



TRAIL TALES

GVR HIKING CLUB

P.O. BOX 1074, GREEN VALLEY, AZ 85622

SPRING 2002

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CAROLYN BIRD -

Just an update on a few of the happenings from the Board.

I have appointed Lillian Monson Club Historian. She will be responsible for collecting and organizing Hiking Club memorabilia that can be archived to preserve the Club's history.

We are in the midst of making some computer upgrades for those who keep Club records so that their work will coordinate with greater efficiency.

A committee of three – Peggy Smith, Vicki Mattox, and LaVern Schroeder – has been appointed to deal with environmental issues that would affect our hiking areas.

The following members of the Board will be retiring this Spring – Ken Fleshman, Hikemaster; Ruth Wenberg, Membership; Bob Kotz, Vice President, and Carolyn Bird, President. In addition, John Fanning, Orientation and Registration Chairman, has resigned from the Board. All of these members of the Club have devoted many, many hours to making things work. They will be greatly missed.

AND, to the 106 volunteers who served the Club in 2001, a well deserved THANK YOU for the commitments you have made to making the Hiking Club so effective.

TREASURER DAN SCHROEDER REPORTS that the Treasury continues in good shape with income exceeding expenses by a modest amount this past year. Payment of dues for this year is at a somewhat lower rate than during the past two years, with a total membership for 2002 projected at about 510.

HIKING CLUB VOLUNTEERS CHAIRMAN TOM JOHNSON REPORTS – The 2002 Membership Application Forms once again show that many of our Hikers are volunteering their time to work on Club projects. So far, each project seems to generate more Volunteers than can be effectively used. For example, 67 people volunteered to help with the February Potluck, and 74 volunteered for Trail Maintenance projects during the January-March time frame. Please don't be discouraged if you didn't get called. Keep volunteering!

All volunteers are greatly appreciated, and each project chairperson would much rather have too many volunteers than too few to complete the project.

Hike Leaders have been having fun! January 16 at 7 a.m. they were treated by the Club to a delicious buffet breakfast at the Country Club. This was followed by a very interesting talk by Lynn Harris, Historian of McGee Ranch. Questions were asked and myths set aside as he told how the area was settled. And on March 4, Hikemaster Ken Fleshman arranged a Leader/Spouse outing at the newly opened Oracle State Park near Oracle. Two groups formed – one a lively B doing six miles, the others doing a short hike plus a prearranged tour of the "Ranch House" constructed in 1929, designed in Mediterranean style. Ken and Vicki served "Leader Appreciation" cake. To that old question "are we having fun yet?" the answer is a definite yes!

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR 2002 MEMBERS! Names include those who paid dues by "press" time. Helen Zaukas produces it once a year around March 1 – it includes paid members as of the cutoff date.

ANNUAL MEETING IS TUESDAY, MARCH 26! Desert Hills, 8:30 a.m. Please put this on your calendar today! Coffee and doughnuts to be served, starting at 8 a.m. The nominating committee – Barry Murdoch, Chairman; Margaret Bieber, and Fred Oehler have submitted the following Nominees: Doris Gerganoff, Lee Huey, and Jack Hummel.

Voter Eligibility: The Sign-in printout will have names of current members who have a minimum of four hikes in the past twelve months.

KEN FLESHMAN, HIKEMASTER, REPORTS:

We have nearly completed another successful year in our Hiking Club. The number of hikers each week has followed the usual pattern of picking up in November, a lull at Christmas time, then a really popular surge in January, February and March, with days of up to 200 participants. The overall numbers are about the same as for last year. The worrisome over-expansion of the Club did not occur.

We were able to find enough Leaders to schedule 11 hikes each Thursday during the busy season. This should allow us to reduce the number of Hikers per hike to increase your enjoyment. The Board will be discussing this action.

Most popular hikes were the "C" hikes close to Green Valley. For some Hikers, time available may be a consideration, but we urge you to consider the wide range of options for enjoying the natural beauty and environment of the area.

It has been a safe year with only a few bandaids used and no serious injuries or other events. We did notice that Hikers who had trouble completing hikes were not new Hikers, they were returning from time away and perhaps didn't realize what shape they were in or that our elevations do matter. Think about this and try to return in good physical condition.

It has been a rewarding year as Hikemaster, your Leaders are tremendous people, as are all of you Hikers.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRWOMAN RUTH WENBERG

REPORTS 2001 membership closed at 522. Typically at this time of year we reach about 83% of our total for the year. We now have 430 members.

Please remember to list your GVR number properly. Tenants must be sure to put "T" after your number. If you move and you have a new GVR number make a note by the number on the Sign-in Sheet. Guests sign "Guest" in the GVR# space.

ASSISTANT HIKEMASTER DICK PAIGE thanks Club members who helped clean up two areas in Oversite Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, last August. Wayne Moshier, Gerry Kontz, Shelton Howland, Jim Jordan, and Ron Barry carried eight large garbage bags of trash over three miles. Illegals had left trash in two separate camps. Also another group of Hikers picked up 14 heavy bags of trash near the Madera Canyon Roundup when returning from a Thursday hike last summer.

The Spring Potluck, April 28 at West, will be chaired by Joe and Carol Faust. In February Presidents of the club were honored. A revived skit (with revisions) by former Hiker Fred Collins was directed by Phil Gray and Helen Zaukas.

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Hike Leader Mayme Clark is the first woman to be the Green Valley Elks Club Exalted Grand Ruler, for the term of 2002/03.

