



**FROM PRESIDENT TRACY ACKERMAN;**

As I finish my term as President I offer my thanks to all Hiking Club members for their support. We have had new challenges, not the least being our growing membership. I have previously mentioned the satisfaction of seeing newer members accepting the responsibility as Hike Leaders and Board Members. I would like to suggest that they not hesitate to seek help and advice from members with extensive knowledge and experience who are willing to share it, primarily so that we not vary from the framework of the long established, and proven, rules and procedures that have so successfully brought our Club to where it is, as new problems are addressed and solved.

Please provide the same excellent support to the new Board of Directors, the Leaders, and the Club as you have in the past.

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An AdHoc committee, chaired by Bob Lund, developed an Operations and Historical Records file. The documents, arranged in titled folders and organized according to subject, are stored in a cabinet at Desert Hills Social Center. Organized material include Operating Documents and Controls; Operating Records; Membership and Communications; Annual Reports; Annual Summaries; Trail Maintenance; Correspondence; Committee Reports and Club publications; Club History; and Non-hiking Activities.

This is an invaluable organization of information concerning our Club since it was begun in 1981. Bob and Committee Members Tracy Ackerman, Ed Bieber, Frank Jappel, Lillian Monson, Nancy Turner, and Helen Zaukas completed the project in February, 1999.

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A committee headed by Bob Kotz is compiling an information and map file to be used by Leaders. Interesting facts of hike areas and maps of areas will be included. Please contact Bob if you have any information that would be of interest.

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As our membership grows there is long range planning and thinking on how to handle growth. Membership chairman Barry Murdoch reported that in March 1999, 459 people had joined the Club. This compares to 385 in March of 1998. March 97 - 360, March 96 - 352. Annual dues makes it easy to know how many members we actually have. (No statistics on "Inactives")

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1999 Club Directories available on Thursdays.

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**FROM HIKEMASTER WINNIE KRUPER;**

As my time as Hikemaster is coming to an end, I sincerely want to extend a huge thank you to the Leaders and Assistants, both past and present, who have given so much of their time and experience to make this club what it is today. Having the duties of Hikemaster makes one realize even more how willing they are to provide help and support.

A special thanks goes to Rich Armstrong for his diligent efforts each week getting the hiking awards to the Leaders, to be presented to hikers earning them. Jim Kuhns and assistant Curt Merritt are important behind-the-scene workers for their computer work putting together monthly bulletins and other reports that are so very necessary in the operation of the Club. Thanks, Bob Montague, for keeping records each week, giving us credit so we can receive those nice patches.

The 98-99 hiking season has been blessed with beautiful hiking weather. Hiking participation for 1997-98 from July through two weeks in March was 3,667. For the same period in 1998-99 it was 4,154 hikers, a 13.28% increase.

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At present the Club has 29 Leaders and eight Assistants. Seven new Leaders stepped up from being Assistants. With so many hikes in the winter both Leaders and Assistants are required to be Sweeps and willingly do so when they are asked.

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The 98-99 winter months have been "Hiker Friendly" with warm weather and rainless Thursdays. This played a part in the number of people hiking more regularly. In 1998 the peak day had 221 Hikers. March 18, 1999, has been the peak day with 226 Hikers.

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**"NOTES ON A NAPKIN" from LEE HARTZ;**

This season's potluck dinners have been a successful collaboration of willing workers, famous Hiking Club "Good Cooks," and interesting programs. Commendations to the dinner committees and their hard-working chairmen. The February potluck, attended by a record 258 people, was chaired by Carolyn and Tad Bird, assisted by Florence and Al Gado, Barbara Clark, Nancy Ingle, Ruth and Bob Mounts, Mel Prideaux, Lavern and Dan Schroeder, and Peggy and Pete Smith. In November Maggie Ramlow and Mag Turner, with their spouses, chaired the potluck with a Halloween theme. Committee members were Bev and Bill Myers, Lee Kuiken, Bernice and Wally Morrell. A glamorous Vampire (Maggie) presented "The Cat" (Lois Damkroger) with the best costume award..

