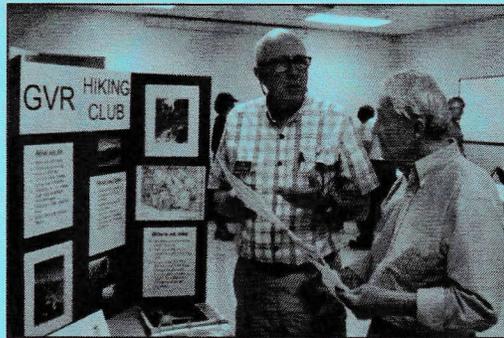


### **President's Message**

Thanks to all! As my term as president ends, I want to sincerely thank the board members, committee chairs/members, hike leaders and assistant leaders and all the other Hiking Club members who contributed to the club's continued success during the past year. Without everyone who helps in many different ways, the club would not run so smoothly. It takes everyone's contributions to be able to offer the many opportunities for safe and enjoyable hiking we all appreciate.

I wish everyone could have the opportunity to hear the positive things I often hear about the Hiking Club, be it



**President Chervenka talks with a prospective member at GVR's Fit & Fun Open House.**

from GVR, new members or guests, people at the Fit & Fun event or from others in the Green Valley community. They often express their amazement about how

well organized everything is and how smoothly the club operates. They talk about the example the Hiking Club sets for other clubs in GVR. They reflect upon how friendly the club is and how we all seem to have a lot of fun, not only on our hikes but other times we may get together. This positive view of the Hiking Club is not the result of the efforts of just a few, but reflects how everyone helps and acts while in the parking lot, on the trail or at the potlucks. Thanks to all of you for helping present the Hiking Club in such a positive light.

As always, the past year has been another busy time for the club. The board members and committee chairs have updated the Board Manual and the Policy Manual. We have also worked to make the club more visible by putting more information about the club in the *GVR NOW!* Publication, preparing a bulletin board posting for the GVR member centers and by meeting with representatives of GVR about other opportunities for Hiking Club publicity in GVR's various communications and publications.

As many of you head back to your other home and/or summer travels, I hope you take with you fond memories of your time on the trail here in southern Arizona. I look forward to seeing everyone again this fall!

--Jim Chervenka, President



**That's not the snow-capped Alps, but our very own Santa Ritas being enjoyed by a group of GVRHC hikers in January.**

### **From the Hikemaster**



Our hiking season has gone quite well with a minimum of interruptions due to weather, etc. Some 4,373 individual hikes were taken over the past year. This compares to 4,173 the previous year and 4,577 the year before that. I wish to bring attention to the extraordinary efforts of our diminished

leader corps (29 remaining out of 45 last year) who stepped up and generously took on multiple hikes to permit us to offer the number and variety of hike experiences we have had.

Six new assistant leaders have been trained and have begun their duties with the club: Kim Boswell, Tony Crosby, Dennis Ernst, George Higginson, Deb Thrall and Doug Wood. Another group is being trained as this is written.

I would like to thank the hike selection committee who were a great help in selecting the hikes for each month: Helen Zaukas, Sally Boysen, Rich Shimanek, Wayne Moshier, Bob Porterfield and myself.

Finally, I am quite gratified to be able to hand off the hikemaster job to an extremely qualified and capable successor: Bob Porterfield. I know he will keep the club running on a stellar level with constant attention to the needs of its members.

Thanks for a great year. I truly have enjoyed working with and for all of you!

--Jim Riley, Hikemaster



## Assistant Hikemaster's Report

### Update on First Aid Kits

Since the beginning of Jim Riley's term as hikemaster, we have had an excellent year of safe hiking. One out of 36 hikes opened the first aid kit, mostly for the following: Bandaid, aspirin, ibuprofen, Benadryl or an alcohol pad. We have had only one serious cut that required gauze pads, tape, etc. Overall, each hiker had less than a .25% chance of needing something from the kit during a hike.

