



FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT PHIL GRAY:

The annual meeting was held March 16 at Desert Hills Recreation Center. Those in attendance approved changes to the Club By-Laws which clarified non-Board positions in the club such as Directory Editor, Trail Tales Editor, etc. Reports from Board Directors indicate that the club is financially sound and thriving. Three new Directors were elected: Patty Greimann, Jim McBride, and Barb Schilds. They will assume positions on the Board at the May organizational meeting.

Retiring from the Board are Phil Gray, Secretary Mary Ellen Lesko, and Volunteers/Librarian Tom Johnson.

On a personal note, I want to thank each and every member of the Club for a terrific two years as president. Your support and willingness to help when needed has meant a great deal to me. Thank you, and I'll see you on Thursdays!

The Nominating Committee consisted of Co-Chairs Dan and Lavern Schroeder, George Chute, and Winnie Kruper.

The Club "C" hike through the Ironwood Forest National Monument is a unique view of this splendid Sonoran desert landscape. The BLM is developing a long range management plan for the Monument. Since it is placed so close to development, and threatened with more, public input is important. A PUBLIC PRESENTATION IS SCHEDULED MONDAY, MARCH 29, AT 2:00 P.M. AND AGAIN AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE PIMA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION CENTER, 3500 West River Road, Tucson.

CLOSE TO HOME IS THE SANTA RITA EXPERIMENTAL RANGE, with its headquarters at the Florida workstation. We have several hikes in this area but generally learn little about what goes on and the importance of this land. There will be an OPEN HOUSE, SATURDAY, MARCH 27 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Drive toward Madera Canyon, turn left on the Box Canyon Road (dirt) and almost immediately turn right and drive to the workstation. The road is suitable for passenger cars – but try to car-pool.

CPA/Hiker Darold Brockhaus audited the Treasurer's books.

ORIENTATION REPORT, LEE KUIKEN, CHAIRPERSON:
Interested people are encouraged to try the seven mile hike from Proctor to the Roundup before hiking with the Club. This gives altitude, variety of terrain, and a test of stamina before taking the two trial hikes with the Club after attending a session. From Jan. 1 to March 15, 2004, 84 have attended, 38 taken a first hike, 25 have joined. 208 people took Orientation in the year 2003. Mary Ann Jordan, Barry Murdoch, Phil Gray, Bob Porterfield, and Walt Prue, along with substitutes Tad Bird and Helen Zaukas, present sessions. No sessions in June, two in July, two in August, then every week Sept. through March 05.

FROM RON BARRY, HIKEMASTER:

We had a pretty good year. Despite wildfires, the Forest Service, bears, construction projects, and lately, mountain lions, we did a lot of hiking. Over the last 12 months there were 5058 hikers, 3097 of them on "C" hikes, 1309 on "B" hikes, and 652 on "A" hikes. 325 hikes were scheduled with 185 "C" hikes, 83 "B" hikes, and 57 "A" hikes, adding up to 2006 miles. During the winter months two additional "C" hikes were scheduled each week for a total of eight hikes, providing "C" hikers with a wide range of choices.

Hikes were done with a staff of 42 Leaders and 11 Assistant Leaders. After scouting (sometimes more than once) and then leading the hikes, the Leaders demonstrate how willing they are to make this Club a success. And it is.

To provide better information about individual hikes, we implemented a rating system comprised of degree of difficulty, trail conditions, and road to trailhead conditions.

We also instituted a new CPR method called Continuous Chest Compressions. Simpler than standard CPR, it is recommended by the University Medical Center as more effective. The International Red Cross will also recommend it the next time they update their guidelines.

For me, this has been a great year. As Hikemaster I worked with a great group of people, the Hike Leaders. They were unstinting in their support and I greatly appreciate it.

The Hikemaster for 2004-05 is Peggy Smith. Merle Batty is Assistant Hikemaster.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FROM DORIS GERGANOFF:

As of March 16 membership was 436. (Last year 451). 364 are renewals, 72 are new members. Past statistics:

12/30/03 – 491, 12/30/02 – 497, 10/30/01 – 522, 11/16/00 – 548, 10/31/99 – 495

55 Membership forms were obtained from the Website compared to 47 forms in 2002.

MEDICAL INFORMATION forms to be carried in backpacks continue to be given to new members and have been well received. If you do not have one please check with Doris.

MUCH INFORMATION ON THE HIKING CLUB WEBSITE:

<http://gvrhc.org> EMAIL: gvhcmail@yahoo.com

To receive Club E-Mailings print your email address VERY legibly on the Membership form. Report email address changes to the above address. If your address is not legible your mailing comes back and is deleted from the Club list. Do not include your Email address if you do not want Club mailings.

LIBRARIAN TOM JOHNSON has been very diligent in putting much resource material on the Website which is available both to Leaders and Members.

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EVER WONDER ABOUT YOUR AWARDS?

The Club has a hard working team of people, Phil and Kaye Gray, Barry Murdoch, Karen Chadwell, and George Chute. They record all the hikers and hikes EVERY week, keeping track of the miles that we hike with the Club.

