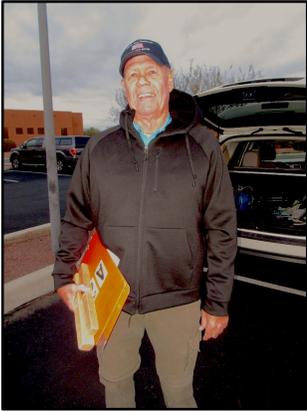




### HIKE MASTER'S REPORT



It's been a very busy year for the hiking club. Everyone has been so helpful and supportive. I thank and appreciate each of you!

Participation in hikes this year is up 20% over last year. This is a positive sign that our hiking club will continue to bring in new, eager, and interested members who will step into leadership roles in the future.

We have had to add additional hikes at the last minute in order to accommodate the increase in first time hikers. Barb Fleshman, the Orientation Chair, was a life saver in trying to estimate the number of first time hikers and the subsequent need for additional hikes based on those orientation numbers. A special thanks to the leaders who were willing to lead last minute hikes and also those who volunteered for leading when leaders could not lead their assigned hikes for whatever reason. No one ever said "no" when asked. What a group of leaders!!

Sally Boysen will be excellent as our next Hikemaster. She's already worked hard to become aware of the job. I know she can count on all of you to be there to help her if needed.

The Hike Selection Committee made this year a lot easier for the Hikemaster. Jim Chisholm, Sally Boysen, Helen Zaukas, Bob Porterfield, and Wayne Moshier used their hiking knowledge and expertise to create weekly choices. This is quite a task as they have had to choose from 450 active hikes and also revisit nearly 100 archived hikes and to try and blend

them in again to the active list. Give these folks a hand!

We are currently blessed with 42 enthusiastic leaders and 37 eager assistant leaders. Luckily we have had no leaders retire this year. New Leaders include David Linn, Barb Dentzman, Tony Crosby and Jim Delperdang. Our new AHLs are Allan Roe, David Kean, Barb Fleshman, Marce Pross, Chris Heintz, Nancy White, Peter White, Barb Jepakema, Marysia Czachor and David Powell. Hopefully many of our super AHLs will become hike leaders in the future.

It has been quite a year and I am pleased to have been a part of it as the 31<sup>st</sup> Hikemaster. Thanks to all of you for making this a successful year!!

### Toni Garreffa

### MEMBERSHIP UP!

As of the end of January, 2019, we have 405 paid members. This compares to 374 in 2018, 418 in 2017 and 394 in 2016, all at the end of January. We feel that the higher number this year may be directly attributed to individual's ability to use our new club web site to register for orientation, learn more about this and pay online. In past years dues have dribbled in more slowly. Many members renewed their dues online even before arriving in Green Valley for the winter season.

It is difficult to predict what our final numbers will be this year. The orientation numbers have certainly been up, but as we all know, not all who attend orientation join the club, and come out and hike.

The number of members at the end of December for the past 5 years have stayed pretty steady, e.g. 450 - 475.



Empire Ranch... eastward

### THE CLUB'S WEB SITE OFFERS THE FOLLOWING...

#### Interested in joining the club?

- Go to the Orientation page to find when and where the future and required orientation sessions are being held. A GVR or tenant card will be required to attend and to become a member.

#### Planning your Hike:

- Check the hike schedule on Wednesday night to see if your chosen hike is still being run; if not, then select another hike, plus backups, if that hike is full.

#### Member Services page:

- Membership Renewal or joining as a new member is here, as are: new t-shirt and name tag purchases; registering for our potluck dinners; the Members Directory; and digital issues of current and past issues of Trail Tales.

#### The Information section contains:

- Annual Meeting minutes; Hall of Fame members; details on our Trail Maintenance page showing tasks performed with the Forest Service;
- Arizona State Land Permit applications—needed for a number of our hikes on state land; and maybe best of all, the club's Photo Gallery, which features photos taken by club hikers on their hikes.
- The club library, which contains extensive background on and descriptions of the many features which we often find on our hikes, organized by topic and / or mountain ranges.



## Anna And George Jones

Club members George and Anna Jones' stay in southern Arizona has been memorable! And they have given back so much...

"After retiring, we moved from Texas to Green Valley for the warm climate and birding. For several years birding was our primary outdoor recreation. We led birding trips for the Tucson Audubon Society and the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. We also participated in birding surveys at Tucson Audubon's Important Bird Area along the Santa Cruz River.

Our first hike with the Green Valley Hiking Club was a memorable one. Unknown to us, it was Freddie Carter's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Seven of the 14 hikers were 80 years or older. A surprise celebration for Freddie was held at the Whitehouse Canyon Picnic area.

