



## HIKE MASTER'S REPORT: FROM TURBULENCE TO QUIETUDE

One of the things I have noticed about our club is the manner in which we deal with change: from external change (Covid, new GVR requirements) to internal change (club members saying there has to be a better way of running our club, but we'll do this ourselves). How: listening to club members' opinions and ideas in order to reach our goal of making our hikes safe, efficient, and enjoyable. Now, it's nice to know that we have just passed one of these change periods; quietude has emerged: Covid is increasingly lagging behind in the rear view mirror; no more masks; no driving individually to the trailhead; no more six person hikes leaving full, well before the announced time.

Now: we can enjoy access to all of our 533 (!) published hikes--traveling to the mountain ranges we missed. We can enjoy each other's company before we leave in mostly full cars, knowing that we're pretty sure we can hike the hike we wanted. And internally, Bill White's online reservation program has allowed hikers to know what to expect on our Thursday morning gatherings (Huge thanks to Bill!).

There are uncertainties however: club membership is down from pre-pandemic 450 to 333 currently. What does this contraction mean for us? Will we remain viable as an organization and attract leadership-minded members? Or will it mean smaller, more intimate hikes? I just don't know. But on a personal level, I'm tired of the change turbulence and previous sense of ferment. I will find comfort in hiking my favorite hikes and laughing with my favorite hikers. I will take satisfaction in my evolution as Hike Master. And I look forward to working with the club's very capable assistant Hike Master, Kim Boswell, as we form a partnership to balance the many tasks that fall to the Hike master.

David Linn

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE---DAVE TOENISKOETTER

Did you know that one-third of our Hiking Club membership are volunteers? Indeed, this is a sign of a very healthy organization! Yes, there are many visible volunteers such as hike leaders, sweeps, hike master and her/his assistant. But behind the scenes: record maintenance, Orientation leaders, potluck volunteers, and many others help insure the Club runs smoothly.

Our Board's priorities have always been to support our hike master and assistant, and the many hike leaders as they continuously provide 'safe and enjoyable' hiking experiences for everyone. Of course, the board will continue to oversee administrative and financial aspects of the organization.

Our priorities for 2022-2023:

- a.) **Review needs for insurance and risk management.**
- b.) **Further the use of cloud-based digital storage of Club documents.**
- c.) **Review our Trail Maintenance Program.**

In addition, the Club will see the return of our popular **Navigation Classes**. David Colpitts, Jim Chisholm, Keith Blair, and Dan Paxton will lead the classes starting in January, which covers navigating with maps, compass, and GPS technology. The four of them symbolize what has been so common for our Club: giving back to an organization which has added so much to all of our members.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Hi, This is **Rhonda Wills**, your new incoming Social Chairperson.

I'm excited to have this opportunity to be of service to the club, but know I have very big shoes to fill, replacing Liz Blair. **Thank you Liz for your efforts over these past several years.**

The date of the Fall Potluck has been set, so mark your calendars for Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition to enjoying great food and company, we will have a very informative speaker and presentation by David Dean. David is a volunteer naturalist with Sabino Canyon and will be presenting an outstanding program on **"Candid Critters of the Catalinas."** You will not be disappointed. I hope to see my fellow hikers at the potluck... and as always, you are welcome to bring a guest.

Sign-ups will be available starting in mid October. For your future planning, the Winter Potluck has also been scheduled and will take place on February 19, 2023.

## New members added to the Club's "Hall of Fame"

At the Club's annual meeting, it was announced two new members were being added to the Club's **Hall of Fame**.

**Helen Zaukas and Frank Surpless.**

A special honor well deserved for all their contributions to the Club and its membership. **Congratulations!**

## HIKING CLUB NAILS TRIFECTA! or "THE GREAT CONJUNCTION"

Last March 31, Kay Pasley and Patsy Sills led their new Las Colinas crossover C hikes in the eastern Santa Ritas on a sunshiny perfect hiking day. This was only the third crossover hike which the club has ever run. (Crossover: where two separate groups of hikers start at the opposite ends of a one-way hike, meet near the middle for lunch, and exchange car keys.)

The other treks, the Dutch John Bog Springs Crossover B hike (created in 2020) and Crest Trail Crossover A hike (1992) are also in the Santa Ritas. A fourth hike, the Miller Peak (Huachuca) Crossover A hike, was run on April 14 of this year.

