



From the President's desk . . .

The Green Valley Hiking Club has had a good year; number of hikers are at our highest level since 2003, and our finances are in very good shape. We still need to find a backup person for our web master, but all other positions have been filled and functioning smoothly including Trail Maintenance headed by Richard Shimanek.

We do not yet have a solution to the State Trust Land problem. Wayne Moshier, Hike Master will do his best to avoid any hikes in Trust Land not on a Forest Service Road, but it is very difficult to ascertain whether or not many of our hikes may cross Trust Land. For those individuals who may wish to purchase an individual hiking permit the website for securing an application is www.land.state.az.us (click on Recreation Permits tab). Application assistance is through (602) 542-4631. We will continue to work on the problem.

Phil Gray, President

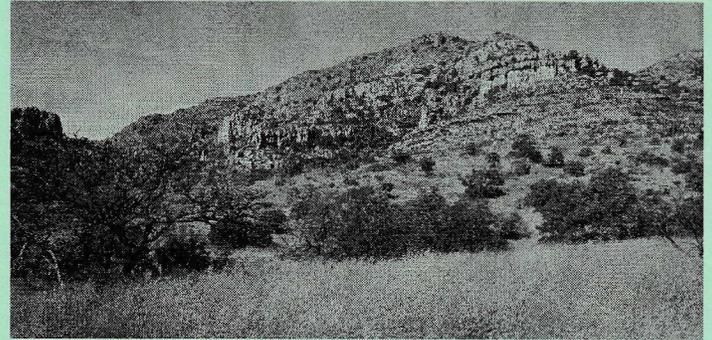
On the trail with the Hike Master. . .

Although 2008 ended with two consecutive rained out weeks in December, your hiking club still had a very good year. We sent out 4,451 hikers and guests on 337 hikes during 2008, averaging more than 13 people per hike. At seven miles a hike, that's over 31,000 miles on the trail. And 2009 has started with a surge of interest—through February we've counted 1,620 hikers on 93 hikes; more than any January/February since 2003.

GVR guest cards have been an evolving process. The two current versions are daily and annual. Just as a reminder, when you bring a guest to hike, please write the word "guest" on the sign-in sheet in the column for GVR number. Don't write the number that appears on the guest card, as our record keepers will mistakenly think it is a GVR number.

Particularly during the busy winter months, please take care where you park your car on Thursdays in the West Center parking lot. Although your hiking club obtains parking privileges for each day we hike, GVR administration asks that we preserve as much access as possible for other GVR members using West Center later in the day. **Park in the lanes at the southern end of the lot, using the spaces on the western side of the lot (away from the building). Most important, please do not park anywhere in the lane where hike leaders are set up for sign-in.** That particular lane is the only one in the lot capable of handling the number of hikes we send out in the winter months. With more than 200 people hiking each week, dealing with extra cars is not only inconvenient for leaders, it is potentially dangerous for hikers waiting in line. That lane is easily recognizable by the two-foot tall orange placards with the various hike numbers displayed on them. Thanks for your cooperation.

George Chute, Hike Master



Looking from the Corral Nuevo-trail

Volunteer Service Projects. . .

It has been a busy time for our Trail Cleanup Volunteers. Two projects were completed in February. Richard Calabro led a group to help clean up the Santa Cruz River at the Tumacacori Mission. Ed Westhoven, our new Trail Cleanup Coordinator, organized a cleanup on the McGee Ranch. 44 club members worked with McGee Ranch employees and hauled out over 200 bags of trash. A tremendous effort!

Our thanks to Ed and Richard and all the volunteers who provided 526 hours of service already in 2009!

Thom Davies, Volunteer Services Chair



The McGee Ranch Clean up Team

Treasurer's report. . .

The Treasurer's report to the annual meeting stated that a local CPA reviewed all deposits and withdrawals made in 2008, and concluded that the financial statement presented fairly the cash balance of the Hiking Club as of December 31, 2008. He reported that the financial records maintained by the Treasurer were well organized and provided a clear audit trail.

As of January 1, 2009 the Club has \$2587.89 in the checking account and \$5275.13 in a CD.

Mayme Specht, Treasurer

PECK CANYON RESCUE

On March 5th I led the Peck Canyon C hike with 18 other hikers, entering Peck via the pipeline road and walking west to the window rock for our snack break. Then continuing west about 200 yards when I spotted a man on the ground ahead of us on the other side of the wash. When he saw us he began calling out and waving. We went to him to investigate. He did speak some English and told us he thought his ankle was broken, and it looked like it was. He said that he was left behind by his group's coyote THREE DAYS before. He had no food and an empty water jug. His lips were dried, cracked and green from eating the grass. He had strips of blanket tied around his knees for crawling.

