing washes. The carpet of flowers and clouds of butterflies are breathtaking.

I hope that we can get all the way back to pre-pandemic routine soon. We'll just have to wait and see how the pandemic evolves.



Volunteer Service Coordinator Message

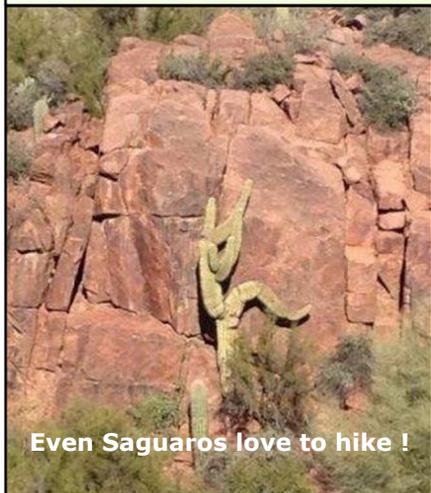
The Green Valley Hiking Club is more than just a hiking club. We are a group of individuals who care about those we associate with in this club and in the Green Valley community as a whole. Because of this we are also a service club. This year we have had two opportunities to be of service to our community.

In April the club adopted a three mile section of the road leading to Madera Canyon just past the Continental School. A request for volunteers to help with the cleanup was sent out and within hours the 20 people needed had responded. The day of the event went smoothly and everyone agreed that they had a good time. There will be a fall road cleanup as well so look for information coming in October or early November.

The second service opportunity was the placing of 90 US flags along LaCanada between Continental and Esperanza on Memorial Day. We had 20 volunteers divided into morning and afternoon shifts to install and remove the flags. The club has done this for several years now and it is greatly appreciated by the residents of Green Valley.

If you have never been involved with this activity, and would like to, please log into your member account and select "dit profile" to volunteer for this activity and other volunteer opportunities.

David Kean
Volunteer Services Coordinator



Even Saguaros love to hike !

In Memoriam:

Margret Beiber,
Tad Bird,
Ted Haartz

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS- Jerry Sazama

In our scenic United States, there are eleven of what are called National Scenic Trails. It'd be difficult for anyone to name all of them, though some are well-known nation-wide: the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Coast Trail, Continental Divide Trail and, yes, the Arizona Trail.

Maybe one of the least known is the Ice Age Trail, located entirely in Wisconsin and following the southernmost reaches of many of the glaciers which existed during the Ice Age 26,000 to 13,000 years ago. At this time the Wisconsin glaciation gouged and carved the land below it, and when it retreated it left behind glacial melt water which filled the landscape with the Great Lakes and thousand of smaller lakes in Wisconsin and Minnesota.



What does all this have to do with the **Green Valley Recreation Hiking Club**? It turns out that one of our hike leaders and Trail Maintenance member, Jerry Sazama, has worked long and difficult hours on our southeastern Arizona trails, and recently completed leading a team of trail maintenance volunteers on a major two mile remake of trails in the Santa Ritas.

Icing on the cake: he was recently awarded the Trail Steward of the Year by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, which is composed of thousands of volunteers from Wisconsin and neighboring states.

As Tricia Baker mentions in her association blog, "During an average summer week, Jerry is in the forest three days working on the Ice Age Trail segments where the local Chippewa Moraine Chapter manages twenty miles of Trail in Chippewa County.(western Wisconsin).

Jerry loves to hike and has a special love for the wild. He points out that we all have access to wild places because someone built trails--someone before us invested time and energy so we could enjoy it.

As Jerry says about our Trail: *"They were built by people—people I will never know-- but they are a gift."* And every time Jerry volunteers on the Ice Age Trail, he recognizes it as a chance to give a gift back.

As Baker mentioned in her column, Jerry has heeded the advice of his Uncle Gerald, who lived to be 99 years old. When young, Jerry asked his Uncle Gerald the secret to his long life. Uncle Gerald offered this wisdom: Don't stop moving!

Jerry has indeed taken that advice. As evidence of his work, his Steward of the Year award reflected his "unswerving allegiance to giving back." And it continues here in Green Valley.

(Material for this feature taken from an article in the Ice Age Trail Alliance Blog:

(<https://www.iceagetrail.org/trail-steward-of-the-year-award-jerry-sazama/>)

Club offers Online Reservations for hikes !