Kay and Patsy underwent an enormous amount of preparation to help make their treks run smoothly. Patsy: "A lot of coordinating, including the scout, the need to have similar numbers of hikers on each hike, an accurate judgment as to where the half-way lunch should be in relation to the degree of difficulty involved--all needed to be taken into account. Another aspect: this is our first C crossover hike for the club."

Patsy again: "We had a wonderful hike with enthusiastic praise from the hikers. This group loved the idea of a crossover, and not having to turn around on the hike. We covered six scenic miles of the well-maintained AZ trail with views of 12 mountain ranges, with many commenting that they wished the club would offer more crossover hikes.

Our lunch spot was high on a ridge with great views and quite a crowd of people. Lunch time was described by one sweep as a 'party.' We had 25 hikers in our crossover group, 13 from one direction and 12 from the other. We also unexpectedly overlapped with George Chute's AZ trail East Ritas Overlook club hike which had chosen the same lunch spot! I'm sure that spot in Arizona had never seen such a crowd, unless maybe it was a herd of cows. (A *mooving* summary)



Kay adds: "This was a wonderfully conceived idea and opportunity for C hikers to explore areas they might not have otherwise seen. Plus the hike afforded those to choose between a less and a more difficult C hike, due to differences in elevation gain. The 'cherry on the top' was the unanticipated sharing of a lunch spot among three different hikes, exposure to the surrounding views, and the awarding of a 1500 mile patch to George Higginson."

From Donna Martin: "I chose to join the Crossover hike because I had never done one, and I wanted to see how it works. I was on Kay Pasley's hike, and the only slightly confusing part was where 25 hikers driving eight vehicles met at the rendezvous location and switched cars. We were to meet Patsy Sills' hike on a ridge and share lunch with them. Our group was the first to reach the ridge when we saw not one but two groups heading our way; George Chute's hike planned for lunch on the very same ridge. I was impressed that all three groups left from different locations at different times, but all arrived on the ridge within 15 minutes. I called it "The Great Conjunction."

So we had lunch with 43 of our closest friends and applauded when George Higginson received his 1,500 mile patch. After George's hike left, the eight drivers exchanged keys, and we all continued our treks. In addition to an unusual and fun hike, the scenery was a bonus: hills beyond hills, golden grasslands, and the snow-covered east side of Mt. Wrightson framing it all. A five star day for sure!

Submitted By: Kay Pasley, Patsy Sills, Donna Martin

## An Atascosa Hike Day to Remember --Jim Chisholm

### ***A group of five club members likely saved some lives on Thursday, March 24.***

We started the day intending to complete the Beehive Canyon Loop, an 8-mile A-Difficult hike mostly bushwhacking in the Atascosa Mountains. The day turned out very differently.

There were five of us: my sweep, Steve Toeniskoetter, Bill White, Dave Colicchio, David Linn, and I. Shortly after passing the town of Ruby, we spotted two men walking ahead, dressed in green camouflage. Hunters, we thought. When we got close to them, we realized that they were illegal immigrants. The trailing one was dragging a water jug. They waved to us as we passed.

About a mile later, we saw another camouflaged immigrant on the road. We pulled over and asked if he needed assistance. He did not speak English and none of us spoke Spanish; however we were able to determine that he had had no water and food for a few days. He was in poor shape. We gave him several bottles of water and granola bars. He began to weep. After inhaling two bottles of water, he told us that he wanted to go home to Guatemala. We decided to try to find the Border Patrol to help him. We reassured him we were going to get him some help. We told him to wait in the shade and we would come back.

Ruby Road normally has lots of Border Patrol activity but not today! We continued south several miles towards I-19 and Steve was able to call 911. A Mexico 911 operator answered and transferred us to a U.S. 911 operator instead of the border patrol as requested. We were then transferred to the sheriff. The official we spoke with wasn't even sure where Ruby Road was and said it would take a while for someone to reach us. We decided to keep driving south and after several more miles, almost to the Peña Blanca Lake cut-off, we spotted two parked Border Patrol SUVs. To our shock, they showed little urgency to act on our information. Troubled migrants in that area happens several times a day, one said. Right then, the Sheriff's Department called Steve back and asked again where we were and where our concern was. We informed them that the Border Patrol was already responding. They seemed relieved.

