



Hikemaster's Report

Greetings fellow hikers. It was a **HOT** summer in Green Valley with spotty monsoon rains. Certainly a lot different from last year's tremendous rainfalls. Despite the heat, a dedicated cohort of hikers showed up every Thursday to hike in the upper mountains.

A major undertaking this summer was a review of all the club hikes. We added new hikes, changed seasonal ratings for some, and archived several. As a result, we currently have **538** active hikes – an impressive number. My thanks to David Linn, Jim Chisholm, Kay Pasley, Barb Jepkema, Bob Porterfield, and Wayne Moshier for their work on this project. I am also very grateful to the adventurous leaders who are out exploring in our Sky Islands and creating new hiking adventures for all club members. A gorgeous new B hike – Flys Peak in the Chiricahuas, and six new "C" hikes are scheduled during November, December, and January. Be sure to watch for them.

If you are wondering how the monthly hike bulletins are developed, they are the result of the diligent work of the Hike Selection Committee team – David Linn, Jim Chisholm, Kay Pasley, Barb Jepkema, Duane Dotson, and Judith LeClair.

George Higginson and Sue Kazmier recently retired as leaders. Both will be missed. As I write this report in mid-September, Rich Calderazzo and Bob Senning will soon join our leader ranks and by Christmas we should have at least two additional new leaders. The club would not function without our hard-working group of leaders. I cannot thank them enough.

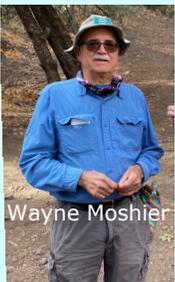
Assistant Hikemaster, Kay Pasley, and I look forward to welcoming back seasonal members. It will be wonderful to see our Thursday morning numbers swell in the West Center parking lot. Please remember to ease back into hiking with us and check the bulletins on the club website for the latest revisions since changes to hikes do happen frequently. (You may need to click on the refresh button beside the webpage address to ensure you are looking at the latest bulletin.) Signing up for a hike online in your membership account is an option – have a look at the FAQs on the Hike Schedule webpage to assist you with how to do this.

Happy trails everyone.

Kim Boswell, 2023-2024 Hikemaster



Kim Boswell



Wayne Moshier

Wayne Moshier, 300 Hike leads, **A CLUB RECORD!**

Another milestone for Wayne Moshier: He just led his 300th hike, setting a record for Club hike leaders! That's **600+ hikes** including scouts. Not to mention the over 100 hikes he's created for the hiking club—more than 18% of the 538 hikes now available since the Club was formed back in the early 1980s. And let's not forget his recently earned **6500+ mile** patch! How does he regard his longevity? **"It's been a kick to hike with so many great people and for so long. After all, I started in the last century!"**

Simply put, he's our Energizer Bunny, period. **(Sorry, Wayne)**

As was featured in the Trail Tales Fall, 2019, issue, Wayne credits his interest in hiking to his earlier years on the family's Michigan farm where he roamed the forests while deer and turkey hunting. Maybe this is where he developed his sixth sense as to which direction he should go when either bushwhacking or developing new hikes.

Wayne, yet another feather in your cap--**Congratulations!!**

President's Report

I hope everyone had a great summer and are looking forward to the clubs Fall and Winter hiking season.

It is an honor to serve as your current Hiking Club President and I hope to fill the big shoes of our past Club presidents. They have ushered in new initiatives and led the reworking of several Club documents. I am currently working on getting a new trail maintenance agreement with the Forest Service.

Volunteers are what make the Hiking Club the smooth-running entity it is. Numerous volunteer opportunities are available, such as once a year, putting up flags on Memorial Day, to a weekly log-in after hikes return. If you would like to volunteer, you can note what position on your club profile page or talk to your hike leader on your next hike and they can relay your information to the appropriate person.

As our seasonal members return, please be aware of the Club's COVID-19 protocols as there are still a few cases popping up around our community. Be safe and be well and I hope to see you on a hike this fall.

David Kean, President

[Click here to see, Scary Rock Falls, Landslides and Avalanches](#)

ROMANCING HELEN'S FALLS

By Jerry Haupt

On the 16th of March, I joined 14 other hikers in Madera Canyon. We would soon be lost, in our thoughts, in the mountains. Our leader was Gene Enders, a Snowbird from Wisconsin/Minnesota. His sweep was Juliana Sandahl, a rain bird from Oregon. We fifteen hikers represented a whole lot of states and included a doctor, nurse, a teacher, an outdoor writer, a liquor representative, a former ski jumper, and an energy bunny of a gal who couldn't wait to get home, after our hike, so she could crack open her first beer. All fifteen hikers had something in common that day, their search for that perfect hike, the one that spells HEAVEN in capital letters, and the hike that gives them pause to repeat the mantra, "My last hike is always my best."