In May, the Hiking Club introduced to its members the option of going online to reserve a spot on a hike of choice. Members can access the online-reservation system via the hike-scheduling page on the club's website. On that page they'll find an FAQ on how the system works.

This is a reservation, not a guaranteed spot on a hike, just as a hotel reservation requires the person holding the reservation to show up by a certain time, make payment, etc. **For our reservations, hikers must check in Thursday morning at least 30 minutes before the hike's scheduled departure time to claim their spots.** In addition, the hike leader has final say on who is allowed on his/her hike, as has always been the case.

A group of members worked with me for months last winter and spring to shape the new reservation system.

So far, the system has proven to be quite popular with members who have tried it. Through the summer, most hikers each week have used the system to get on their preferred hike. They can arrive at the West Center on Thursday mornings with some certainty of how their day might progress.

Bill White Hikemaster

March to October

Award Patches

50 miles: 8, 250 miles: 6, 500 miles: 3 1000 miles: Barbara Jepkema, Zael & Liz Lutz, Jed Johnson

1500 miles: Kim Boswell 2000 miles: Marilyn Riley, Joe Frazier, Anita Woodward

2500 miles: Jim Chisholm

3000 miles: Bill Hill

6000 miles: Wayne Moshier !

President's Report – Fall, 2021



Janet Gerdes

**Janet Gerdes
President**

I am grateful to be part of such an amazing club.
Paul & I bought a house in Green Valley in Feb, 2009, and started hiking with the club two weeks later. The club quickly became a big part of our life in Green Valley, and the friendships have been vital to me in the last 10 years.

Having the opportunity to help lead the club this year is an honor. With all the incredible volunteers doing their part to keep the club running, the role of President is pretty easy.

The Board and I do have some goals for the year, including things such as:

- Review & update By Laws and Policy Manual; get By-Law changes approved at the Annual Meeting
- Support and assist the HM & AHM in their project to implement limited online reservations
- Review Criteria and process for "GVR Hiking Club Hall of Fame" and "Hike Leader Emeritus"
- Add or update this documentation in the GVR Hiking Club Policy Manual
- Review insurance needs
- Get potlucks going again as soon as this is possible

I do plan to lead a President's day hike this year. But for those of you who know how 'directionally-challenged' I am – I assure you that I will have someone on the hike that will make sure we don't get lost!

Thanks to all of you that make this club so special!

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO LAYERING



IT'S STARTING TO GET COLD OUT THERE...

SO IT'S TIME TO LAYER UP! HERE'S A QUICK AND EASY GUIDE TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE OUTDOORS WHEN YOU GO HIKING!



A QUICK NOTE ABOUT COTTON

A COTTON BASE LAYER WILL ABSORB MOISTURE, LEAVING YOU DAMP AND MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO COLD WEATHER. SO CONSIDER OTHER FABRICS BEFORE GOING ON THAT BIG HIKE!



BASE LAYER

- STAY WARM & DRY UNDER YOUR CLOTHES!
- BEST FOR WEATHER:
- LONG UNDERWEAR
- LEGGINGS
- BEST MATERIALS ARE:
 - SYNTHETICS
 - MERINO WOOL
 - MOISTURE-WICKING



MID LAYER

- HELPS TO RETAIN HEAT!
- BEST FOR WEATHER:
- GOOD OPTIONS ARE:
 - FLEECE JACKET
 - SYNTHETIC PUFFY COAT
 - COTTON FLANNEL, BUT ONLY IN DRY CONDITIONS