Each week Awards Chairman Lee Huey, the man behind the patches, checks all the names on the sign-in sheets – while you are signing in – to make sure awards are given to the Leaders who present them to the “Achievers” on the day they are earned. Now, when there are over 200 people in the West Center parking lot, that can be quite a task! Lee has enlisted a helper this winter, Kathy Chute, to assist in checking the lists. Thanks, Lee!

In the past year 149 awards were presented to Hikers.

NOTICE: GVR's photo ID's with new numbers will be required by January 1, 2005. Thanks to Barry Murdoch and the Records Committee, the hike files have been changed to accommodate the new numbering system. Members may use either number on the sign-in sheets until 2005. NEW MEMBERS ARE TO USE THE NEW PHOTO ID NUMBER NOW. Two separate data columns are now used to keep records from whichever number is used on the sign-in sheets. Jan. 1, 2005, only new numbers will be accepted.

JIM PERKINS, Leader since 1993, resigned in February, 2004. Read about him in the Club's Website “Hall of Fame!” He has been a very active, productive Club member and Leader.

FIRST 5000 MILE AWARD! Lillian Monson is the first Hiker ever to receive the award. What an accomplishment! She has been with the Club since 1984, is a dedicated Leader who has designed the patches after the 500 mile one, and the gal who, after suggesting a newsletter, has been faithful in getting the Trail Tales out to all the members since its inception. At the annual meeting, in tribute to Lillian, Milt Foster, ever the thespian, performed a parody of “My Fair Lady.” His rendition, “I've grown accustomed to her PACE!,” brought cheers from the crowd. Congratulations, Lillian.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO LEADERS AND ASSISTANTS:

Bill Cummins – Nov. 6, 2003; Jan Jordan, Febr. 19, 2004; Assistants: Larry Cover, Steve Mossholder, Sandy Noreen, Jim Plansky, Bob Porterfield, Bill Snyder, and Marilyn Townley.

During 2003/04 the number of Hikers peaked at 219 on January 29, 2004, and February 19, 2004. Check to see which hikes were offered then and ponder on whether that might have made a difference!

Leaders don't “just happen.” Once Leaders are asked and accept the opportunity, trainees are assigned to experienced Leaders for four hikes – 2 “C”s, 1 “B,” 1 “A” or 2 “B”s.

Assistants receive at least an hour of Orientation with the Hikemaster before the assignments. The Club has developed a “Job Description” for both Leaders and Assistants to help them be consistent with the format for our slogan, “Safe and Enjoyable Hiking.”

CLOTHING LOGOS: Discount Embroidery, 3504 E. Grant
CLUB T SHIRTS: Creative Coyote Shop, Tubac

FROM JUDITH LECLAIR, SOCIAL CHAIRMAN:

You will be happy to know the next February potluck will be on the second Sunday to avoid the Superbowl conflict. Last November 160 attended the event and enjoyed the talk and latest film about Madera Canyon presented by Friends of Madera Canyon President Keith Siebers. Keith is the husband of Hiker Virginia. In February 126 attended the potluck when a program was presented by the Sky Island Alliance concerning the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness proposal. Green Valley Bike and Hike Shop provided raffle items.

Coming to the April 4 potluck, Hikers are encouraged to wear western clothing (no six-shooters, please!) as it will be a Western Cowboy theme. The program will be a unique Old West Radio Adventure which you will not want to miss! Please contact Judith, she could use a few more helpers.

November Potluck Volunteers were Jill Henry, Vee St. John, Karen and Dave Carroll, Inge and Bert Mueller, Jerry and LaVonne Kontz, Nancy and Stan Znamierowski, and Barb and Ron Saint.

In February thanks went to Joan MacIsaac and Martha McMahon for decorations; Judy and Don Kramer, Reception; Kay and Gary Engels, dessert table; Marlene and Bill Isbell, Ken and Jan Sink, Jean Ross and Mario Alexay, and all of you who have helped so much!

Forty-four Leaders and Assistant Leaders enjoyed the Hiking Club Appreciation Breakfast at the Cow Palace last January. Bob Ring and Tallia Cahoon told about the historic town of Ruby and mining in the Arizona Borderland area.

IN MEMORIUM

Lou Snyder, husband of Hiker Marilyn Snyder

Hikers who have been away from hiking for any length of time are encouraged:

1. To do the Madera Trail from Proctor to the Roundup.
2. Find out when the next Orientation is and take a refresher.
3. Make sure your Doctor has given you an o.k. for vigorous exercise. Very few of our hikes are easy.

Now that the Club has made an even greater effort to let you know what the hike is like from the rating system included with every hike description, read it. Note the elevation in comparison with the length of the hike. If you have any questions, please call the Leader of the hike you are planning to take.

We have so many great hikes to interesting places. Often high clearance vehicles are needed, so if you have one you are encouraged to take your turn driving. It isn't fair for the same people to always have to drive. And if HCVs aren't required, do your best to take your turn driving. “You'll be glad you did.” When asked to take a Club job, “just say YES!” TRAIL MAINTENANCE NEEDS A CHAIRPERSON NOW. Just Offer!

2004 Club Directories are ready, thanks to Helen Zaukas.

Editor, Lillian Monson. Assistant, Kathy Chute