For those Hiking Club members taking an anticoagulant (blood thinner) like Warfarin or aspirin, for example, you need to know that the club's first aid kits do not carry special over-the-counter products to help you in case of a minor or serious cut. Since you probably enjoy hiking other than on days with the club, you need to determine what you wish to carry in your pack. I know several who carry "WoundSeal," but this is not a recommendation for that product. You can Google for information, talk to your doctor or talk with a pharmacist about what is best for you. This is something you need to consider to protect yourself just in case of an accident.

### Looking to the Upcoming Year

This past winter has been extremely hard on the club's hike leaders due to the many retirements and illnesses we experienced at the beginning of the year. We have maintained a good core group of assistant leaders (ALs), and there are more in the wings to go through training. One of my biggest challenges starting with my term in May 2016



will be to help build the group of hike leaders back up to a higher number. Not everyone is leader material, but if you have been hiking with the club for some years and decide it is time to give back to the club with your skills and knowledge, I am interested in your contacting me for either being a leader or AL. Many times the best progression is to become an AL first and then move up, but that is not the only way to become a leader. We have a well-established training process for both positions, and I look forward to hearing from those of you interested in this important volunteer area. Please keep in

mind that **'WE CANNOT HIKE WITHOUT LEADERS AND ASSISTANT LEADERS.'** Thanks, and I look forward to serving as your hikemaster.

Contact: Bob Porterfield  
520-625-9122  
bobpvpi@hotmail.com

### Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of 2016, the club had a cash balance of \$8,681.18. Through March 15, income has been \$1,850 and expenses have been \$1,533.40, leaving a balance of \$8,997.78.

Expenditures so far this year have included the January leaders' breakfast, the February members' potluck and the March annual meeting, printing and copying, award patches and miscellaneous office supplies and postage.

For more information regarding the club's finances, please contact Janet BeMiller, Treasurer, [janet\\_bemiller@yahoo.com](mailto:janet_bemiller@yahoo.com) or 206-200-3600.

*Trail Tales* needs a new editor! If you are interested, contact Katherine Carlson at [carlson.katherine@gmail.com](mailto:carlson.katherine@gmail.com) or 715-205-9543.

*Congratulations* to new Hiking Club board members Jim Easter, George Minervini and Dave Powell. *Thank you* to outgoing board members Jim Chervenka, Pam Boehms, Kathy Davisson and Mary Bashore. We appreciate your hard work!

### Membership Update

As of March 17, we had 445 members, of whom 73 are new. As of the same date last year, we had 427 members, 61 of whom were new.

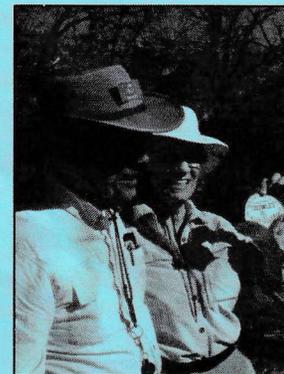
--Sandra Rooney, Membership Chair

### Awards

There have been some really impressive mileage awards presented since last fall:

Bill Becker – 2,500 miles  
Patty Greimann – 3,000 miles  
Wayne Moshier – 4,500 miles  
Helen Zaukas – 7,000 miles

Kudos to all hikers who have earned patches!



Helen receives her one-of-a-kind 7,000-mile patch from Jim Riley on December 3, 2015.



### Social Committee News

It has been a busy and exciting year for your social committee chairpersons. Our fall potluck on November 1, 2015, featured author Lisa Sharp, who shared her experiences living on a ranch in the San Raphael Valley as a child. Her book, **A Slow Trot Home**, chronicles these adventures and documents her observations.

On Valentine’s Day, 220 members enjoyed a photo presentation by Doug Moore from Friends of Madera Canyon. His “Best of Madera” photos of the mountains, trails, flowers and wildlife were stunning.



