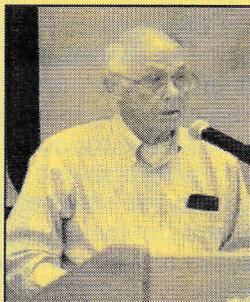




**President's Message . . .**

Our Hiking Club is in great shape due to the generous efforts of our members. Many new hikers have joined our ranks, having been introduced by our busy Orientation crew, headed by Don Gfroerer. 175-190 members have set out on hikes each Thursday morning in January and February.



President Riley addresses members at the annual meeting

The leader corps is at 47 members, with 17 members serving as assistant leaders. We extend a deep vote of thanks to the leaders who give so generously of their time. Dan Schroeder has skillfully arranged a diverse set of hikes for each Thursday, bringing grateful praise from the membership. This was made extremely difficult with the intrusion of the summer fires that threatened the region.

Our finances are well controlled by Treasurer Larry Grove, with expenses for 2011 rising only \$15 to \$4,093.31. Our cash balance as of January 13, 2012 was \$8,295.95.

The Potluck Dinners in November and February and the Leaders' Breakfast in January were outstanding successes as orchestrated by Social Chair Rosie Lemke. We all enjoyed the visits of some of the "Emeritus" leaders.

Your officers have been very active bringing hikers' concerns to the Rosemont Mine Hearings, to meetings with the U.S. Forest Service re: road closures, and in contacts with the Border Patrol.

At the upcoming Organizational Board Meeting on April 3, David Colpitts will ascend to the Presidency of your Club. Susan Beck-Brown will take over as Vice-President. Sue Kazmier will assume Chairmanship of the Orientation Committee. Larry Grove will continue as Treasurer and Jim Riley will move to Volunteer Services and Trail Maintenance. Frank Surpless will replace Dan Schroeder as Hikemaster and Larry Boehms will become Assistant Hikemaster. Katherine Carlson has graciously agreed to take charge of publishing *Trail Tales*.

A deep vote of thanks goes out to retiring Board members Karen Chadwell and Don Gfroerer for their untiring efforts. Also, sincere thanks to Kaye Gray, retiring from *Trail Tales*, Richard Shimanek, retiring after years maintaining the trails, and to Pam Boehms, retiring as Club Historian. A special thanks to Dan Schroeder for his hard work and creativity as Hikemaster. Well done folks, and thank you!

Perhaps as you read this letter you will sense the gratitude I feel having worked with a bunch of dedicated, unselfish individuals who have made this job a pleasure.

*-Jim Riley, President*

**2012 Club Calendar**

**Board Meetings - Members welcome!**  
 April 3, October 16, December 4  
 East Center Lounge, 6:30 p.m.

**Hike Leader Meetings**  
 April 24, October 23, December 11  
 East Center Lounge, 6:30 p.m.

**Fall Potluck - Save the date!**  
 November 4  
 West Center, 5:00 p.m.

**2012 Annual Meeting**

Members of the Green Valley Recreation Hiking Club gathered at the Desert Hills Social Center to attend the club's 2012 annual meeting on March 13. Formalities such as having bylaws and holding an annual meeting are required in order for the club to be recognized by GVR.



After enjoying a little social time over a continental breakfast, the members settled in to hear reports from the various officers and committee chairs. Summaries of those reports are included in this issue of *Trail Tales*.

The meeting concluded with the election of three board members who will serve until 2015: Susan Beck-Brown, Larry Grove, and Sue Kazmier.

(l-r) Sue Kazmier, Larry Grove, and Susan Beck-Brown



See *Trail Tales* in full color at [www.gvrhc.org](http://www.gvrhc.org)!



**From the Hikemaster . . .**

The Hiking Club is on track to complete another successful year, with over 3,500 hikes taken by members since the start of the hiking year in May. For the ten weeks so far in 2012, the average number of hikers/hike is 16.6.

