

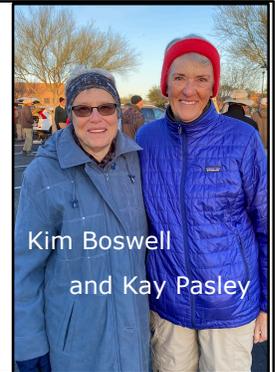


## Our new Hikemaster and Assistant for 2023-2024 Kim Boswell and Kay Pasley

As I prepare to assume the hikemaster mantle from David on May 1, I am grateful knowing that I will be supported by a fantastic group of leaders and other club volunteers. Your incoming assistant hikemaster, Kay Pasley, brings a wealth of leadership experience, is an excellent hike leader, and well respected. I look forward to having her as my partner.

***This will be the first time in the 44-year history of the club,  
that two women will be in charge.***

**(On the Hiking Club Richter Scale, a 9.34 tremor!)**



Kim Boswell  
and Kay Pasley

## The State of the Club

As we enter the high season for Club hiking, I would like to welcome back our part time members. The state of the club is good! We are gradually increasing our membership numbers which we lost during the pandemic. And we are currently running eleven hikes a week and had over a hundred hikers last week.

More signs of life: new sweeps Bob Senning, Steve Delisle, Ron Pohlen, and Rich Calderazzo, join our new leader-in-training, Scott Tewksbury, to bolster our Club's leadership.

Our on-line sign-up program has been used by 55% of our hikers. Remember: each hike (maximum 24 hikers) can hold 14 slots for online sign-ups. When those slots are taken, it does not mean that the hike is filled. Just come early on Thursday morning to secure one of the eight remaining slots for your preferred hike. Enjoy your hikes!

**David Linn, Hikemaster**

## The new Silver Tank hike: how did it come about ?

Our hiking club is always on the lookout for new hikes to offer to its membership. Yes, the club already offers 543 hikes which have been developed over the past 40+ years. But some hikes have been taken off the roster because of inaccessibility, reversion to privately held land, changing topographic features, and other considerations. And at the same time, there are areas which for whatever reason have not been thoroughly explored as potential additions. The club still uses its motto as the guiding light to gauge potential inclusion on our roster: "Safe and Enjoyable."

Just this past January 12, hike leader Jim Chervenka led an intrepid group of 17 easy C hikers on the inaugural Silver Tank hike, a hike in which he and his wife Paula worked together for a total of 20+ hours to research, tentatively design, and hike the proposed trail. Jim utilized a series of web sites such as Google Earth, All Trails, and other sources for guidance when laying out the trail. He wanted it to be a C hike which not only offered interesting features but also was located close to Green Valley.

And some good luck certainly helped: the hike takes place in a closed conservation area, and is adjacent to the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, which contains over 1700 acres of private land and an associated 12,600 acres of leased trust land.

What did the Chervenkas like about it? The hike is out of sight of main roads, has many 360 deg. vistas, and contains some interesting rock formations. Participants on the hike said they liked its diversity in that it took place on both an abandoned road (more like a trail) and on dry stream beds, plus it offered some welcome exercise as well. And a bonus: it took an extremely rare one-trial run to establish the hike in its final form.

**A job well done!**

## Treasurer's Report

At the end of 2021 the club's cash balance was \$11,560.83. Income for 2022 was \$7,843.48 including \$885 of prepaid 2023 T-Shirt sales. Club dues were \$6,940.00. Expenses totaled \$4,810.38. The largest of these expenses were website fees of \$1,240.25 and leaders' breakfast of \$1,207.19.