Our last potluck of the season is scheduled for Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Club member Geri Lancia will share her experiences on a recent trek in Uganda and Rwanda to see the gorillas. The social hour begins at 5:00 and dinner will start at 6:00, followed by Geri’s presentation. You can sign up for the potluck on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> or April 7<sup>th</sup> in the West parking lot prior to hike departures. Put the potluck on your calendars and plan to attend. It will be a fun evening and a wonderful program.

As we near the end of our tenure as social committee chairpersons, we wish to thank all those who have assisted us as we’ve planned and organized the potlucks for the last three years. The members of our club have been generous with their time and volunteer efforts as well as with their donations of food and money to support the food bank. We so appreciate the support and assistance we’ve received.

--Pam Boehms and Kathy Davisson  
Social Committee Chairpersons

#### In Remembrance

Budde “Bud” Boysen  
Donald “Scott” Green  
Bill Necker

May your trails be crooked, winding... leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.

--Edward Abbey



mile “rocker” patches. In March 1984, on the Old Baldy trail in Madera Canyon, Bill organized the group to be a charter GVR club and quarters from hikers were collected in cans. As more people heard about the club, attendance snowballed.

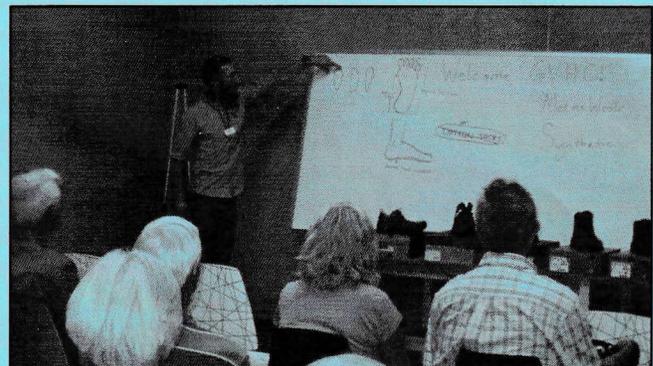
*Thanks to Lillian Monson for her contributions to this article.*



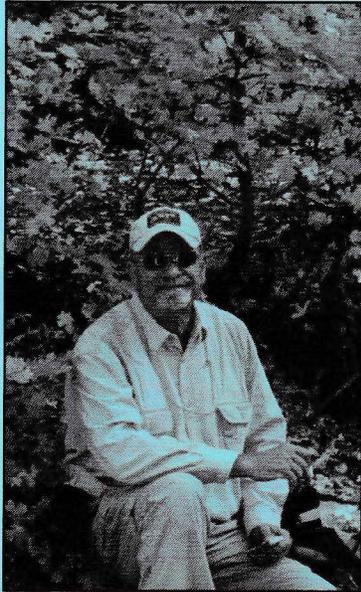
**Did you know...** Arizona has 3,928 mountain peaks and summits—more mountains than any one of the other Mountain States (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming). The average state elevation is 4,000 feet.

Ever wonder how our club got started? Bill Necker, who passed away in December at age 97, played a key role.

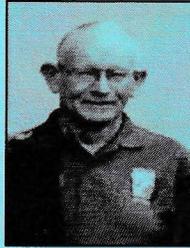
In 1981, the GVR Director asked the Bill and Jane Necker to begin a walking group. They declined, but expressed their interest in hiking instead. When GVR gave its support, the Neckers put an article in the *Green Valley News*. Thursday was a good day for them. About 35 people showed up to hike the Madera Canyon Nature Trail as far as it went (about where the store is now). Those on that hike expressed an interest in continuing, so Bill and Jane scheduled a hike to Josephine Saddle two weeks later. Bill started keeping records of hikers. The GVR director suggested awarding patches for which GVR paid. Bill designed the 50-mile patch and the 250- and 500-