After a two year setback because of a knee replacement, Bob Lund was cheered by 16 Hikers as he stepped up onto the high point of the peak named for him by the Hiking Club. A brief ceremony with presentation of a commemorative award, and drinks and snacks provided by Bob at the end of the hike, made the hike and the event memorable to all who were there.

PHIL GRAY, RECORDS CHAIRMAN, REPORTS that in 2001 there were 137 awards given to Hikers. These awards represent 61,750 miles of hiking around southwest Arizona by our Club Members –

TWICE PLUS, AROUND THE WORLD!

Whew, makes you tired just thinking about it! Among the Hikers who have hiked in 2002, two are working toward the 4,000 mile award: Margaret Bieber and Mary Ruth Buchheister; five Hikers are working toward their 4500 mile award: Lillian Monson, Wally Morrell, Mag Turner, Bob (R.E.) Lund, and Andy Juhasz; and one Hiker is working toward her 5,000 mile award, Helen Berbeck! These people represent over 30,000 miles of hiking with the Club (does not include all of those scouting hikes)! Data suggests we lose about 60% of Club Members before they receive the 50 mile award. 39% of the Hikers drop out before getting the 250 mile award. Percentages drop from that point on. A graph compiled by Phil is very interesting and available if you would like to see it.

Correction: Re: Atascosa Lookout – Since Merle Batty had moved back east, obviously he was not heading the project at the beginning. Marv Partin spearheaded the action.

IN MEMORIUM

Ed Bieber, Hiker and past Club President

Club T Shirts: Creative Coyote Shop in Tubac.
Clothing Logos: Discount Embroidery, 3504 E. Grant, Tucson

ORIENTATION AND REGISTRATION:

Sessions will return to East Center April 1 after being given at Casa Paloma 1 most of the past season. The O&R schedule for 2002, along with the names of Presenters for each session is posted on the Club Webpage.

202 people attended O&R in 2001 as compared with 263 in 2000. After the September 11 tragedy, and the economy downturn, attendance fell sharply. This continues in 2002.

Only 53% of those attending O&R actually take a Club hike, and about 50% of people taking a trial hike join the Club.

John Fanning, Chairman for the past two years, has resigned as of March 31, 2002. John has done a fine job of revising the Presentation format and updating job descriptions of the various O&R positions, as well as arranging the relocation to Casa Paloma 1 while East Center has been renovated.

TAD BIRD becomes Chairman April 1, 2002. Tad says his first big plan is to conduct his first presentation at East, on Monday, April 1, which “not coincidentally” is April Fools Day!

Trail Tales – 2X year for your information. L. Monson, Editor

Website: <http://www.geocities.com/greenvalleyhikingclub/>

Three Hikers were honored on the 2001 “President’s Hike” the Friday after Thanksgiving, led by our president in her Jeep! Tad Bird received the 1000 mile patch, Clayton Smith the 2000 mile patch, and Bob Lund the 4000 mile award. President Carolyn Bird read very personal poems (which she composed from true facts). Helen Zaukas added a special one for Bob. Snacks and cold drinks, provided by many of the Hikers, were consumed by the Hikers amid much gaiety before they headed home from Elephant Head Mesa in the early afternoon.

There have been times when Leaders have had problems getting drivers, even when high-clearance isn’t required. Unless there is some reason not to drive please plan to take a turn now and then.

Wonder how (and why?) some of our hike destinations have names of Hikers? It all started “long ago” when a hiker resting at a saddle admired it and asked what it was called. Leader Wally Morrell quickly replied, “Wally’s Saddle” When she asked how long it had been called that he said, “Oh, about 30 seconds.” The rock formation on Old Baldy Trail was dubbed “Ernie’s Bench” (again by Wally) after Hiker Ernie Wicki died from a heart attack. When Chuck Rogers showed a group a very nice destination it became “Roger’s Rock” (yes, by Wally). Tracy’s Peak and Lund’s Peak, to honor two former Hikemasters, was the idea of Bob Kotz - to help distinguish hikes in that area. The latest is “Andy’s Lookout,” the C version of Florida Trail – Andy thought that up himself, and about time! He just led Quantrell Mine on his 86th birthday!

MADERA CANYON INFORMATION: In 1996 Congress granted the Forest Service permission to charge fees on 100 sites throughout the United States. The fee is started with valid reason and the amount charged varies within the program. It may be extended September 30, 2004.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BUY THE PERMITS IN MADERA CANYON as the money will be kept in a special San Francisco account for Madera Canyon, with funds dispersed for Madera Canyon. 5% of the collected funds go to the Supervisor’s Regional Office in Albuquerque, the balance stays in Madera Canyon with 15% for wages and 80% for the grounds.

A Day pass is \$5.00, or \$2.50 with the Golden Age or Golden Access Passport (but NOT the Golden Eagle) The annual permit, \$20, or \$10 with one of the passes, is good until the end of the month of your purchase, the following year. It is good for Mt. Lemmon and Sabino Canyon also. Two car licenses may be listed on the permit.

Permits may be purchased at the Santa Rita Lodge, the Bed and Breakfast, or at the “Iron Rangers” self-service pay stations. They are no longer available at the Chamber of Commerce. Friends of Madera Canyon volunteer information at the entry booth on weekends 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

ACE CHAMBERLAIN, TRAIL MAINTENANCE, has discussed with Forest Service Ranger Mike Culbert, who is temporarily assigned to Madera Canyon, a number of ideas about how the Club might contribute to improvements in the Canyon.

STANDARD HIKE DEPARTURE TIMES:

March – 7:30 a.m.; April – May, 7 a.m.; July – September, 6:30 a.m.; October – 7 a.m.; November – February, 8 a.m.
Some hikes have special departure times.