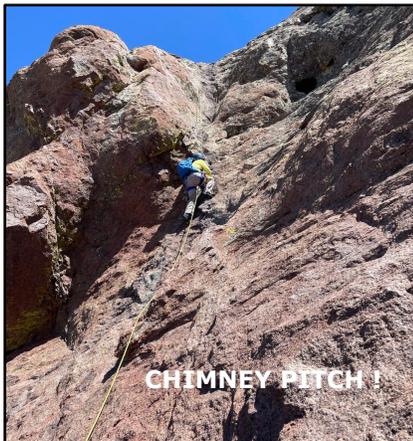
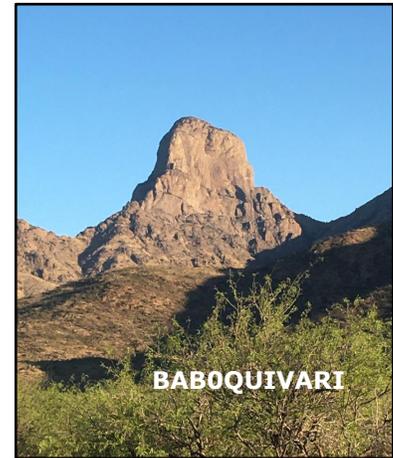
Other Expenses including Storage, Printing, Donations, Patches and other items totaled \$2,362.94. The year end balance was \$14,593.93.

**Scott Tewksbury, Treasurer**

## WOW! CLIMBING BABOQUIVARI !

Club member Tom Sawyer, Roy Farrell (biking buddy), and I successfully summited Baboquivari on the 13th of April. Although Tom has summited about a dozen times, we have never even been close to this iconic and sacred peak. Tom shares that this particular mountain is entirely unique in its variety of pitches and stunning landscape. I have to take his word as I am a total rookie and was just happy to be in the company of such an experienced climber. Roy is a fellow biker and also an experienced climber.

Our Wednesday started early when we met to car pool at 4:30 a.m. After a three hour drive to the trailhead, we hiked up the trail to the base of the mountain. We started at about 4200' and the saddle is at 6300'. It's a steep, loose, and little used trail up to the saddle located to the right in the photo. The peak is at 7730'. This photo is of the east side of the mountain in the morning sun. Our ascent is mostly from around the corner on the north side.



We stashed spare water at the saddle and proceeded up toward our first pitch, "Chimney." Although this first pitch looked close to us, it took an hour to scramble up the extremely steep slope. This may be the worst piece of trail I've ever scrambled, and I've been on some nasty trails.

Here is the Chimney pitch or slot, over to the left. Even with the photo you can't see how steep this wall is, but trust me....it is steep.

Then we approached the 90' high Friction pitch. Very slick, less steep than the other two pitches but 'less steep' is still very steep. I was fully focused but this time I wasn't actually scared. Nice change. I guess I was learning to trust Tom who is up top belaying me (*secured by a rope*). Tom had climbed this entire pitch with no protection as there is nowhere to place any anchors. To watch him climb knowing if he slips, he will fall all the way to our feet, is difficult to accept. But he is very cautious, experienced and confident.

I was able to climb this pitch by slowly finding the minimal toe and fingertip holds. I never slipped and just slowly progressed up. Knowing Tom can catch me (on the rope), if I slip, is very comforting. Although there is tension on the rope, Tom can't pull me up. He is just able to arrest my fall if I make a mistake. Fortunately, no mistakes today.

Once again, we gathered up the rope and scrambled to our third and final pitch. This final pitch is the ladder pitch as it once had a steel ladder bolted to the wall and used to access the fire lookout located up top. There is no longer any structure on the top.

The 90' ladder pitch is a challenge as it is a complicated wall of varying holds. Once again, Tom led but this time he was able to place several forms of protection at intervals up the wall. This pitch is steeper than the friction pitch and more challenging. But with Roy coaching from below and Tom from above, I managed to complete this ascent.

Eventually we scrambled to the peak. It took us about seven hours as it was now 2:30. And we still had to get down. A quick lunch on this perfect location and then back down.

We rappelled each of the three pitches and then hiked that nasty trail scramble (one hour) back to the saddle where we could start our three hour hike out to the truck. Thanks to Tom's coaching, I am definitely more comfortable rappelling.

It was awesome to complete this challenging climb. And I did it with a 76 year old leader and a 75 year old climbing/biking buddy. Has this sacred mountain ever had two 75+ plus year olds on the summit at one time?.....I have my doubts.

