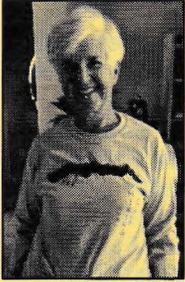


## President's Message



How can retirement be so busy? You all know what I mean! Between the hiking and other things we do, time seems to fly by. And so, it seems like our snowbirds just got here and they are already preparing to leave. It seems our club year has only just begun and it is already winding down. It is with some sadness that I see this progression.

Mixed in with the sadness there is also a great sense of satisfaction. Our club has accomplished so much this year! Many details are reported elsewhere in this newsletter, and I won't repeat them all. A few other things are worth mentioning.

First, a sad news/happy news piece of information. The sad news is that the board Secretary, Doug Wood, had to resign for personal reasons, and we wish him well. The happy news is that Sandy Noreen has joined the board to fill out Doug's term. She is a wonderful addition and we are glad to have her.

We have other changes as well. Webmaster Ron Barry, who created our original website and has managed it for over a decade, has retired from his role, and Stephen Herron has stepped in. The handoff is still occurring, but you can see some website revisions already. Please go online and check the site, and thank Stef for being willing to take on this role knowing he had such big shoes to fill.

Thom Davies, our long-time Directory Chair, has also retired. Sue Palfrey has taken up this task and is already doing a fabulous job making sure we have the ability to contact each other.

We have a new club tee shirt! Jim Palazzolo, our Volunteer Services Coordinator, oversaw the project. The shirt was designed by club member and artist Fran Sutherland, and orders were taken for several weeks in the parking lot and at our February potluck.

I want to thank all the members who helped make my year as President an enjoyable and fulfilling one. I especially want to thank everyone who has volunteered this past year. Whether you worked in the kitchen at a potluck, sold name tags in the parking lot, swept a hike, or served on the board, the club is great because of the sum of all our actions. Thanks to everyone for the chance to represent this terrific group this past year.

Have a great summer, wherever you hike!

--Anita Woodward, President



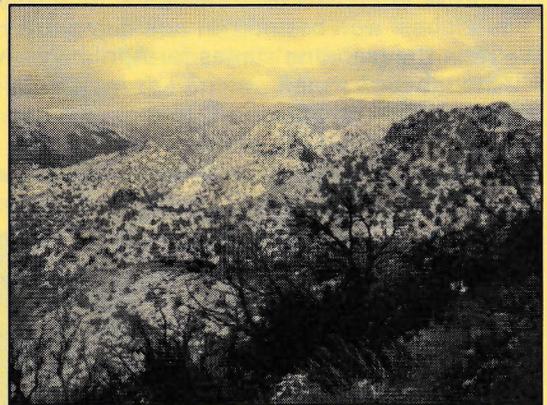
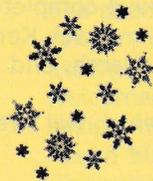
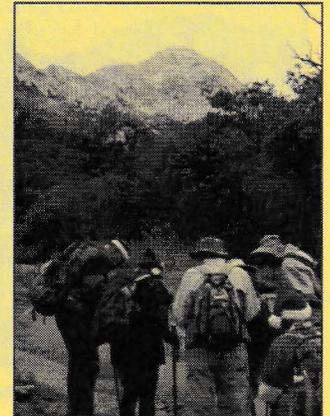
## Winter 2014-2015



Club members will remember the winter of 2014-2015 as an especially rainy one, with the weather causing changes in hike schedules and even the cancellation of all hikes one Thursday.

We're hopeful the plentiful rains will help produce a magnificent wildflower display this spring.

As the weather warms, let us not forget that we also had a chance to see some snow!



Photos by Richard Shimanek and David Colpitts

*Thank you!*

Our thanks again to Summit Hut outfitters, which for the second year hosted a special store-wide event just for our members on January 25. **See page 4 for a coupon good for 15% off a future Summit Hut purchase!**

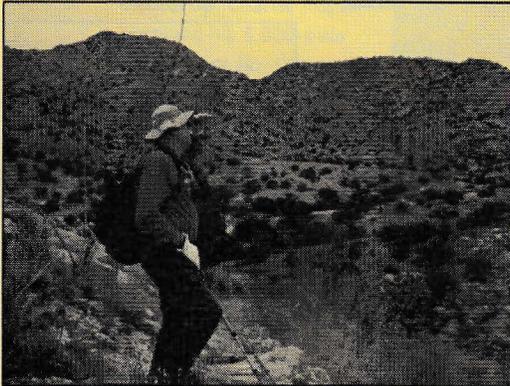


## From the Hike Master

Here are the most recent hike stats:

November 2014 - 367 hikers  
 December 2014 - 269 hikers - one date completely rained out  
 January 2015 - 814 hikers  
 February 2015 - 374 in first two weeks

Lee Huey retired from hiking in the fall. He was a sweep from March 2004 until April 2014. He swept 62 hikes which included 936 hikers and 324 miles. In those 62 hikes, he gained 51,170 feet of elevation. Carrie Nation Mine must have been one of his favorites as he swept it 8 times. He teamed up with Bev Rosenthal for 18 hikes.



