



TRAIL TALES

HIKING CLUB

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

Spring 2006

A Note from President Patty Greimann, , , You may or may not know, a Celebration is in order—the Hiking Club's 25th Anniversary. I am delighted to say, Bill and Jane Necker, the founders of the Hiking Club on August 1981, will honor us with their presence at our April Potluck. A special thanks to Lillian Monson who designed our commemorative T-Shirt logo and to Kaye Gray for her efforts and time to coordinate the T-Shirt orders and the Club's Trail Tails Special Anniversary Issue

On March 14th the Annual GVRHC Meeting attendees were just shy of 90 members! Thank you Club members for your time and attention to hear from each Board of Director on an update of their area of responsibilities. I praise each Board member for all their efforts this past year and I could not have asked for more—you made me look good. Thank you!

During this year, in addition to the regular scheduled Board Meetings, we held two Special Meetings to create a Club's Operations Manual which describes board member and officer duties, time constraints, linkages with other committees and a back-up person for each area. All the material was sent electronically to Webmaster, Ron Barry, who compiled the manual for the Club Website. Thank you Ron!

Through the excellent leadership of the Club's Trail Maintenance Committee, consisting of Ken Sink, Jim Jordan, John Brant and Richard Calabro, numerous trails have been improved and dozens of trash bags collected from hiking areas. Also the Club Trail Maintenance and Volunteers responded twice for help on the Tumacacori National Park Anza Trail. The Arizona Daily Star contacted me to set-up a hike to Atascosa Lookout and reminisced with volunteers who were some of the lookout fixer-uppers. Thanks to Bob Kotz, Jim Jordan, and Barry Murdoch for trekking up with the newspaper reporter-photographer. An excellent article appeared in the newspaper.

A great deal of time and effort has been spent this year regarding the importance of keeping the GV Westside Desert Trails available for our Club Hikes. Thanks to Judith LeClair and Bill Adamson for their continuous involvement.

In saying farewell as your President this year, my personal gratitude to Hikemaster Merle, to every Hike Leader and Assistant Leader, and ALL Club Volunteers. You are the CORE of our Club - it has been my honor to be your President.

Congratulations to our newly elected Board of Director members—Kathy Chute, Budde Boysen and Mamie Specht. Other Board changes include the appointment of Harry Vaughn as Vice President replacing Nancy Chandler who resigned recently. Kathy Chute is serving as Secretary ProTem in the position vacated by Jim McBride.

AWARDING MILEAGE RECOGNITION PATCHES. . .

Over the past year this task was accomplished by a dedicated AWARDS Team... Thanks to our capable and willing volunteers: Virginia Siebers, Marlene Isbell, and Kathy Chute. During 2005, 155 patches were awarded. These awards represent 86,950 miles of hiking by these awardees. Can you imagine, that is more than three times around the earth? The major awards given were: Andy Juarsz—5,000; Tracy Ackerman—4,000; Milt Foster—3,500; Lee & Ted Haartz, Marie Gabbert—3,000. Also there were 3 – 2500; 4 – 2,000; 10 – 1,500; 17 – 1,000; 19 – 500; 31 – 250; 64 – 50 given out..

SOLVING THE RED DOT MYSTERY. . . It does not denote when a Hiker is to be awarded a patch, but rather where we left off checking the list the last time we passed through. Lee Huey, a former awards chair, developed this technique to save us time as we search for Hikers who are due to receive a patch that day! And now you know...

Judith Le Clair, Awards Chair

WORKING THE TRAILS. . . Trail Maintenance and Cleanup Supervisors have had a very busy year. The Trail Maintenance Crews have logged a total of nearly 700 hours in the Madera area and about 270 hours on the Anza Trail projects, a total of nearly 1,000 hours!

Trail Clean-up Crews have had 16 outings including: Cienega Creek, Pima County Community College, the Cerro Colorados, McGee Ranch, Anza Trail, and Sawmill Canyon. They have logged over 500 hours of service to our community. Volunteers have participated 118 times, most more than once. They have picked up over 300 bags of trash in the areas where we hike.

We all should give a special thanks to Ken Sink, Jim Jordan, John Brant and Richard Calabro and all the workers involved with these projects. We all really appreciate the work these volunteers have been doing!

Budde Boysen, Volunteers

GROOMING MADERA CANYON AFTER THE FIRE. . .