There was no cell service in the canyon so we told him we would take his GPS coordinates and call for help as soon as we got service back. After helping him into better shade we left him with a 1/2-gallon of water, an apple and about 5 energy bars. On the hill above the massacre site we got 1 bar of cell service. Unable to get the Nogales Border Control number we did get a 911 connection and told the operator the situation but lost the signal after giving her only half of the GOS coordinates. While lunching at the massacre site we spotted a Border Control SUV. We intercepted them thinking that they were responding to our 911-call, but they knew nothing about it. They were investigating the tracks we left entering the canyon at the pipeline. We gave the patrol the information so they could contact their EMT's to find him. As we stopped for a final circle up in sight of our cars, we saw a large chopper was coming over the Tumacacoris. We watched as it went straight to the man's location, circled and landed out of site in the canyon.

We all walked to our cars feeling good knowing we had done our good deed for the day.

Gary Icenogle, Hike Leader

Awards News

It has been a great year serving as the Awards Chairman for the GVR Hiking Club. First I would like to thank the volunteers who record all the hikes of each person, every week, on our computer file: Karen Chadwell, George Chute and Phil Gray. With their attention to detail, I receive a list each week of those hikers who are eligible for a mileage patch the next Thursday he/she hikes.

I also want to thank the 2009 Awards Team volunteers: Marlene Isbell, Pam Boehms, Don Houge and Sue Houge. I really appreciated all their help this winter. They have done a great job checking the sign in sheets on Thursday mornings, especially on those days when the hikes filled and left early. In January and February, they distributed 39 patches, almost half of all the patches given since May, 2008.

A total of 79 patches, from 50 miles to 5000 miles, have been given to club members from May 2008 through February, 2009. We all measure our goals and/or awards in different ways. Sometimes it is the mileage on the patch, or the number of years hiked, or the number of trails explored or the names of the peaks reached or even how many pairs of hiking boots have worn out! And for others, our hiking days are measured by the many friendships we have made along the way.

See you on the trails!

Kathy Chute, Awards Captain



February Pot Luck Dinner

Gathering together. . .

So far this season our potlucks have been well attended -- there were 128 people at the Nov. potluck and 170 at the Feb. potluck. It takes time and work to organize these events, I so appreciate all the help from the volunteers -- I could not have done this without them. So please be willing to volunteer when called upon.

There was no summer salad potluck this last summer as there was no one to organize it -- I do hope someone will step forward, and set things up for this summer. It's quite easy to do -- there is no sign up, no program, just get together and enjoy the food and other hikers --if anyone is interested please contact me and I will help you set it up.

Bonnie Becker, Social Chairperson

IN REMEMBRANCE
BOB LUND
ROBERT WHEELER

Hiking among the stars

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of March 9, 2009, there were 430 paid members of the Hiking Club. Of these, 77 are new members.

The Club Directory was printed on March 3 and includes the names of 426 paid members. It was distributed at the Annual Meeting and extra copies will be available at the Pot Luck.

Barbara Powell, Membership Chair

Out with the old—In with the new. . .

The club says goodbye and a big thank you to retiring board members: Kathy Chute who served as secretary, then Awards Chair; Mayme Specht served as treasurer; and Thom Davies worked as Volunteer Chair. . .

And welcomes incoming board members Karen Chadwell, George Pavey and Don Gfroerer when the board reorganizes April 21st.

Saluting to a Retiring Leader



Tracy Ackerman, Leader Emeritus

Tracy Ackerman served 19 years as a leader. He has been hiking so long that the date of his first hike is unrecorded. Tracy has served the hiking club in numerous capacities, including records person, vice president, president, assistant hike master, and two terms as hike master.

After Tracy became a hike leader, the club's inventory of hikes was significantly expanded because of his efforts. Tracy and his wife Connie loved to go off trail and scout new hikes for the club to use.

If you talk to long-time hikers, the one thing you'll hear most frequently about Tracy is his easy pace. He developed a reputation as a leader who would get everybody to the hike destination at a pace all could enjoy.

There are many Tracy stories out there, but there is one in particular that should be recorded here.

In March of 1998, the club bulletin showed that Bob Kotz would be leading a hike to the top of an unnamed mountain in the Santa Ritas, and that Bob would be naming it when the hike reached the summit. Bob asked Tracy to be his sweep. At the time, Tracy was in charge of the annual Presbyterian Church sale, a big job, and had to back out of sweeping. So Bob asked him again later, and Tracy had to cancel again. When Bob asked him a third time, Tracy said he couldn't do it and Bob replied, "Damn it Tracy, we want to name a mountain after you". So roughly 30 intrepid hikers, including Tracy, made their way to the top, Bob named it Tracy's Peak, and everyone had a sip of champagne.

Retired – patch at November 2008 Potluck.

GVR Hiking Club Logo. . .

Discount Embroidery, 3504 E. Grant St., Tucson, will machine embroider the club logo on an item of clothing that you bring to the store, i.e. sweatshirt, jacket, vest, etc. or you may buy T-shirts.

Friends of Madera Canyon (FOMC)

As the hiking club liaison representative to the FOMC monthly board meetings, I learned that they are a busy group, also relying on volunteers for nearly all their programs, as does our hiking club. They work with the U. S. Forest Service to run the Madera Canyon programs. Madera Canyon activities include hiking trails, camping, birding, cabin rentals, bed and breakfasts, and picnic grounds. Daily car volume averages 180 cars per day, with the busiest times in February through April, and on weekends.