Our hike, a Helen's Falls hike (Lillian's Fern Trail Loop) was a challenging "C" hike with enough gradual up-hill maneuvering, and tricky stream crossings, to have us wondering why it might not have been a "B" hike. Thanks to snowmelt, our stream was adorned with rushing water that maneuvered its way around stream rocks, creating its own kind of music and allure. The creeks weren't wide but, crossing them, offered a hint of challenge, enough to, "Try men's souls," as they say, or at least, increase one's heart rate.

Those words came to life when we crossed each creek on uneven, and often wet, rocks that stuck out of the creek and became our steppingstones. We placed our hiking poles into the creek, for balance, as we maneuvered our way across, hoping, of course, that we wouldn't be the only one of the fifteen hikers who might slip into the creek, knowing that those around the unlucky one might say, "Are you okay?" but might also be biting their lip to keep from laughing out loud.

Birders love these trails and are almost certain to be greeted by Mountain Jays along with 249 other species with names like Mexican Jays, Vermilion Flycatchers, and a woodpecker named Acorn. We soon encountered a wooden trail sign indicating "Kent Spring Trail." We headed onward and upward and would negotiate one more flowing creek on our climb, and that last tricky crossing was well worth it. It brought us within earshot of a rushing cataract known as Helen's Falls. We came so close to it we could feel its mist and sense a bit of vulnerability, a human rush that was created by the raging snowmelt. We maneuvered, carefully, among giant stream boulders to take photos of the rushing stream. The stream didn't mind. It was all but oblivious to our presence, while on its own mission. Helen's Falls is named, by the hiking community at least, for Helen Zaukas, a club hiker whose years of membership top out at 37, the longest of any member. But it is her accumulative hiking miles that really stands out, **8,000-plus-miles**. Since the average hike is seven miles, this would mean that Helen has hiked some 1,140 times (or 2,280 with scouts). This also means that I only need about 1,080 more hikes to break her record.



We huffed and puffed less on our way downhill, so we had more time to catch our breath and chatter. We shared funny experiences and a few funny quips. One of the quips came from a hiker named Bob. He told the story about a hike he was on that was led by a fella named, "Bill Hill." After the group negotiated a few grueling hills, Bill said, "This will be our last hill." Bob responded by saying, "That's what your mother said when you were born."

We took a different route on our way home. and came within viewing distance of Santa Rita Lodge's Bird Sanctuary. We could see a few birders sitting on benches, hoping to spot a few birds that they had never spotted before. We saw a turkey wandering nearby, its beard swaying a bit when it walked.

And then, the last stream crossing: fording a fifty-foot-wide flat rock shelf which was carrying two inches of water. Half our hikers negotiated a log to get across, while the other half thought, "The heck with it," and crossed in the water. Ah, so what if we got our feet wet. We were only an hour away from our next shower anyway. Back to that notion that one's last hike is always his or her favorite. This was one hike that honored that thought. A wise man once said something like this, "*May there be goodness at the end of your endeavor.*"

Treasurer's Report.

At the beginning of 2023 the hiking club had a checking account balance of \$14,593.93. Total income for the year has been \$1,426.44 and total expenses have been \$4,882.59, with a balance of \$11,137.78 as of August 31, 2023. Much of our annual income is received at the end of the year when memberships are renewed.

Scott Tewksbury, Treasurer

Did you hear that our Hiking Club is going to offer some very short hikes for inexperienced hikers this year?
It's a **twelve-step** program!

Volunteer Service Coordinator Message

The Volunteer Services Committee had two activities in the spring and one coming up this fall. In April, sixteen volunteers cleaned up trash on miles two to four of the Whitehouse Canyon Road (*on the way to Madera Canyon*). The Hiking Club has that stretch as part of the Adopt a Highway Program in Pima County. Since we do it twice a year, both sides of the two-mile stretch of road are done quite quickly.

In May, 16 volunteers put up Memorial Day flags on the La Cañada between Continental Road and Esperanza Boulevard. This fall we will be doing the Adopt a Highway cleanup. We're waiting for the shoulder to be mowed before scheduling that!

Later this fall, the annual Summit Hut Discount period will be organized for some time in January. The Volunteer Services Coordinator also orders name badges and coordinates t-shirt sales in years when that occurs. This job is made easy due to the great spirit of volunteerism in our Club!

Sue Palfrey, Volunteer Services



"We're now accepting reservations for our mobile New Years Eve party on Box Canyon Road!"