Work completed by the Hiking Club's Trail Maintenance crews since last September include reworking the Nature Trail from the Amphitheater parking area up to the round-up parking area. The crews put in water bars, steps and curbing in where it was needed and patched the concrete on the trail with rocks. Also the crews rebuilt the trail across the road from Amphitheater parking lot going to Bog Springs road. Kent Springs Trail was opened and repaired curbing and the old water bars cleaned out. Trees were cleared from the trail and steps made going down over Kent Springs wash. Repair work was finished to the trail behind Kent Springs Center, and to the Kent Springs Trailhead. In addition to the Madera Canyon work crews worked on the Anza Trail by Tumacacori and Rio Rico, rebuilding about a mile of the trail. The Rio Rico crew had 26 volunteers and the Tumacacori volunteers numbered 35.

John Brant, Crew Leader

KEEPING THE CLUB ON THE TRAIL. . . This hiking year has seen a lot of changes. The fire of last summer and the move to Desert Hills caused a few bumps along our trails, but we managed to prevail. As I end my tenure as Hike Master, I want to thank all of the members for their encouragement throughout the year. Barry will need our backing as well since the parking change is still with us, and the specter of another fire season looms over us. I am pleased with the new seasonal hike list* that was completed. This will be a great help to all future Hike Masters. I am also pleased with three new leaders, Gary Fabiano, John Brant, and Harry Vaughn, and four new assistant leaders, Marlene Isbell, Bill Isbell, Don Gfroerer, and Barbara Wuehrmann. We need more members to volunteer for leader and assistant training. To all of my Leaders and Assistants, thank you for being there when I called on you. "Happy Hiking Trails to everyone."

Merle Batty, Hike Master

*Identifying when our various hikes are suitable for weather and trail condition changes.

Barry Murdoch assumes the Hike Master position on April 1. The new Assistant Hike Master will be Budde Boysen.

Finance Report . . . All the club's finances remain in good order. The audit of the 2005 transactions was completed by Broc Brockhaus.

Joe MacIsaac, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP INFO . . . Currently the GVR Hiking Club has 455 paid members, of those 66 are new to the club.

Barbara Powell, Membership Chair

GOOD ORIENTATION, MAKES SAFE HIKERS. . . We have six presenters who provide potential club members with the necessary information about the club and hiking in Southern Arizona. These members are: Lee Keiken, Mary Ann Jordan, Walt Prue, Barry Murdoch, Phil Gray and Bob Porterfield.

In 2005 211 individuals attended O&R. 43% of these actually took a first hike and 32% joined the Club. So far, the attendance for 2006 appears to be similar to 2005.

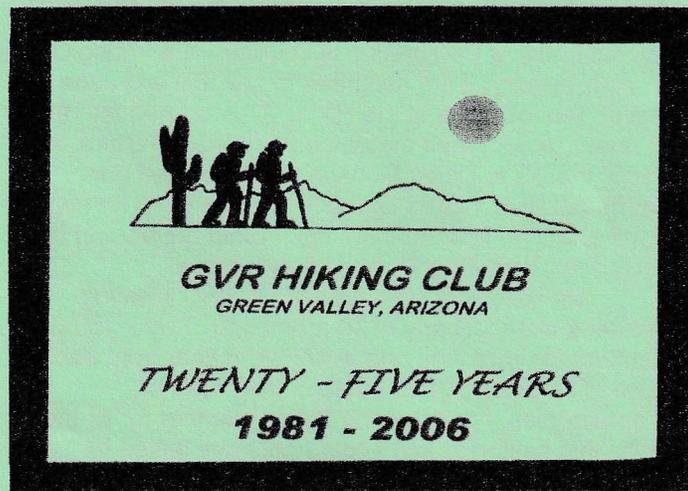
The presenters along with Patty Griemann, George Chute and Helen Zaukas have recently helped out with a revision to the presentation material and the handout package that we give all attendees.