We finished our adventure by hiking under a nearly full moon and getting to the truck arriving at about 9 p.m. A short three hour drive while jammed into the jump seat of a Toyota Tacoma was a real treat for my legs after spending 12 1/2 hours hiking, climbing and mostly carrying an extra 25 lbs. of rope, climbing gear and water. We got home around midnight and after a shower I got two hours sleep before the alarm rang at 4 a.m., and I got up to meet the hiking club for a summit of Miller Peak.

I hope that paints a picture for you. Time for some sleep.



**Rick Thrall**

## OUR CLUB SWEEPS: THERE'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE !

Ever wonder what hike leaders think of their respective assistant hike leaders? Most will say, without exception, that their 'sweeps' are the most important individuals on any hike.

How so? Let's take a look at a sweep-in-training, Diane Wilson. At least during the warmer months, most of our late spring/summer hikers have trekked with her. Maybe her background will give us clues to their motivation and interest in a club leadership position.

A product of Williamsburg, Virginia ("Yes Virginia, there is a Williamsburg"), from an early age she has enjoyed the outdoors, identifying flowers, biking the outer limits of Williamsburg, and even developing a habit of tree sniffing for identification purposes. Later she engaged in power walking up and down the surrounding hills. Evidently physical fitness played an important role in her life early on.

Twenty years ago she visited the Southwest and fell in love with it, as did her husband Phil. Friends guided them from Sedona to Green Valley. Before you know it, via leader Kay Pasley, she joined the hiking club. After a year of hiking experience, Kay approached her to ask if she was interested in becoming a sweep. She thought about it for a short time and then decided to go ahead with the training program.

Did she have any concerns before entering the program? "Basically I'm an introvert; having hikers depend on me was challenging. But: I've found I'm good at it. I love hiking, and I've learned so much from the leaders for whom I've swept...and other sweeps." Her positive attitude toward learning her role certainly made her transition that much easier (and swifter).

Of course she's had challenges during her sweep experience. Maybe the most important is that she recognizes that each hike leader is different, with maybe a unique approach to guiding a hike. But she's learned so much from each individual leader. They've given her a broader understanding as to her role. As to her benefits: "knowing that I'm helpful but not the center of attention."

What would she say to anyone who has voiced an interest in becoming a sweep? "I've really enjoyed the position and how much I've learned." She appreciates her scouts with hike leaders because she better understands a given hike in all its dimensions, not to mention becoming aware of particular features a hike has to offer.

And it always happens: "At the end of a hike, I'm feeling sorry to see it end." One reason may be that each is different, and for her, even on the same hike run the next month, it's the unique combination of hikers which sets that hike apart from the earlier hike.

One more observation: as Diane says, "Many times I'll ask hikers about their knowledge regarding such items as a flower or a tree or an unusual animal. It helps them to feel more a part of the hike, that they too have something to offer."

To paraphrase, hike leaders and sweeps, and hikers in general, can learn from each other. The writer thinks that's special!



Diane Wilson

### President's Report

After two tough Covid years, it's gratifying to see our Club growing again: 47 new members in 2022, and 27 more new members already this year. It's great to see crowds in the parking lot and hikes filling up with 24 hikers.

And plaudits to David Colpitts, Jim Chisholm, Dan Paxton, and Keith Blair for sharing their time and expertise in helping 60 Club members improve their navigation skills.

Finally, after a four years hiatus, your Board has begun working with the Forest Service to discuss the Club's possible renewal of its successful Trail Maintenance Program.

I urge all members to attend the Club's annual meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at 8 a.m., in the Desert Hills GVRCenter. Board members will report on their plans and activities, and we will elect new leaders for next year. I hope you will join us.

**David Toenisketter: Board President**

### Membership Report

Membership numbers are inching up post-Covid! As of February of 2019 we had 405 members, which dropped to 303 in 2021. We're now at 315, with 27 new members added this year.

On another note: all hikers should carry an information card when hiking. if you need one, please see me in the parking lot.