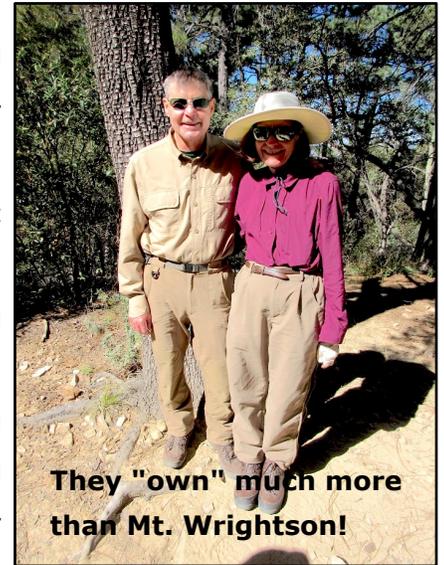
George was a leader from November 2008 until December 2012. Even though our first hike to Mt. Wrightson was in 2006, we did not hike to the top frequently. We were busy exploring other mountains and trails in Southern Arizona. We have hiked to the summit of more than 400 peaks in Southeastern Arizona, Arizona Trail passages 1 through 20 (372 miles), 88 canyons, and 25 or more trails in seven mountain ranges.

Currently, we do most of our hiking in the Santa Rita Mountains with Mt. Wrightson being one of our favorite hikes. It has beautiful scenery, wildlife, birds, wildflowers, and it is convenient and great exercise. It has become a once or twice a week hike for exercise and recreation. So far we have made 458 ascents.

We got tired of hurdling logs and bushwhacking so we decided to do our part in helping clear the trails. We are partners with the Forest Service (FS) on trail maintenance. Along with Dean Feige and Jim Beck, we've cleared 452 dead fall trees using a crosscut or handsaw.

We supervise Arizona Conservation Corps trail crews in brush clearing and trail upkeep. The FS does not have sufficient funds to adequately maintain trails, it's really up to volunteers to help keep these trails maintained and open for all to enjoy."

**it's hard to keep up with these Jones!**



**They "own" much more than Mt. Wrightson!**

### A GUEST SPEAKER...?

On a recent Empire Ranch's "Going to the Dogs" hike, the hike leader was concerned that a noisy group of onlookers would spook the prairie dogs upon arrival outside their "settlement." Sure enough, as they approached the attraction, a large white pickup had planted itself right outside the compound. Wow, was the hike leader angry....until he walked up to the driver's side and noticed the truck was an Arizona Fish and Game vehicle, the very organization in charge of the settlement and upkeep of the Prairie dog village!

What luck! He was tempted to inform his hikers that this was a planned event and that the agency had sent a guest speaker to rendezvous and make a presentation to the hikers. Unfortunately he had been overheard swearing at the truck under his breath, so he came clean.

And sure enough, the Fish and Game warden regaled the hikers with all sorts of background about this particular prairie dog settlement, why the settlement took place, the habits of prairie dogs, their role as a 'key species' in an ecological system, and so on. Sometimes our hikes get lucky! And of course, many of the dogs poked their heads above ground to listen to what the warden had to say about them...



### STIG BENSON" "...and he just keeps hiking along..."

A twenty year, hiking club veteran, Stig Benson maybe best personifies the hiking version of Jerome Kern's "Old Man River." Soon to be 89, he still primes himself for his Thursday outing with the club. At this stage, while hiking mostly C hikes with the occasional B thrown in, he exhibits his extraordinary stamina and devotion to the activity he loves.

A native of Sweden and armed with an engineering degree, Stig came to Chicago when he was 26 and immediately began a career in construction. He met and married his wife Ingrid and began a family. While visiting Green Valley in 1996, they fell in love with the area, purchased a home in 1998, and began hiking with the club soon after.

Why hiking? Back in Sweden, his farming family lived in mostly wooded surroundings on a flat plain, not so good for scenic hiking. So he grew up with cross-country skiing, a sport in which Sweden and Norway have dominated the winter Olympics for years. During the warmer months he was active in track and field, concentrating on the triple jump and 800 meter competitions. Thus began his interest in physical fitness, to which he attributes his longevity.

What does Stig like about the hiking club? Friendly attitudes among fellow hikers; well-organized in every way; physical benefits; and hiking in nature. He stays in excellent shape (which closely resembles his daily work on the family farm). He takes two-hour walks and exercises on days when not hiking. He's never smoked, stays away from fats and sugar, and enjoys healthy and fiber-rich food.

Plus he chose his parents well: he is the oldest, and the youngest of his six siblings is 75, and his mother lived to be 92. He credits his upbringing on the farm and the hard work which went with it for framing the rest of his life. Not coincidentally, he lived in one of the two poorest provinces in Sweden, a rural farming area, which government researchers found to feature the longest-lived Swedes. So Stig will just keep hiking along....