Bob Porterfield, O & R Chair

REMINDERS:

- SIGNING IN:** Have your GVR Card checked for number accuracy. Write your name and legal GVR# legibly, please.
- When signing in guests, do not use the GVR guest card number, but please write "guest."
- If this is your first hike with the club place a check mark in the first hike column.
- HIKING STICK RULES to observe. SWING YOUR STICK IF YOU MUST, Up and Down, NOT BACK AND FORTH. Keep the stick ends down and in front of you.**
- ALLOW SIX TO EIGHT FEET between you and the Hiker in front of you.**
- DRINK WATER.** Every time the group stops.
- KEEP TRACK OF YOUR DRIVER.** . he/she may leave early.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. . . A Celebration of the Hiking Club's 25th Anniversary (1981 —2006) will be observed at the April 2, 2006 Spring PotLuck at West Center at 5:00 p.m. Bill and Jane Necker, the club's founders and a number of early former hikers will join the festivities.



The above design was created by Lillian Monson for the 25th Anniversary T-shirt.

GVR HIKING CLUB LOGO. . .

Discount Embroidery, 3504 E. Grant St., Tucson, will machine embroider the club logo on any item of clothing that you bring to the store, i.e. sweatshirt, jacket, vest, etc. The cost is \$5 and the turn around is about 2 weeks.

Creative Coyote, in Tubac, has the hiking club design available, (\$4) for application, while you wait, on select colors of tee shirts or sweatshirts that can be purchased at this store.

2006 CLUB DIRECTORY. . . Thanks again to Helen Zaukas, club membership directories are available.

A FOND FAREWELL. . . The GVR Hiking Club and the Green Valley Birders say goodbye to Jim and Karen McBride as they move to the Lone Star State. Jim served as a Hike Leader and club secretary. Karen always found, saw, heard and pointed out the many birds along the trail.

A SPECIAL THANKS for jobs well done to retiring board members Judith LeClair and Joe MacIsaac.

GOT A NEW GVR NUMBER?? To assure your hike credit will always be correct, PLEASE send you new address, GVR#, name, telephone number to: GVR Hiking Club Membership Chair, P.O. Box 1074, Green Valley, AZ 85622. And help the hike records recorders by marking that you have a new number on the Hike Sign Up Sheet.

F.Y.I... Check out the Hiking Club's **WEBSITE:**

<http://gvrhc.org>

Monthly bulletins, board minutes and much, much more.

WRIGHTSON TRAIL REOPENS. . . Keith Graves, the District Ranger confirmed *The Baldy Trail* is now open all the way to the top of Mt. Wrightson MARCH 21, 2006

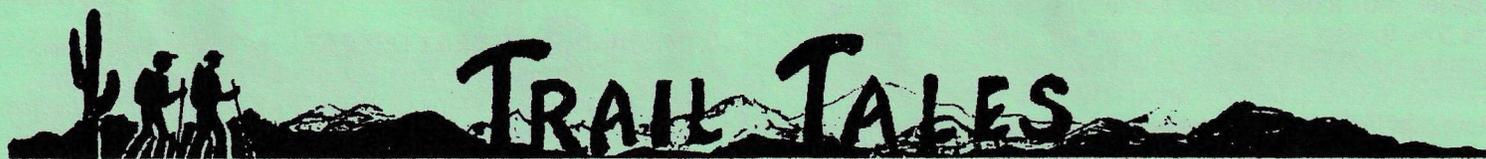
Bob Katz

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25th ANNIVERSARY SECTION**A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GVR HIKING CLUB**

by Lillian Monson

SPRING 1981—After an organizational meeting with GVR when Jane and Bill Necker suggested a hiking rather than a walking group, an ad in the local paper brought out 35 hikers on August 20th for a Nature Trail Hike in Madera Canyon. A pattern of meeting every other week at West Center parking lot and carpooling to trailheads was established.

SPRING 1984—The club continued to grow, with 90 hikers some weeks, and became an official GVR Charter Club complete with Bylaws on March 26th. Later in 1984, assuming hikers would still go every other week, the Board decided to offer hikes each week, thus reducing the group size. Everyone came out each week.

AUTUMN 1985—A and B hikes began with hikes limited to 40 hikers, later dropped to 35, now 25. A third C hike was added in November of 1987.

WINTER 1989—By February, four hikes a week were scheduled through April. Overflow hikes were needed almost weekly. In 1989, a special President's Hike was held on the Friday after Thanksgiving and is now held each year. Since 1990, no June hikes other than National Trails Day have been scheduled, giving the Hike Master additional planning time. The Hike Master is kept busy planning the year's schedule of hikes, assigning leaders, preparing monthly bulletins and scouting hikes. Going from 22 possible hikes in 1983-84 to over 300 hikes today shows the hours of planning, scouting and training needed to keep fresh hikes available for members. Today's use of the GPS has provided more accurate mileage and elevation stats, plus better maps of trails.