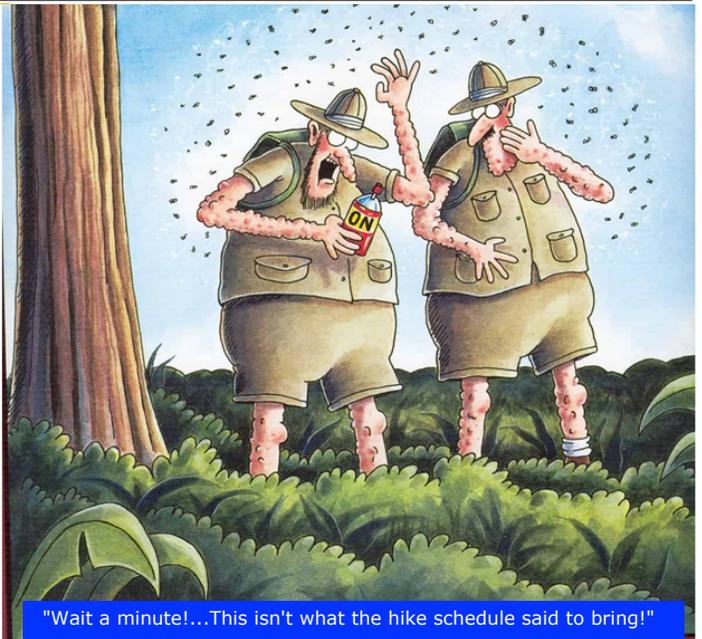
OUTER LAYER

- PROTECTS FROM RAIN, SNOW, OR WINDS:
- WATERPROOF SHELL
- INSULATION DEPENDS ON WEATHER
 - FOR AVERAGE WIND, LIGHT WINDBREAKER
 - DENSER COVER FOR COLDER OR WET WEATHER



ACCESSORIES

- MAKE SURE YOU WEAR YOUR FACE MASK!
- DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER, YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO BRING:
 - A KNIT CAP OR WARM EAR COVERING
 - A SCARF
 - WARM GLOVES
 - EXTRA SOCKS



Do you recognize these 20+ year veteran hikers?



A SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM CONTRIBUTION TO THE GVR HIKING CLUB

Virtually every one of the Club's membership has benefitted from the decade's long work of our former librarian, **Tom Johnson**.

Early on, hike leaders realized that they could make their hikes more interesting and appealing by doing research and presenting some history or interesting facts during their hikes. Initially, it was an informal process in which leaders shared their research with other leaders who were scheduled to lead. Enter Tom Johnson: he organized the process in which leaders could help each other.

He gathered together the histories, photos, maps, and first-hand experiences under one roof for everyone's benefit.

And then came along the digital age, roughly 2002-2003. Tom put together a digital repository available online to both leaders and the general membership for all to access to gain a further understanding of the origins of a given hike, extant photos, diaries, geological or topographical explanations, and so on. In so many instances, when hike leaders offered their research to their hikers, they answered the questions some hikers may have already been prepared to ask. Thus two-dimensional hikes became three dimensional in so many ways. In every hike description, all research sources pertaining to that hike, are listed for our hike leaders' benefit.

Over the years, Tom continued to do his own research to add to the background of any number of our hikes. Just looking at the sources of much of his research indicates how far and wide he traveled to nail down hard-to-find facts to support a given hike. And to top it all, he founded our Club's lending library for the benefit of everyone in the Club. Here anyone in the Club could borrow from him a certain biography, historical event, map or photo albums.

Tom's successor, Lorrie Koons, and recently Anita Woodward, have capably carried on his mission. In sum: Tom's contributions have elevated the Club's standing in the Green Valley community. And a bonus: During his decades+ years with the Club, Tom created **66 new hikes**, the second most of anyone!



(From the editors) *What's not to like about Tom's time-consuming and decades-long diligence in helping the Club to become a multi-dimensional institution? Tom has contributed the lion's share of historical accounts, photographs (many of which he took), and little-known information for the benefit of everyone in the Club. We all owe him an abundance of gratitude for helping to make the Club's offerings that much more interesting and helping hike leaders access the availability of a treasure trove to pass on to their hikers. Both of us, after leading hikes in which we used Tom's material, found our hikers praising us for adding the interesting insights, material, photos, and other references to our hikes: of course, we always gave credit where it was due. Tom has indeed left a legacy!*

Internet links to Easy Chair hiking adventures and outdoor information.

All you ever wanted to know about Poison Ivy:

<https://biggeekdad.com/2015/07/how-to-prevent-poison-ivy/#.YUu-kruzEcc.link>

Climb Half Dome from your Easy Chair!

<https://biggeekdad.com/2021/08/climbing-half-dome/#.YWXNEhACZmk.link>

Hike the Pacific Crest Trail in THREE MINUTES!

<https://biggeekdad.com/2017/05/hiking-pacific-crest-trail/>