"Hawkeye" helping out on a hike

At the Leaders' Breakfast we had a couple of fun awards. Sue Kazmier received the Globetrotter Award, because she was on safari in Africa when the hike selections for January went out. She somehow found a PC in Nairobi and emailed her hike choices for January.

Wayne Moshier was presented an award for being the Most Helpful to the Hike Master. It is something that Wayne aka "Hawkeye" should have had many years ago. When asked, "What do you do with hikers who cannot keep up or complete the hike?" he says you handcuff them to a tree so they don't wander off, and you pick them up on the way back. So now he has his own set of handcuffs.

We have a new hike leader, Duane Dotson. Jim Cooper is a leader in training. Anita Woodward will be leader training in April. Five members have completed their sweep training: Beverly Greig, Jed Johnson, Tony Simunaci, Ken Sink, and Bill Willmering. Gene Enders, George Higginson

and Steve White will be training as sweeps in March, and Janet Gerdes will begin sweep training in April.

We're in the planning stages for April hikes, which will wrap it up for me!

-- Bill Hill, Hike Master

## New Hike Leader, Duane Dotson

I am originally from San Antonio, Texas, but Chris and I moved here from Michigan in 2008. We joined the Hiking Club almost immediately and have been enjoying the club and its hikes ever since. Having recently retired (third time!) from consulting for a Japanese company, I'm looking forward to my new role as a Hike Leader and helping others explore and enjoy all the amazing hikes the club has to offer.



## Update on Bylaws Review

The Bylaws Review Committee has proposed a number of changes to the existing Hiking Club Bylaws. These changes resulted from the committee's review of the existing bylaws, as well as input from the board and various committee chairs. The proposed changes are aimed at ensuring consistency of language throughout the bylaws, ensuring the bylaws reflect current club practice, and providing additional flexibility for ongoing club operations.

The board voted in January to present the changes to a vote of the membership at the annual meeting on March 10. The proposed revisions to the bylaws, as well as a summary of the key changes, have been posted on the club's website.

While these are not major changes please take the time to review them and contact Jim Chervenka if you have any questions.

www.

If you haven't already done so, be sure to check out our new website at [www.gvrhc.org](http://www.gvrhc.org) for up-to-date hike schedules, official club documents, photo gallery, member roster, this issue of *Trail Tales* in color, and more!



### **From Whence Do Our Hikes Come?**

By Dan Schroeder, Former Hike Master

As you scan the list of hikes offered each week and month you will notice few repeats, and you may wonder where all these different hikes come from.

There is a continuing process by which existing hikes are changed and new hikes are added to the list of about 440 hikes from which the Hike Master chooses. This list has grown steadily over the years due to the hard work of leaders, some of whom find that there is no better thing to do than tread where no one has gone before. But more often it is simply a matter of going into an area in which we already hike and putting new combinations of trails and bushwhacks together to give a new hike of the desired length and difficulty. A group of leaders will typically scout a proposed hike, track the hike and mark prominent points with a GPS, and prepare a write-up to present to the Hike Master. If the hike is more than going on established trails, the scout may involve two or three revisits. And so a new hike is born.

In addition to inventing new hikes, leaders will often propose changes to old hikes to make them easier to follow or adapt them to changing conditions. In the dark ages before computers and GPS units, a hike description might tell a leader to "watch for a dead cholla and turn left on a faint trail." For a new leader scouting this hike, the cholla has probably vanished and changes are needed to make the hike write-up useful. Or the trailhead has disappeared within a new development and a different way must be found to do the hike. Tracks and markers taken by a GPS are again invaluable to improving an existing hike.

The final steps for both new and revised hikes are transferring of data from a GPS unit to a software map package on a computer, producing a map which shows the specific path of a hike, and adding that map to a website to which all leaders have access. As of early March 2015 we have maps for about seven out of every eight hikes in our full list. Our website includes a special section for leaders which contains all the information for our hikes.

It should be clear that this is a lengthy and time-consuming process and that much work is done by leaders to give us an interesting and ever-evolving set of hikes to do.