PATCHES—Patches are awarded for various mileage accumulations with 7 miles awarded and recorded for each hike. His/her GVR number keeps each hiker's record.

PRESENT ORGANIZATION—Three members are elected each year to serve on the Board of Directors. Each serves a three-year term. The business of the club is determined at Board meetings held throughout the year and at the Membership meeting held in the spring.

POTLUCKS—The first potluck was held at Desert Hills on May 4, 1986 and served 68 persons. Three potlucks now are held each year in October or November, February and April.

ORIENTATION—In 1993, in an effort to better prepare new hikers for their first hike with the club, Orientation sessions were introduced. The sessions proved more beneficial and popular than ever imagined.

DUES—Prior to 1995, hikers paid twenty-five cents each time they hiked. In 1995, annual dues were implemented. Paid up members with four hikes in the membership year have voting privileges. As of March 2006, membership is over 450.

OBSERVATION and COMMENT. . . Thanks to the Club's Historians, Wally Morrell and Lillian Monson who have preserved the information about the club in the last 25 years. Twenty or more volunteers have carefully tracked members and recorded each hike taken. Sadly, some of earliest hike records are no longer available so we don't have the names of many of the original hikers. Seventeen members did steer the organization over the years. But the applause goes to the following whose dedication kept us hiking—the Hike Masters: Cameron Beckwith, Bill Fritz, Vince Morrison, Bob Lund, Frank Jappel, Tracy Ackerman, Marv Partin, Jim Perkins, Wally Morrell, Ted Haartz, Winnie Kruper, Jim Moore, Bob Kotz, Ken Fleshman, Dick Paige, Ron Barry, Peggy Smith, Merle Batty

As Arizona hikers each of us have discovered the beauty hidden in the mountains, arroyos, the breath-taking vistas—sometimes with flora and fauna struggling to survive, the awe inspiring sights of spring wild flowers in bloom as far as the eye can see or the rush of water in monsoon swollen washes as the moisture brings life back to a harsh land. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those volunteer leaders of the Green Valley Hiking Club who over the years have made these discoveries possible by devoting their time and energies to organizing, scouting and leading so hikers may explore our southwestern environment. Thank you! Thank you!

*Kaye Gray, Editor***ATASCOSA LOOKOUT PROJECT**

Atascosa Lookout, listed on the National Historic Lookout Register, is a dramatic reminder of our past. Club members Wally Morrell, Helen Zaukas, Jan Dalen, Svend Kristensen and Marv Partin worked with the Forest Service defining the project and in April 1996 the Hiking Club Board voted to donate \$500 toward the \$6,000 needed for restoring the catwalk, roof and windows. Work materials arrived at the site in 1997. Over the next several years, work party volunteers including Marv Partin, Budde Boysen, Darold Brockhaus, Jim Campbell, Jim Jordan, Gerald Kontz, Bob Kotz, Wally Morrell, Tom Johnson, Barry Murdoch, Dick Paige, Dan Schroeder, Jim McBride, Wayne Moshier and others completed the job. The work included removal/installation of the cedar shingle roof, replacement of 12 broken windows, new front door, double insulated chimney for installed stove and general cleaning and hauling of the trash off the mountain.

Atascosa Lookout is perched on a pinnacle of rock at 6,249 feet of elevation, located at the end of a 2.75-mile trail. Author Edward Abbey described the lookout as a "flimsy old frame shack." He manned it during the 1968 fire season. The club volunteers continue to keep watch on the lookout's maintenance needs.

CREST TRAIL EXPERIENCE by Winnie Kruper

On a late May morning in 1992, Lillian Monson, Leader, took a eager group out to hike the Crest Trail. At the time to start, the hike cars were left at the trailhead just outside the Florida Work Station and other cars at Madera Canyon Roundup parking area. The hike started at the Roundup trailhead. The hike went along as usual until we took a short snack break at the Baldy Saddle area when the dark clouds started rolling in and thunder was heard. The weather had been nice, and most hikers were in shorts, and at best, had a windbreaker or poncho for protection from the approaching storm.