(Over)

The Annual Meeting at Desert Hills Center Tuesday, March 23, conducted by President Tracy Ackerman, was attended by 56 members. Some of the highlights included the unanimous election of the three board nominees. After the meeting the Board met with the newly elected members to appointment duties of members for the 1999-2000 season. After the next Board meeting in April the new Board will begin their jobs. The hikemaster term continues through May. New officers are President, Vicki Mattox; Vice President, Barry Murdoch; Secretary, Nancy Turner; Treasurer, Ted Haartz; Hikemaster, Jim Moore; Asst. Hikemaster, Bob Kotz; Records, Russ Hartley; Membership, Winnie Kruper; Social Chairman, Carolyn Bird; Trail Maintenance, Asa Chamberlain; Orientation, Bill Zwicky.

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Jim Moore, self-titled "Keeper of Band-aids," reported few had been used. (Let's keep it that way!)

Ted Haartz reported the audit done by Orville Jensen proved all is in order and the Club is financially sound. Rich Armstrong, outgoing Records Officer, reported 1911 names in the computer—these names go way back in time. Bob Montague processes sign-in sheets of names and GVR numbers. Copies are given to Records and Membership. Many things are on the computer sheets – number of hikes each member has taken, when hikes were taken, when (and whether) dues are paid. The Records Officer checks to see who is eligible for patches each week and has to check the signin sheets each Thursday morning to see if the "award winning hiker" is there. If so the Leader is given the patch to present during lunch.

In March the printout consisted of 12 pages and 524 names. More people sign in from July until the first week in March. There were no first time Hikers March 13. To date 4,389 signed in for 98-99. 3,886 for 97-98, and 3,850 for 96-97. Be aware of the time and effort it takes to be on top of all this information.

Asa Chamberlain, Trail Maintenance, expressed appreciation to Bill McMurray who has been involved in that activity for many years.

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Board Members whose terms are expiring are Tracy, Rich, and Lee Haartz. Each has done an outstanding job, and all members of the Club should express their appreciation.

Barry pointed out how much volunteer time goes into the club. Scheduling, scouting, leading, trail maintenance, orientation, directory, newsletters, records, potlucks, board duties, etc. – at least 400 volunteer hours a month!

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Club Logos on clothing: Discount Embroidery, 3504 East Grant, Tucson.

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Atascosa Lookout update: Ed Bieber reported that Mark South of the Forest Service said that when the fire danger is past the work will be completed. The Club donated \$500 to help with preservation of the building.

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Two more Hikers were awarded the 3500 mile patch – Svend Kristensen and Wally Morrell, bringing the total to four. In the past three years 175 Hikers received the 50 mile patch, 52 the 500, 21 the 1000, 20 the 1500, 9 the 2000, 13 the 2500, and 8 the 3000 patch.

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Thanks to the enthusiasm of Hikers, and convenience of grocery store baggies, Club members are leaving areas where we hike much more environmentally desirable.

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#### REPEATED REMINDERS THAT NEED REPEATING;

1. Carrying a stick? Is the person behind you dodging and fuming? Please hold your sticks in an "Upright position."
  2. Do you want credit for your hike? EACH Hiker signs in individually, NOT for your spouse or friend. It must be done clearly so Bob Montague can read it. First column print first initial and last name, second column your written signature, third column GVR #, first time Hikers make a check in the last column.
  3. Keep six feet apart on trails.
  4. ALWAYS carry raingear. It will rain one day!
  5. During sign-in: Driving? Let the Leader know how many riders you can take, and when your car is full mark how many (including you) are in your car. Riding? Look for a ride with one of the drivers. Stay close to the car (but not in the sign-in line) and keep the leader informed if you don't have a ride soon. Keep in mind who your driver is. Often a hike leaves early, so don't wander away too far or for too long.
  6. After signing in please step aside so the next people in line will be able to step up to the car.
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Those who missed the annual meeting missed a good reading of a letter the SAHC president wrote in response to some complaints of a first time hiker. Possibly it will be read at the next potluck!

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Hikers are very cooperative about parking in the gravel lot. It takes a lot of space in the north lot just to accommodate the drivers each week. It has always been a voluntary act for Hikers to take turns carpooling to the trailheads so the same people don't always do the driving. We are happy there are so many high clearance vehicles available to enable the Club to schedule more hikes in remote, interesting areas.

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Trail Tales Twice Yearly – Lillian Monson, Editor