### **Treasurer's Report**

As of December 31, 2014, the club had a cash balance of \$8,508.64. For the year of 2014 we had income of \$4,785.00 and expenses of \$4,773.05. Expenses were: Printing & Copying, \$1,199.81; Leaders' Breakfast, Annual Meeting & Members' Pot Lucks, \$1,169.17; Donations to Other Hiking-Related Organizations, \$800.00; Rental of Storage Facility, \$445.00; Awards Patches, \$358.12; Equipment & Website Maintenance & Miscellaneous Supplies, \$558.65; and First Aid Supplies, \$242.30. Additional details regarding the club's finances can be obtained from Larry Grove, Treasurer, at [LGroveAZ@Cox.net](mailto:LGroveAZ@Cox.net) or by phone at (520) 625-3053.

### **Membership Update**

As of February 18, the Hiking Club had 407 members, 49 of whom are new to the club. This is a little behind last year on the same date, when we had 444 members, 72 of whom were new.

If you are not carrying emergency information in your pack when you hike, hunt me up in the parking lot on hiking mornings. I have forms you can use for such information and plastic holders to put them in.

-- Sandra Rooney, Membership Chair

Tip: Put your emergency information card in the smallest zipper compartment of your pack so we'll know where to find it in case of an emergency.



### **Social Committee News**

The Leaders' Appreciation Breakfast was held on January 13 at Grill on the Green. Fifty-five leaders and assistants were in attendance. Hike Master Bill Hill welcomed the group and recognized new leaders and assistant leaders. The speaker for this event was Alison Bunting from the Empire Ranch Foundation. She provided a history of the ranch, described current efforts to restore and renovate the ranch and detailed ongoing educational and recreational activities there that are available to the public.



Speakers for the potluck on February 8 were club members, David Colpitts and Ron Barry. Their topic for the evening was "Trekking through Nepal." We want to thank them as well as our volunteers for making the evening a success. About 200 hikers attended.

The annual general membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at Desert Hills. All members are welcome to attend!!

If you have questions regarding the Hiking Club's social activities, please call Pam Boehms or Kathy Davisson.



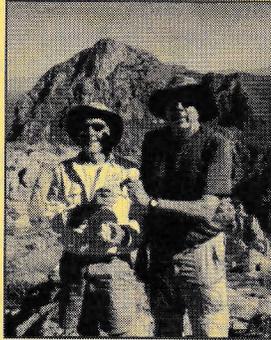
**Awards**

Mary Bashore, our "Patch Fairy," reports the following major awards presented since last October:

- Kathy Chute - 3,500 miles
- Tom Johnson - 4,500 miles
- Charles Pope - 3,000 miles
- Barbara Powell - 2,000 miles
- Barb Wuehrmann - 2,000 miles

"Hats off" to all who have earned awards!

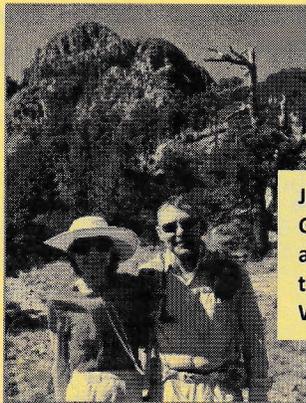
With Elephant Head as a backdrop, Charlie Pope receives his 3,000-mile patch from Jim Chervenka



**Talk about a long ride home...**

Sandy Noreen's January 29 hike to Barrel Canyon turned out to be a real stinker, as reported by husband Mike upon their return:

Today we were hiking along and Sandy stopped by this tank full of water. She noticed a dead skunk at the bottom and tried to fish it out of the tank. It was kind of dissolved and as she poked and pulled, then yanked it with her hiking pole, tons of bits of skunk came sailing out, with a few large particles all over her hair. We couldn't get them all out so right now she is in the shower.



Jim Chisholm ran into George and Anna Jones as they descended from their 200<sup>th</sup> hike up Mt. Wrightson last year

**Got News?**



We're always looking for fun tidbits to share in *Trail Tales*. If you have an idea, please email Katherine Carlson, Editor, at [carlson.katherine@gmail.com](mailto:carlson.katherine@gmail.com).

Many thanks to those whose stories or photos appear in this issue!

**In Remembrance**



Tracy Ackerman



Here is a story about Tracy from the spring 2009 issue of *Trail Tales* that is just too good not to repeat:

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.



Desert springtime, with flowers popping up all over the place, trees leafing out, streams gushing down from the mountains. Great time of year for hiking, camping, exploring, sleeping under the new moon and the old stars. At dawn and at evening we hear the coyotes howling with excitement—mating season.

~Edward Abbey



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