It was decided that we were at a point in the hike where there was no turning back, so off we went on towards Florida Saddle some two miles or more away. The wind, rain, with thunder and lightning changed the nice day into a totally different experience. Heavy hail began as we started into the tall pines. The temperature dropped down into the low 30's. Bob Lund was afraid that a few hikers might suffer hypothermia. He had an extra sweater and hat and others had extra gear to pass out. Paul Kendall was the only hiker with a GoreTex rain suit. Because of some very sharp strikes of lightning, hikers were told to hike with distance between each other for safety.

Lillian, being a good, thoughtful Leader, gave us a short lunch break in the tall pines where at this time we were experiencing 2 -3 inches of "hail." How she kept us on the trail, I don't know. The rain frozen onto the pine branches and the hail on the ground - it was truly a winter wonderland.

The weather did improve as we made our way down into the open part of the trail. It finally turned into another beautiful Arizona day. When the group finally completed the 11-½ mile hike to Florida Work Station trailhead we decided it was truly a day to remember.

After gathering all the cars and hikers together, we made a stop at the Whitehouse picnic area to finish our lunches and to help Win Durant celebrate his birthday. We discussed our adventure and made sure that every one had the same story!

AS SEEN BY ANOTHER HIKER by Margaret Bieber

I have a P.S. to add to the Crest Trail Hike on May 21, 1992. I went on a hike to Old Madera Mine that day with Bill Fritz as leader and Cameron Beckwith as sweep. The weather seemed good when we left. We visited Old Madera Mine and it was a bit cloudy. We returned down the arroyo as we do today when we return from Roger's Rock. Clouds, cooler weather and a few lightning flashes were occurring, first sprinkles, then rain, as we neared the pipeline trail. We put on our rain gear and shared with others who were not prepared for rain. Ed and I had ponchos and each had a plastic garbage bag to give to someone to wear. It poured, then hailed and snowed, the lightning was fierce. We had to go slowly to stay on that narrow slippery trail. We kept looking at the Crest Trail area across the way, hardly able to see the ridge. We

hoped all were safe. Slowly we got back to the cars, all wet and terribly cold. Green Valley had just a few sprinkles and the sun was out when we returned.

THE HIKE THAT BEAT DEFEAT by an anonymous Hiker

The hike that beat defeat was just that! The day was beautiful and many of us were just being introduced to the discovery of new places to hike in and new areas to see.

The day was bright and sunny, spirits were high and it was exciting to bushwhack from Wise Mesa down the steep embankment to the canyon floor below. Flowers were blooming and there was water in the streambed. After lunch Vince and Cameron conferred and pointed us in a different direction. We bushwhacked up hill to a level area where we found a man lying on the ground. Suddenly, Wally AND Marv Partin, took off up over a hillside, Two other men I didn't even see also went for help. It was decided the group would go back to the cars.

Only it wasn't that simple. No one seemed to know the way. We kept hiking along and suddenly we saw the tank that obviously was Toruno Tank, as we know it today. By this time a lady had leg problem and no one seemed to be in charge. It was not really bedlam but by todays standard it was rather close to it! Clayton Smith was the one who saw the need and took charge. He had his directions straight and had an idea where the cars were. We made it out O.K. There was still excitement in the air (literally) when the helicopter made at least three passes trying to locate the man in distress, and with the ambulance, the sheriff's car and the border patrol. It turned out to be a hike we who were on it will never forget!! Details, yes. The hike— never. Svend and I had a fun argument about where we parked. We were both positive we were right. Svend bet a "turtle" rock from Apache Peak, which I had been coveting. We were told "on good authority" that I was right—after I had possession of the rock I was proven wrong.

A SYCAMORE CANYON HIKE by Bob Lund, Hike Leader

The hike off Ruby Road in the Atascosa foothills may require as many as 15 stream crossings, depending on the water flow. Rains made water levels higher than normal and rocks more slippery during the winter of 1991—92.

At one of the crossings a portly Hiker took a head fall on wet granite and ended up flat on his back, soaking wet, in the streambed. With some difficulty we got him on his feet.

To dry him out we gathered dead wood from near by and built a fire upon a large bed of granite nest to the stream. A Good Samaritan Hiker stayed with him while the Leader took the remainder of the group down to the hike's destination at the "narrows."

Returning back through the canyon the wonderful smell of burning mesquite filled the air at least a mile from the camp fire. (Wonder if some of the hikers wished for marshmallows to take advantage of the fire?) By the time the group returned the wet Hiker had dried out and experienced no further problems.