Back on Ruby Road heading toward the road to our trailhead, we came across the two different Border Patrol officers. They had intercepted the first two camouflaged migrants and thanked us for our assistance. Once we finally reached our trailhead 2.5 miles down Corral Nuevo Road off Ruby Road, the five of us agreed we still wanted to complete our hike. We were a couple of hours behind schedule, but we had plenty of daylight

remaining. We finally hit the trail. A couple hundred yards into the hike, Steve heard something? We listened and looked around. There, near our cars but staggering toward us, we spied a man waving his arms. Another illegal immigrant wanting help. We went back.

We offered him food, water, and comforting words and gestures. He also began weeping. He kept talking about his amigo. It sounded like there was another person nearby in need of assistance, so we postponed our hike and made another plan. I told Dave, Steve and David to wait at our trailhead while Bill and I drove away to track down the Border Patrol.

As we drove up Corral Nuevo Road, we spotted the amigo, who seemed unable to walk. He showed us he had some water with him. We indicated we were going for help.

At Ruby Road, we drove north and soon found one of the Border Patrol officers we met earlier. This time the agent acted quickly on our information and sped off toward Corral Nuevo. When Bill and I got to the site where we encountered the last man, we were pleasantly surprised to find the agent processing him and his amigo. Dave, Steve and David had walked up there with their migrant to find and help the other man. The agent said he had everything under control and told us we could again continue with our day. We said good-bye to the two people we helped, and they both thanked us with words and gestures. Back at our trailhead, I suggested an abbreviated 5-mile hike to get some exercise. We no longer had ample daylight, and our food stock was thinned. Everyone seemed happy with the new plan.



Like any hike, there was much talking and camaraderie; however, the bulk of our conversation was about our unusual day. Did we do enough? How did these immigrants get into such bad conditions? What were they thinking? All of them just wanted to get back home. What made them change their plans after coming so far? We could only imagine the difficulties that these people were going through and hoped we provided them avenues back home. Plus, we were awed that we likely saved some lives, especially the last two men, who were far from a chance encounter with the Border Patrol.

Each of us was touched by the situation of people in need and was proud of the way we responded in a caring, helpful manner. I am positive that the men we assisted will have good memories of a few Americans they met on a hot March morning.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As fall, 2022, approaches, many of our members are returning. It is also a time when we have potential new members attending Orientation and thinking about joining our Club. Remember, after completing Orientation, you are allowed to take two club hikes before paying dues and joining.

Currently, there are 332 hikers in the club. That number is down from two years ago, but is slightly higher than last year.

An e-blast will be sent out in late October with instructions for 2023 renewal. Annual dues remain at \$20.00.

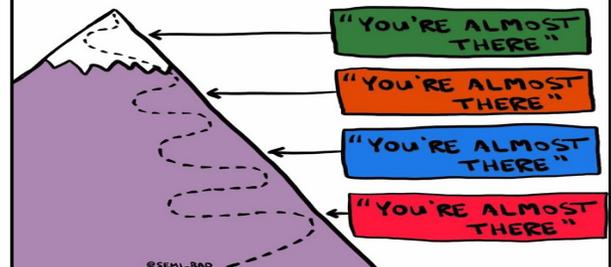
Membership applications and renewals can be completed online at [gvrhc.org](http://gvrhc.org). Click on; Enter *Member Services*, and then follow the instructions for renewal or joining. Click on *My Profile*, then, *Edit Profile*. After you have confirmed your information, click *Save* and the changes will be made. *Members are encouraged to check their profile information annually for accuracy.*

**Marysia Czachor, Membership Corodinator**

### Mileage Awards!

- 250 miles-----Marianne Checkovich
- 500 miles--Mary Lou Price, Steve Toenisketter, Steven Delisle
- 1000 miles-----Liz Blair**
- 1500miles-----Pat Boeck**
- 2500 miles-----Jim Easter**
- 6000 miles!-----George Chute**

WHAT TO SAY WHEN A HIKER ASKS "HOW MUCH FARTHER TO THE TOP?"



### Volunteer Services

In April we participated in the Pima County "adopt a roadway" program again, and 18 club members cleaned up our adopted section of the Whitehouse Canyon Road just past the Continental School. In two hours we bagged, and disposed of several large bags of trash. Another cleanup day is planned for early November.