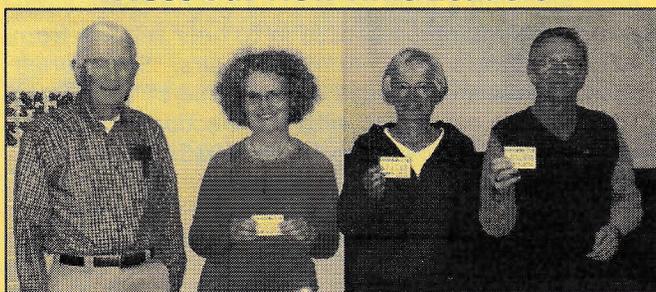
As is true each year, the roster of Hiking Club leaders continues to evolve. Two long-time leaders have resigned: Dick Paige and Mamie Specht, and four new leaders are on the roster: Jim Woodward, Phil Betzel, Patsy Sills, and Barb Wuehrmann. Two assistant leaders have stepped down: Marlene Isbell and Marilyn Townley, and six new assistants have joined the roster: Janet Bemiller, Valerie Robinson, Rosie Lemke, Ron Lemke, Juliana Sandahl, and Jerry Sazama. Our thanks to these volunteers for their past services and for stepping forward to take on these important responsibilities.

It has been particularly gratifying to see the continued improvement of old hikes and development of new hikes. Since May, leaders have submitted changes to at least 40 hikes and have submitted write-ups of 10 new hikes. The generation of new hikes is time-consuming for leaders, but the results mean continued variety in the offerings for our hikers. Our thanks to the leaders for all this work.

We continue to inform the Border Patrol of any scouts or hikes we do in areas to the south of Green Valley and appreciate their watchful concern as we hike in sensitive areas. And, last but not least, my thanks to the committee that helped me plan the hike schedules: Bill Becker, Larry Boehms, Sally Boysen, Judith LeClair, and Frank Surples, my successor as Hikemaster this coming year. **Thank you.**

*-Dan Schroeder, Hikemaster*

**Meet Our New Hike Leaders**



Hikemaster Dan Schroeder presents leader patches to Barb, Patsy, and Phil

As noted in the Hikemaster’s Report, four club members have joined the ranks of our hike leaders this year. Here’s a little bit about the new leaders in their own words:

*Phil Betzel* - I have been in Green Valley and the hiking club since 2006. I was on the club board of directors from 2008-2010, and now I am leading hikes. Hiking,

and some biking, golf, and bridge, are our main pastimes in Green Valley. I like taking family and other visitors on hikes to show off our beautiful area. I also refer to our club as the “Fountain of Youth”. I look forward to meeting you on future hikes.

*Patsy Sills* - When I moved here from Maine 2½ years ago, I was thrilled to find a whole new world to explore with unbelievable beauty and variety – and best of all a hiking club to help me discover it. I’m now a leader thanks to the caring guidance of the many leaders with whom I have shared the trail (or no trail). I’m happy to be giving back to the club which has meant so much to me, and I’m looking forward to helping others discover the joys of hiking in our corner of the world.

*Barbara Wuerhmann* - I started wintering in Green Valley in 1999 and joined the club right away. I became a sweep about 4 years ago and was club secretary from 2008 to 2011. Since December 2000 I have been working for United Community Health Center of Green Valley as a fill-in doctor at any of their many locations. I also enjoy birding, amateur photography and trying to learn Spanish.

*Jim Woodward* - I was a 40-year employee of the U.S. Coast Guard, retiring in January 2004. My main focus during my career was lighthouse-related projects, including reconstruction, maintenance and preservation, and I continue to provide lighthouse consulting services. I’ve been in the Hiking Club since early 2009, became an assistant hike leader in January 2011 and leader in June 2011.



**Orientation News**

Results for our 2011 orientation program show that 131 persons attended O & R for the year. Of these (at last count), 58 took a first hike, and 51 joined the club. The results for the first two months of 2012 are very encouraging, helped no doubt by President Riley’s newspaper articles. As of February 26th, 102 persons attended our Monday morning sessions, with 41 taking a first hike, and of these, 26 persons joined the club. Our presenters are Bud Boysen, Winnie Kruper, Walt Prue, Ron Lemke, Barb Gfroerer, Sue Kazmier, and Bob Koons. Helen Zaukas and Phil Gray continue as substitutes. Mary Ann Jordan and Bill and Marlene Isbell “retired” as presenters last year. Thanks to these faithful and excellent volunteers for all they do for our club.

