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- for the beauty, the canyons, and the peaks.
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- to learn and to reach.
- to test our will, our strength, and our resolve.
- so we can better enjoy a hot shower, washing away the trail dust.
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- to enlarge our vocabulary with five-letter words... like scree and split and sweep.
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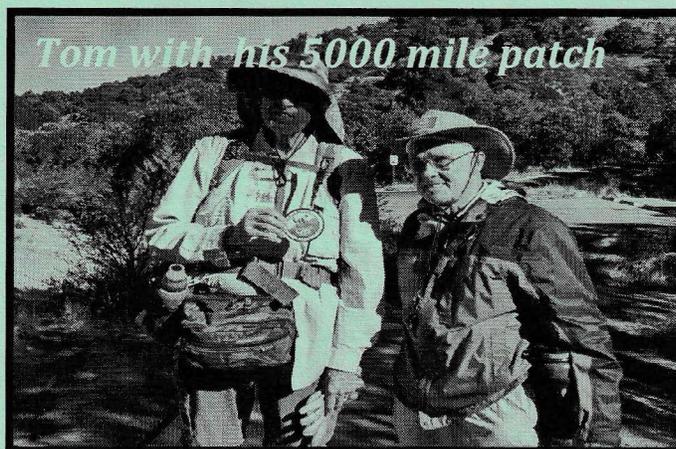
FIVE HIKE LEADERS, TWO ASSISTANTS RETIRING

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admirably fulfill some of those positions, all of which require a significant investment of time, effort, and yes, money. And our assistants ably assist our leaders to make sure our hikes are run smoothly. The club thanks our five retirees and two assistants, all of whom will continue to hike with the club. They are:

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Our best wishes to all of you!



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And most recently, another Canadian company, Wildcat Silver, expanded their reach in the Patagonia Mountains and made our Harshaw Mining District B and C hikes a no trespassing zone. This is one of our favorite areas. No comments necessary.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Sandra Rooney, Membership Chair):

As of Feb. 15, 2017, we had 443 members, 66 of whom are new. As of the same date last year we had 423 members, 60 of whom were new. We ended 2016 with 472 members, of whom 86 were new.

From a hiker: "If I don't get the hike I like, I like the hike I get!" (That's the spirit!)



THE END IS NEAR by Bob Porterfield

As my 12 month term as Hikemaster is coming to an end, I can say that it has been a very rewarding experience. Many new Leaders and Assistant Leaders have stepped forward to join the leadership team that enables us to hike every Thursday. I am very grateful for their volunteering to help make this club what it is. As we go forward, every year we will need to add new leaders and assistants to replace those who for one reason or another can no longer lead or sweep. Jim Chisholm has done an excellent job as my Assistant and will do an excellent job as your Hikemaster starting this May. I thank Jim, the Leaders, the assistant Leaders, my Hike Selection Team, those of you who write up new hikes to keep the hopper full and all of you who volunteered to drive hikers to/from the trailheads. This Club is somewhat magical in how everything seems to come together for us to enjoy this great activity called hiking.

Cheers!

Your Next Hikemaster: JIM CHISHOLM

What a difference a year makes! Many new hiking faces and leaders in the parking lot each Thursday morning. The list of available hikes includes many new hikes replacing ones that needed to be archived. Just another year in our ever-changing hiking club. My knowledge of what it takes to manage the Thursday hikes has also changed this year. I am comfortable with my new responsibilities and promoting another year of safe and enjoyable hiking, Thanks to many people willing to take the time to help me absorb this knowledge.

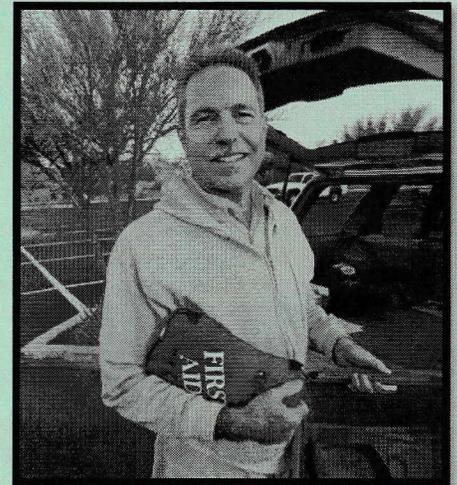
My challenge; It is maintaining the level of excellence of our past Hikemasters. Their tireless working to fulfill their responsibilities and projects has helped our club flourish. Their willingness to help others and solve issues ensures our Thursday hike days run smoothly. We all owe a huge thanks to Bob Porterfield for the magnificent job he did this past year as your Hikemaster. His push to increase our number of Hike Leaders and Assistants allowed us to continue offering the large number of hikes during our busy season. Bob also accomplished many improvements behind the scenes including training his replacement. We shall see how that goes! Thank you Bob!

I also would like to thank Terry Ferguson for volunteering to take over the Assistant Hikemaster duties. He knows his hikes and is always looking for ways to improve them. Together we will lead the team that will guide our club hiking plans this next year.

Many people have helped me this past year and I feel confident stepping into the Hikemaster role because of their continuing guidance and mentorship.

I look forward to working for our Hiking Club this next year as your Hikemaster. In becoming Hikemaster the changes will still happen. Hopefully the amount of fun we all continue to enjoy each Thursday will stay the same.

Jim Chisholm



A number of years ago, upon turning 92, former hike leader Andy Juhasz was asked to what he attributed his longevity. His response: " **Keep on Movin.**" He led his last hike at 86!

MAJOR MILEAGE AWARDS SINCE FALL OF 2016

- 1000 Caroline Swartz, Keith Sandahl,
- 1500: Juliana Sandahl, Terry Ferguson
Marilyn Riley, & Neal Bashore
- 4000: Kathy Chute
- 4500: George Chute
- 5000: Tom Johnson

WHAT MILESTONES!