The Club also participates in a Memorial Day service opportunity by placing American flags along La Canada Avenue between Continental and Esperanza. This is a big project annually requiring 20 volunteers working in morning and afternoon shifts to install and remove the flags which are really appreciated by all residents of Green Valley.

If you would like to participate in these volunteer activities, log into your member services account to find volunteer opportunities you would like to sign up for.

**Mark Buchholz, Volunteer Services Coordinator**

## HIKING CAN TRIGGER LONG AGO MEMORIES

Hiking has a multitude of benefits: good for embracing general health, keeping in physical shape, developing strength and endurance, and growing an appreciation for the surroundings in which a hiker might find his or her self. And sometimes a hiker might come across a trail, a bushwhack or a sight which reminds him of something that happened to him years or decades ago.

This happened to me.

One of the first hikes I took with the hiking club was the lower Catalina's Arizona Trail from Molino Campground to the Hirabayashi Campground. Our leader spoke briefly about Gordon Hirabayashi's connection to this place, then led us to the displays which detailed the historical significance of this spot. About a month after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in early December, 1941, President Roosevelt and the War Department issued a mandatory evacuation order for all Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast to leave their homes and relocate to internment camps in our westernmost states.

Hirabayashi, a recent University of Washington graduate, refused to relocate, was arrested and imprisoned for two years in federal prisons; then took his case in 1943 to the Supreme Court, which turned him down. The FBI allowed him to serve his time in the Catalina Mountains, placing him in a work camp, whose prisoners helped build the Catalina Highway. Hirabayashi worked there and was released near the end of the war, returning to Washington to pursue his M.A. and PhD in sociology. He ended up teaching at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, where he retired.

So, what is the connection? In 1962-63, I helped out my dad in the summer working in his shipping department. The head of the department, Ralph Osakada, a reticent man, heard that I would soon be teaching social studies in high school, particularly American history. He really opened up here. I already knew about the Japanese-American resettlement after Pearl Harbor, so I just asked him to tell me about his family's experience.

At the time, when the Osakadas owned a small farm east of Oakland, California, they were given two weeks to get their belongings together and meet at a debarkation point. In early 1942 they were moved to the Hart Mountain internment camp in northwestern Wyoming, a somewhat desolate and seasonally frigid relocation. They were treated somewhat well, though family privacy within the barracks was sometimes iffy. Ralph vividly remembered a day in mid-1944 when a convoy of heavy trucks pulled up to the camp's entry gate. Ralph couldn't believe what he was seeing: about 100 Japanese-American soldiers in military gear rode in the back of the trucks. Huh?? Why had they come and why were they wearing U.S. Army uniforms?

It turns out that they were in a newly formed unit in the U.S. Army, the all-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team who came to visit their parents and families before being shipped overseas to fight in Italy and France.

Tears of unrestrained joy and sorrow permeated the camp during the short time they were there. Immediately Ralph picked up on the irony of the family reunions: young Japanese-American soldiers about to go overseas to fight in Italy and Germany as patriotic native-born Americans, saying goodbye to their loved ones who were being held prisoner behind barbed wire. Ralph's eyes moistened when he described this, and mine did too.

**The 442nd (14,000 strong) became the most highly decorated military unit in American history: 21 Medals of Honor, 4000 purple hearts, 588 silver stars, and 4000 bronze stars.**

As one of the Team said later, "All we were trying to do in fighting for our native land was prove our patriotism." They did so, many times over.

**Gordon Hirabayashi died in 2012 at age 93. Ralph Osakada is still with us at age 95. Two seemingly unrelated events became intertwined on that hike, which would never have happened had it not been for our hiking club.**

*A postscript: In 1987, Hirabayashi's case was overturned, the Court ruling that the original internment was motivated by racial prejudice and wartime hysteria. More irony: two years after his release from Hart Mountain, Ralph turned 18, received his draft notice, and served 2 1/2 years in occupied Germany.*



**Frank Surpless**

### Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of 2022 the club had a checking account balance of \$11,560.83. Total income for the year has been \$1,727.63 and total expenses have been \$3,856.96, leaving a balance of \$9,431.50. Much of our annual income is received near the end of the year, when members renew their dues.

**Scott Tewksbury, Treasurer**