*-Don Gfroerer, Orientation Chair*

**\$\$\$**

As income tax time approaches, did you ever notice: If you put “The” and “IRS” together, it spells “THEIRS”?



### The Future of Atascosa Lookout *by Dan Schroeder*

Forest fires in the mountains north of Ruby Road during the summer of 2011 destroyed Atascosa Lookout, one of the landmarks of the area. Hikes to the Lookout have been among the favorites for us since the original write-up of this hike in 1992 by Margaret Bieber.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service

Soon after this disaster the Forest Service began studying possible reconstruction of the site and concluded that this was feasible. As a first step, in late October they stabilized the foundation in a way that could support a rebuilt structure in the future (see photo). Suggestions for the rebuilding include "laying an all-weather deck across the foundation, which would leave the 360-degree view unimpeded; building a simple shade-type structure with low rails that evoke the look of the previous building; and fully reconstructing a replica 1930s L-4 lookout cabin, using original specs." As of early March, however, there is apparently still no specific plan.

During the discussions early last fall the Hiking Club offered its help in the way of volunteers to assist with the rebuilding project. The Forest Service is well aware of our work in the late 1990s with the rejuvenation of the then badly-deteriorated Lookout and welcomed the offer. At this time we can only wait to see what develops.

### Annual Membership Report

As of March 12, 2012, there are 427 paid members of the Hiking Club. Of these, 60 are new members. Our membership numbers are very consistent with last year, when there were 426 paid members as of the same date, of whom 68 were new members. The 2012 club directory will be available in the parking lot on Thursday mornings.

*-Sandra Rooney, Membership Chair*

### Treasurer's Report

The club ended 2011 with a checking account balance of \$3,242.68 and a Certificate of Deposit with a balance of \$5,501.38, totaling \$8,744.06. This is approximately \$1,300 greater than the balance at the end of 2010. Dues income for the year was \$5,150. Major expenses were (1) Donations to other organizations: GVR Member Assistance, \$250; AZ Trail Association, \$250; S. AZ Rescue Association, \$150; Sky Island Alliance, \$100; and Friends of Madera Canyon, \$100 (2) Social events (Leaders' Breakfast, Potlucks, and Annual Meeting), \$1,095 (3) Printing & copying, \$660 (4) Patches, \$405 (5) Storage rental, \$380 (6) Website and computer software, \$255 (7) Trail Maintenance \$175, and (8) Miscellaneous, \$275. The club's records were audited by Leonard S. Carlson, Jr. In his opinion letter dated March 8, 2012, he stated that based on his review, the statements represent fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the club as of December 31, 2011.

*-Larry Grove, Treasurer*

### *Take us to our leaders!*



These happy people are your hike leaders (photo taken at the Leaders' Breakfast in January)

### Social Report

Three hundred and ninety-eight hikers and guests attended the last three potlucks. Fifty-nine attended the Leaders' Breakfast at East Center on January 10.

We have contributed \$448 and 273 pounds of food to area food banks. The upcoming potluck dates are: November 4, 2012; February 10, April 7, and November 3, 2013. The Leaders' Breakfast date is January 7, 2013.

My sincere thanks go to the members who have been so willing to share their experiences and talents with the club. Jim Woodward, David Colpitts, and Bill Adamson were the presenters this year.

*-Rose Marie Lemke, Social Chair*



### **Wanted...Club Historian!**

The club is in need of a new historian. If interested, please contact Pam Boehms for more information.

Got News? Please send your *Trail Tales* story ideas or photos to Katherine Carlson, editor, at [carlson.katherine@gmail.com](mailto:carlson.katherine@gmail.com).

Trying in vain to identify that strange new wildflower? Check out [www.fireflyforest.com](http://www.fireflyforest.com) for a very helpful plant identifier, as well as a comprehensive list of wildflower and plant books, websites, and lots of other great information!