The biggest FOMC capital project in 2008 was the new 60-foot bridge to the amphitheater. The \$80,000 project is handicap accessible, and is higher up in the trees for better bird watching.

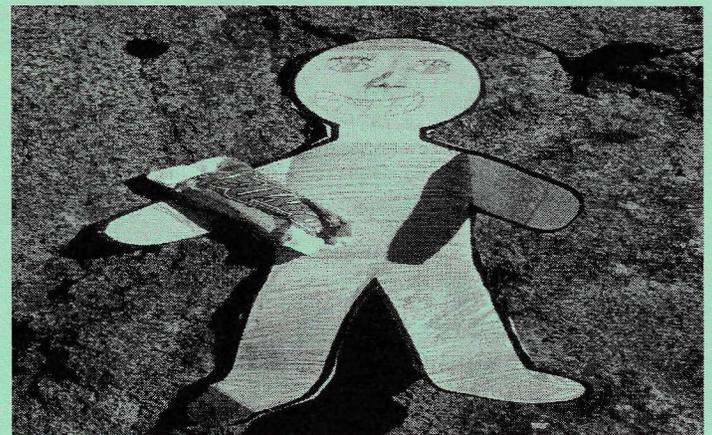
A sampling of current activities shows their ongoing efforts at education, preservation, volunteer recruitment, fund raising, and other efforts to help people enjoy Madera Canyon:

- ✓ Fourth graders of local schools will be given educational tours of the Canyon on Thursdays through March and April.
- ✓ Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast April 4th at La Posada.
- ✓ Music in the Canyon April 4th at 4:00 PM, Rhythm and Blues program by Sahuarita High School.
- ✓ Music in the Canyon April 26th at 4:00 PM, Mountain Serenade featuring Regina Ford and other locally known entertainers.
- ✓ International Migratory Bird Day May 2nd 9:00 AM. Program presenters will include the Audubon Society and the Desert Museum.

Hummingbirds are trapped, banded, and released in cooperation with the Hummingbird Monitoring Network in Madera Canyon and 30 other locations in the U. S. Madera Canyon monitoring activities are every other Monday from March through October. In 2008 there were 1,005 hummingbirds trapped, banded, and released. This is an increase of 50% from the two prior years. Twelve breeds were included, with the black chinned hummingbird being the most popular.

Go to the **Friendsofmaderacanyon.org** website for more details in their calendar of events. It is a worthy cause that ties in well with our love of the Santa Rita's and Madera Canyon.

Phil Betzel, Vice President



Flat Stanley visits the Tumacacoris as a guest hiker

Assistant Hike Master

As most of you know, I have been the guy trying to keep first aid kits supplied on Thursday mornings. Sometimes I have succeeded.

In May I will move on to more fun and frolic as Hike Master. This job has its challenges, something new each year, to name a few: *Forest Fires, Rain, Road Closures, Sickness, and problems of State land Access.*

All that aside, I think the year ahead will be a good experience. I will have the support of a great group of leaders and the club in general — most importantly, the help in the next year of our new assistant Hike Master, Helen Zaukas. There is no one better qualified in our club and I look forward to working Helen.

Wayne Moshier, Assistant Hike Master



Snow in the Santa Ritas

2009 CALENDARS

Board Meetings:

East Center Lounge, 6:30 P.M. (Wed.)
4/21/2009; 09/16/2009; 10/21/2009; 11/11/2009

Hike Leaders Meetings:

East Center Lounge, 6:30 P.M. (Wed.)
04/ 28, 2009; 09/23/2009; 10/28/2009; 11/18/2009

Pot Luck Dinners:

West Center, 5:00 P.M. (Sun.)
04/ 05/ 2009; 11/01/2009

Annual Meeting:

Desert Hills Social Center, 8:00 A.M. (Tues)
March 9, 2010

Surfing the Web??

... Check out the Hiking Club's WEBSITE: <http://gvrhc.org>

- ... Monthly bulletins with up-to-date changes
- ... Board minutes
- ... Profiles of early leaders
- ... LIBRARY listing of the many books and DVDs
- ... Membership application

... Other web site of interest:

- ... www.fs.fed.us/r3/Coronado
- ... www.aztrail.org
- ... www.tumacacoriwild.org
- ... www.sanpedroriver.org
- ... www.nps.gov/tuma/Anzatrail.htm

SHORT HISTORY OF THE GVR HIKING CLUB*

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 are scheduled, giving the Hike Master additional planning time. The Hike Master plans the year's schedule of hikes, assigns leaders, prepares monthly bulletins and scouts 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 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 a three-year term on the Board of Directors. 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.

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.

Lillian Monson, historian emeritus

*Editor's note: Reprinted from April 2006 TrailTales.



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Kaye Gray, Editor
Pam Boehms, Assistant Editor