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF...."OKLAHOMA"??!!

Last January on the Bog Hole hike, which takes place in the San Rafael Valley, (where Oklahoma was filmed in 1955), Tom Kirchoff's hikers returned to their cars in the middle of the valley and spontaneously broke out with a rousing rendition of "Oklahoma" which echoed across the rolling grasslands and just might have caused a nearby herd of cattle to stampede.



NEW HIKE LEADERS WELCOMED!

Our hiking club recently welcomed eight new hike leaders, thus ending Hikemaster Bob Porterfield's quest to beef up our leadership numbers after a major reduction of leaders over the past year. He is now able to spread out the club's leadership responsibilities over a larger number of potential leaders. They have already been leading. Here is what they have to say about assuming the new roles for which they volunteered:

RICK THRALL: In the Canadian Rockies I always enjoyed breaking through the high alpine tree line to finally see something other than trees: such breathtaking views awaited. Now I see it all at the start of every hike. As much as the hiking is great, the people are even better. They are what keep you coming back. Personally, I love the areas in the southwest, as this region feels less travelled and more unique while providing outstanding terrain and views of untouched landscape. Thank you for the opportunity GVHC.

TOM KIRCHOFF: I decided to become a hike leader because after 46 years of marriage I thought to myself, "It sure would be nice to be the one giving the orders." That theory hasn't really panned out. So I moved onto the idea that unless you are the lead dog, the view never changes. Well, that's fine and dandy, but I realized you actually have to know where you are going. All in all, I enjoy being a hike leader because I get to meet and interact with such a wide variety of fine people. My three major observations so far have been; (1) old people pee a lot, (2) old people talk a lot, and (3) the Green Valley Hiking Club has some superb athletes.

PAT BOECK: I became a leader so that I could give back something to the club for all the enjoyment I get hiking with wonderful people. I get to enjoy scenery and places I would otherwise not visit without the club. It's my way of saying "thank you."

KAY PASLEY: Taking on the new responsibilities as Hike Leader fits well with my sense of adventure and curiosity about the environment and the enjoyment I find in interacting with members who share similar interests. I also feel that these responsibilities were one way to give back to an organization that has made my living here such a good thing. Hiking allows me the opportunity to explore places in an up-close and personal way, often places that are inaccessible except on foot. Doing all of this with groups of enjoyable and interesting people has proved to be "the icing on the cake" for me.

RICH VAN ESS: My career brought me here 18 years ago as a Meteorologist for the National Weather Service. Hobbies besides hiking include weight lifting, & biking, I hope to get back to running, gardening, reading, learning different dances, any kind of adventure. All the hikes are great. Gets me out into the wilderness with fresh air and great exercise with no

modern-day distractions. Oh yes: also like to do back flips off of high boulders...NOT!

GENE ENDERS: Although hailing from Wis./ Mn, my wife and I used to hike and backpack 'out West' in the past, then rediscovered our love of this great outdoor recreation when we started wintering in GV 5 yrs. ago. It is fun sharing the hiking experience and meeting new people who come from all over to enjoy the same activity. I wanted to become a leader in order to contribute what I can to maintaining this wonderful hiking club and all that it does for its members.

STEVE WHITE: I've always enjoyed the out of doors whether it has been hiking or canoeing during the summers in Wisconsin or on hikes here. During the summers I work with the Ice Age Trail helping build trails for others' hiking pleasure. After moving here I joined the hiking club. I'd already been able to walk for many years at this point, which encouraged me to become more involved in the club. I became a sweep and then a leader and have never regretted a moment.

Our New Hike Leaders... A big round of applause for all of them!



Rick Thrall, Tom Kirchoff, Pat Boeck, Kay Pasley, Rich Van Ess, Gene Enders, Steve White (not pictured, Dan Paxton)

IF HE LEADS, THEY BLEED

A few years ago on the C Proctor Ramble, a leader was leading back to the road and to the cars. Most of the hike was a gentle bushwhack, so a shortcut just over a nearby gentle ridge wouldn't be a problem. Whoops! From the ridge to the road a quarter of a mile away, the terrain bristled with brambles, briars,, stickers, needles, chollas, and cacti. Once at the road, a number of the hikers sported red badges of courage of varying intensity. Just at that moment, a giant RV pulled up and stopped among the hikers. Phil Gray, one of the group, proclaimed quite loudly, "Look what just arrived! What timing! Our Bloodmobile!" (Shortly thereafter, the C Proctor Ramble hike disappeared from the club's repertoire.) (The hike leader didn't, though he lived to tell the story.)

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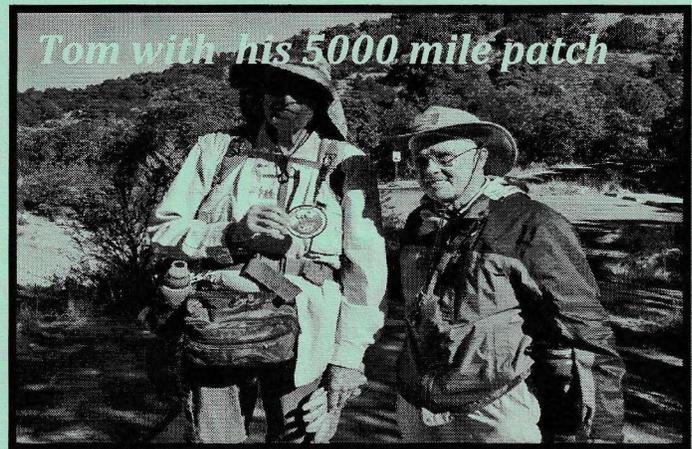
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