### Trail Maintenance Report

This is my final report as GVHC Trail Maintenance Officer and it sure has been a pleasure. Special thanks to the many volunteers who worked to keep our trails in good hiking condition.

On September 13, 2011, Proctor Handicap Trail, Whitehouse Trail, the area around the Amphitheater, and the Madera Canyon parking lot were cleaned and trimmed by volunteers Wayne Moshier, Bill Hammond, Gerald Kontz, Norma Schafer, and Beverly Rosenthal. Due to equipment failure the job was completed on September 21st by Phil Betzel, Doug Wood, and



yours truly. GVHC has continued to maintain the Madera Canyon site for over 20 years.

The freeze of February 2011 created quite a mess for the residents of Madera Canyon! The water supply line froze and broke and many feet of pipe had to be replaced, but the damaged pipe was never removed from the Old Baldy Trail. In February 2012 the call for volunteers went out and quick responders Phil Betzel, Bill Hammond, Bob George, Ron Gogas, Neal Bashore, David Colpitts, Barb Schild, and Richard Shimanek worked very hard to cut pipe, bundle it and remove it to the trailhead.



On March 2, 2012, downed trees on the trail to Roger's Rock and Fern Trail were removed by Duane Dotson, Neal Bashore, and Richard Shimanek.

*-Richard Shimanek, Trail Maintenance Chair*

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Friends of Madera Canyon

The Friends of Madera Canyon will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 14, 2012, with displays, walks, hikes, birding, a photography contest, an art demonstration, and a music concert in the canyon. The Hiking Club has offered to lead four "C" level hikes in the canyon, two on the Nature Trail, one to Bog Springs/Daniel's Mine and one to Roger's Rock. Pre-registration is required should you wish to join one of these hikes. The schedule of events is on the Friends' web site, [www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org](http://www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org). It includes the club members who are leading as well as all the other activities, with instructions on to how to register.

*-David Colpitts, Vice President*

**IN REMEMBRANCE**  
**Paul Gerdes**

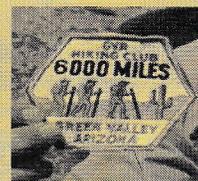
### Awards

From May 5, 2011 to March 8, 2012, the club presented a total of 84 patches. Special congratulations to the following members who earned patches this year for having trekked 2,000 miles or more on official club hikes:

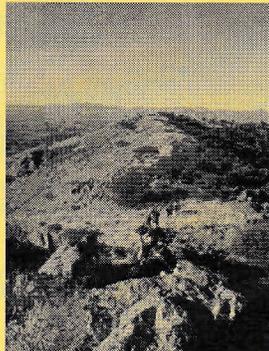
- 2,000** – Inge Mueller, Bill Becker, Bob Porterfield, Thomas Davies, Marylee Adamson, Barbro Loud
- 2,500** – Barbara Schild, Patty Greimann, Bert Mueller, Charles Pope, Bill Cummins
- 3,000** – George Chute
- 3,500** – Ken Fleshman
- 6,000** – Helen Zaukas

*-Bev Rosenthal, Awards Chair*

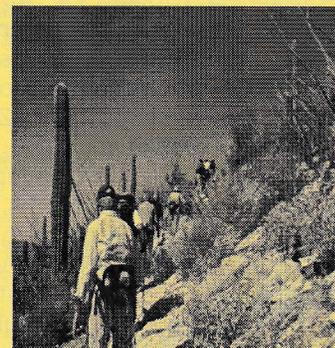
This is probably the closest most of us will ever come to a 6,000-mile patch, awarded to Helen Zaukas on October 27, 2011. Helen took her first hike with the club at a "tender age" in 1985, and although she insists she doesn't hike for the sake of patches, she's an inspiration to us all. *How far will she go?*



### On the trail with your fellow members. . .



Montosa Ridge 2/9/12  
photo by Lizbeth Lutz



Pima Canyon 3/8/12  
photo by Chuck Willard



Phone Line Trail 2/23/12  
photo by Larry Grove