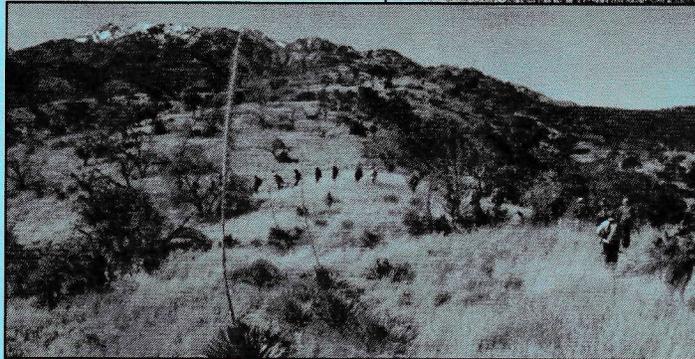
**GVRHC members attend a presentation about hiking footwear at a special event hosted by Summit Hut exclusively for the club on January 25. Club members enjoyed a fun evening and a 20% discount on all purchases. Thank you, Summit Hut!**



Bud on the trail. Photo by Wayne Moshier



Club member Jim Woodward will serve as president of Friends of Madera Canyon in 2016-2017.



Photos from recent hikes. See more at the club's photo gallery at [www.gvrhc.org](http://www.gvrhc.org).

If hiking isn't our official state pastime, it should be. A trail snatches you; steals you from the mundane. The common misnomer is that we take the trail. In reality, the trail takes us.

--Roger Naylor, *Boots and Burgers*

### **From the Editor**

In last fall's issue of *Trail Tales*, our assistant hikemaster, Bob Porterfield, wrote about the admirable job our members are doing in living up to the "safe" part of our motto, "*Dedicated to Safe and Enjoyable Hiking*." Since this is my last issue as editor of *Trail Tales*, I thought I'd take this opportunity to share a few thoughts on how I think we're doing on the "enjoyable" side of the motto.

Like all of you, my first exposure to the club was through my orientation session. Although I didn't realize it at the time, I was lucky to have Bud Boysen as my session's leader. I was flabbergasted when, as we went around the room introducing ourselves, he announced that he knew exactly where my little town (population 378) in Wisconsin is located, because he'd been there, more than once, on fishing trips. As the session progressed, Bud produced a weathered pack, taking out each item and explaining its purpose. Eventually he pulled out a nearly empty roll of toilet paper, held it up, raised his eyebrows, gave us a grin and placed it on the table without a word. On a hike a few years later, Bud was entertaining me again, this time as he and Wayne Moshier engaged in mutual good-natured ribbing, with Bud appearing to get the worst of it. "Bud was my orientation leader," I offered, "and I joined the club anyway." Wayne seemed to appreciate my effort. Bud just gave me a smile and a look that said, "Et tu?"

With more than 80 hikes under my boots now, I can honestly say there hasn't been a single one that I haven't found "enjoyable." In those very rare cases where the scenery or route doesn't quite live up to my expectations, I can always count on being in the company of interesting people. Let's face it: we hikers are fun to be around. We discuss world travels, hobbies, grandchildren, careers. We are often confronted with the "small world" phenomenon. We share photos and recipes. We garner many hiking buddies and, in my case at least, some very dear friends.

Most times, though, the hikes themselves are worth the Wednesday night preparations, pre-dawn insomnia (mustn't oversleep!) and early bird starts. Sometimes when I'm headed south on I-19 on my way to hike the Atascosas, I find myself feeling sorry for the produce truck drivers and tourists making their way toward Nogales or Tubac. If they only knew what beauty lies a few miles to the west! The solitary cyclists toiling their way up the Catalina Highway or careening by on their way down must be finding their own enjoyment. (Really?) But can it beat hiking along the Bug Springs or the Butterfly with a bunch of GVRHC hikers? I think not.

So how are we doing on the "enjoyable" side of our motto? I hope you would agree that thanks to the dedication of our leadership, the enthusiasm of our members and the limitless beauty of the country in which we were wise or fortunate enough to put ourselves, we're doing just fine.

Happy (safe and enjoyable) trails to you, wherever you may hike.

--Katherine Carlson