**Marysia Czachor: Membership**

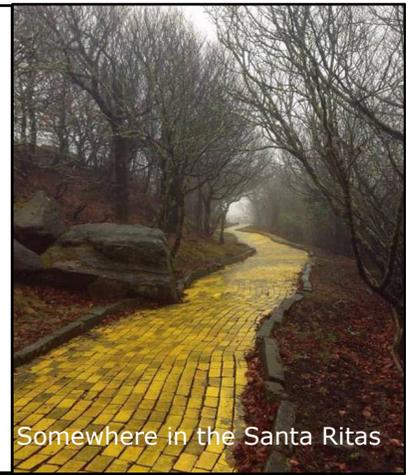
**Winter visitors, [click here to view our summer monsoons !](#)**



"And now, standing at my side, I give you the man who conquered Everest, the Matterhorn, Kilimanjaro ..."

### Mileage Award Patches, Mary Pulkrabek

- 250 Richard Calderazzo, Carol Sonnenberg, Beth Skelding  
Joy Quigly, Tom Bosma, Tom Sawyer
- 500 Diane Wilson, Jody Tweksburg, Rhonda Wills, Steve Delisle
- 1000 Henry Maus, Patrick Melby, Dave Hinkel
- 2000 Duane Dotson, Kay Pasley, Steph Herron
- 2500 Joe Frazier, Ken Sink, Janet Gerdes
- 3000 Terry Ferguson
- 5500 Kathy Chute
- 6500 Wayne Moshier



Somewhere in the Santa Ritas

### Social Chair Report

Two major events:

January 10th. saw the Club's annual hike leaders breakfast at La Posada. We had a total of 61 Leaders, Assistants and Emeritus Leaders in attendance. Our speaker's presentation by David Dean, on: "**Mountain Lions of the Santa Catalinas**" was excellent. His use of photos and on-site movie footage added another dimension to his riveting account.

Our second potluck scheduled for Feb. 19th., will be featuring fellow hiker Ron Pohlen's personal account of, "**Thru Hiking the Appalachian Trail**". Don't miss this!

**Rhonda Wills, Social Chair**

### Hirabayashi Arizona Trail campground featured in fall 2021 Trail Tales: a follow-up.

After the fall, 2022 Trail Tales newsletter came out, Tony Crosby, one of our hike leaders, mentioned that he and his wife's book club had just finished reading *Daniel James Brown's "Facing the Mountain,"* a riveting account of the Japanese-American internment camp experience after Pearl Harbor.

Gordon Hirabayashi, who (on Constitutional grounds) resisted the order to relocate to an internment camp, and was jailed, is featured as a counterpoint to the thousands of Japanese American men who eagerly volunteered to serve their country and 'prove' their patriotism. Many of them died doing so.

The book is deeply engrossing and exceptionally well-written. It's definitely worth a read.

### Stuck in Warsaw (from George Pavey)

A few years ago, Frank Surpluss, Rich Shimanek and I came back to my old Suzuki after a scout in Warsaw Canyon, off of Ruby Road, and found the battery dead. After a fruitless attempt to start it by rolling down a big hill, Surpluss hiked out a mile to Ruby Road to seek help. Later we saw a Buick sedan coming toward us. Frank had worked his magic!

The Buick contained two really good-looking women who quickly pulled out their jumper cables and, voila, the Suzi was purring. Any thought of further entertaining these cuties was dismissed after seeing a fearsome Bowie knife dangling from one of their belts. (There's a moral here somewhere.)

### Volunteer Services Report

Giving back to the community: in an ongoing two year commitment, 15 Club volunteers cleaned up our section of White House Canyon Road in November: two hours and eight large bags of trash collected!

We also participated in a mandatory Pima County training on roadside cleanup. And we've just concluded our Hiking Club T-shirt sale: 110 sold, thanks to our loyal club buyers.

**Mark Buchholz, Volunteer Services Coordinator**

At its last meeting, the Club's Board of Directors added **Bob Porterfield**, a long-time member, hike leader, past Hikemaster, volunteer, and hike leader emeritus to the Club's **Hall of Fame**.

**"Congratulations Bob !"**

[Click here to see Nature's power in Rockfalls and Avalanches!](#)