**Stig's 1500 mile patch**



Beverly, Kay, Pat & Toni

### BISBEE STAIR CLIMB:

Four members of the Hiking Club (Kay Pasley, Toni Garreffa, Pat Boeck, and Betty Dieter [former member]) participated in the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Bisbee 1,000 Great Stair Climb in October, entering again under the category "Walking at your own pace and enjoying the view" (see [www.bisbee.org](http://www.bisbee.org)).

This annual event draws competitors from all over Arizona, as well as national and international competitors. Our members do it for fun and as a "girls' weekend."

For Kay and Toni, this year marks their fourth time in this 5K race, and they know that there are 1,034 steps, not the 1,000 as advertised, across nine different staircases (180 steps is the longest), and ALL go up.

Their costumes won "most creative" in the costume competition for 2018, partly due to their motto emblazoned on t-shirts and socks: "When life gives you lemons, add vodka" (note the lemons on head pieces, too). They've set a goal to win again in 2019.

All agree, it's a great way to spend a weekend; laughing, taking pictures, getting some exercise, and watching the true competitors run the race in record time!



### Sally Boysen, Assistant Hike Master

My AHM role has been a pleasant task as I keep the supplies of the first aid kits up to date and inform the Border Patrol of hikes near the border that might concern them.

In May, HM Terry Ferguson passes those duties onto me. I'm honored with this appointment and very aware of the shoes I need to fill (I mean that kindly, Terry). I look forward to the coming year and feel so comfortable with all the support behind me in computer knowledge, hike and trail information and guidelines established by many previous and respected hike masters.

To add to my comfort level, I am happy and proud to have Duane Dotson as my Assistant Hike Master. I'm confident his talents will be very valuable as we work together this coming year. Both of us will work hard to promote our club's safe and enjoyable hiking.

### Magnificent Mileage awards!

- 1000-----George Minervini, Pat Boeck, Marce Pross, Toni Gareffa, Tony Crosby, Valerie Robinson
- 1500-----Joe Frazier, Anita Woodward
- 2000-----Neal Bashore, Jim Chervenka
- 2500-----Bill Hill
- 3000-----Frank Surples



**4500....KATHY CHUTE**  
**5500....TOM JOHNSON**



Empire Ranch

### Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of 2019, the Club had a cash balance of \$10,215.41. Through January 31, income was \$1,842.72 and expenses were \$1,310.05 leaving a balance of \$10,748.08.

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

### Gorgeous George (?) In the Santa Ritas (!)

Not too long ago, George Pavey was leading the Greaterville Trail to Aliso Springs hike in the eastern Santa Ritas. The hike came to a high point on the ridge before heading down toward the Springs. George checked his map and found that the gorge didn't have a name. So a hiker got to thinking. Inspiration! One of his favorite 1950s rasslers: Gorgeous George. Why not?! He told leader George and the rest of the hike that he had come up with a name for the gorge or ravine which had intrigued him: "George's Gorge." He was greeted with a stunned and ear-splitting silence! Oh well, he tried.

In Memoriam: BETSY HANSEN



**LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE? TRY HIKING HALF DOME IN YOSEMITE**

*"Vicariously experience the climb of Yosemite's Half Dome"*

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ar9pNenQbK8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ar9pNenQbK8)

*"An overview of the Yosemite Half Dome hike...from Dawn to Dusk"*

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_D5zouojSY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_D5zouojSY)

**David Powell, President's Report**

Most of us have noticed the increased number of hikers waiting in lines to sign up for Club hikes on Thursday mornings. Some hikes have filled up as early as an hour before the scheduled departure time and hikers have been required to exercise flexibility in choosing an alternative. The Hike Master has even added extra hikes to accommodate hikers yearning to experience the thrill of hiking the trails and communing with the beauty of southern Arizona.

There are many reasons for the increased number of hikers, including an uptick in the local real estate market, with new houses now being constructed following almost a decade of stagnation. And there is reason to believe that growth of both GVR and the Hiking Club will continue.

Some of our members will welcome growth as a way to showcase the preeminence of our Club; and others will eschew it while longing for the days of shorter lines and a more intimate Club. Neither position is incorrect. But if Club growth is inevitable, our Club will need more volunteers to assure that we will be able to continue to offer our members the type of experience that we have all come to enjoy and expect. Now would be an excellent time for each of us to reflect on ways that we can contribute our time and talent to help guarantee the future of the Hiking Club.



Snakes! Hikers in the grass



Now **THIS** is a tree! Empire Ranch



What do you mean, the hike's been cancelled?!!!



"...and enjoyable hiking"