Membership Info
 The total number of hikers in the Club is 348, which is a slight increase over last year's numbers. Renewals for 2024, will begin on November 1st. Please be sure to keep your membership profile up to date with correct contact information.
Marysia Czachor, Membership

Mileage Award Patches

50 MI. { Jeff and Nancy Chihak, Eva LaRue, Cathy Loos, Susan Henry, Nancy Lee Koester, Norbert Webb, Mary Harris, Bob McNamara, Judy Stein
250: John Breen, Bill Foy, Libby Stupak
500: Dan Valenzuela, Bob Senning
1000: Nancy Crosby, David Colicchio
1500: Steve White, Barbara Jepkema
3000: Jim Chisholm

Social Chair Report
 Our first social activity for the 2023-24 Season will be the Fall Potluck on Sunday, November 12th at the West Center Auditorium. Starting with Social Hour at 5:00pm, Dinner at 6:00 and our speaker at 7:00. Our own George Chute will describe the 1958 tragedy of the three boy scouts who died in a blizzard on Mt. Wrightson. You won't want to miss this one. Sign-up will be available on-line on the Club's website beginning October 12th. For your future planning, the Winter Potluck has also been scheduled and will take place on January 14, 2024.
Rhonda Wills, Social Chair

Click Here to view: [**THE TEN MOST DANGEROUS HIKING TRAILS IN THE U.S.**](#)

TA DA!! Featuring the Club's Lending Library !!?? (Trail Tales has come to this??.....)

Let's back up a bit. Maybe Tom Johnson's background and experience can best explain why the Lending Library has increasingly become such a useful and interesting feature of the club.

Tom came to Green Valley after having served in the Air Force for a number of years, followed by multiple stints in various defense industries. His last assignment landed him in Tucson where he helped McDonnell Douglas coordinate with Hughes to construct the Tomahawk cruise missile, which is still in use.

In addition to their daughter, the Johnsons raised four boys, all of whom became Eagle Scouts, which had a lasting effect on him to this day: scouting involves extensive outdoor activities and volunteer work. Because Tom's job led him and his family to live in varied parts of the United States / world, this allowed the family to embark on many explorations to check out numerous state and national parks of multiple varieties. He became a student of nature while taking part in the hiking and camping which went with what they were doing.

Thus it became natural for him to continue his hiking activities once firmly ensconced in Green Valley. He joined the hiking club in the late '90s and found the camaraderie much to his liking. In addition to participating in Thursday hikes, he joined with others to scout upcoming hikes and ultimately mapping out new hikes for the club.

Back then all managerial and leadership obligations were done via paper, reams of paper! In 2000, Dick Paige came along as Assistant Hike Master, then Hike Master and brought with him an extensive working knowledge of the computerization of an organization's workings. He, and others, worked diligently to digitize the club's activities, beginning with the online availability of hike descriptions (for hike leaders) and hike schedules. Thus the club's membership could see at a glance the upcoming month's hikes and make plans accordingly.

At this time, Tom, who had earlier shown a deep interest in the history of whatever area he was exploring, thought it would be helpful for leaders and members alike to have access to maps, historical documents, photos, first-person accounts, and other material to provide them with in-depth background to help them further understand the history behind given hikes; this would be useful for hikes already taken as well as upcoming treks.

In a nutshell, over 25 years he has accumulated a trove of materials directly related to hiking or the parts of our area which form the basis of the club's breadth. For example, the Lending Library contains the following groupings, with a single listing typical of that category:



- 4 DVDs (*"Our River of Life—the San Pedro"*)—a number of Club hikes alongside it
- 11 Native American accounts (*"Cochise"*)—excellent for our Ft. Bowie hike
- 24 Hiking accounts (*"Hiking Southern Arizona"*)
- 42 Outdoor Recreation (*"How to Identify Birds"*)
- 12 Outdoor novels (*"Sand County Almanac"*)
- 27 Arizona History (*"The Nature of Madera Canyon"*)
- 145 volumes of the *Journal of Arizona History* (note: article on Confederates in Arizona)—three of our hikes pass by Confederate grave sites
- 12 Geology accounts (*"Arizona Ghost Towns and Mining Camps"*)
- 31 *"Hazardous Abandoned Mine Finders"*
- 44 Arizona Highways features—*"Saguaro NP": a full issue features the site of many of our hikes*

Interested? Let's say Ft. Bowie's hike interests you. Just check out "Cochise" from the Lending Library (He lived nearby). Or: the colorful volume on the Catalinas gives a comprehensive overview of one of the more popular mountain ranges we hike. Or Arizona Highway's feature on "John Wayne's Arizona" covers so many of the club's hiking areas, especially the San Rafael Valley, a well-written feature...and so on.

How do you get a hold of a source you're interested in? Just use the club's web site cover page to checkmark "Library." On line 3 (in "Library") in blue is "Lending Library."

Check this...and you're on your way. Once you've found what might interest you, just follow the instructions outlined at the beginning of the club's Lending Library section. Contact Anita Woodward (who has been helping Tom with the library role) by phone (777-8045) or email (awoodward3369@aol.com); she will drop off the book for you on a Thursday morning (four-week limit), and, when you're finished, you'll return it to her on a Thursday morning. ENJOY!

IN MEMORIAM:

BILL BECKER, HIKE LEADER, DEVELOPED DOZENS OF NEW CLUB HIKES.

DOUGLAS JURGENS, AVID CLUB HIKER, DONATED VEHICLE MEMBERSHIP STICKERS.

JACK HUMMEL, HIKE LEADER.