

Green Valley Recreation Hiking Club

Minutes of Annual Meeting
March 4, 2025
Desert Hills Social Center

Board Members and Chairpersons present: Mark Buchholz, Sue Palfrey, Scott Tewksbury, Barbara Jepkema, Marysia Czachor, Mary Pulkrabek, Rhonda Wills, Nancy White, Rich Calderazzo, Kay Pasley, Steve Toeniskoetter, Frank Surpless, George Chute, and David Kean. Absent: Anita Woodward and Steve Delisle.

1. Call to Order/Quorum Mark Buchholz

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by President Mark Buchholz, after a quorum was established.

2. Secretary's Report Barbara Jepkema

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of March 5, 2024, as provided electronically to the entire Club membership prior to the meeting, were unanimously approved upon motion made and seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report Scott Tewksbury

The Club has continued in a good financial position since the last annual meeting. The Cash Flow and Statement of Income and Expenses for the calendar year 2024, attached as part of these Minutes, was provided electronically to the entire Club membership prior to the meeting. Upon motion made and seconded, the report was unanimously approved.

4. President's Report Mark Buchholz

Our Club has had a good year. Hiker numbers have been consistent with prior years and membership numbers remain close to the past. Our members continue the strong commitment to volunteering for duties for the Club and for our community service commitments.

We have continued work with Black Pug software to finetune the software for the Hikemaster, Assistant Hikemaster, and hike leaders' work, and on the many current and new hikes our Club offers. Also, we have continued to work with the Forest Service on trail maintenance in Madera Canyon.

The Board reviewed, updated, and approved minor changes to Club Policy Manual and the Hall of Fame process, as well as all the routine Club business, financials, records, awards, t-shirt sales, potlucks, and website maintenance.

5. Vice President's Report

Sue Palfrey

All facilities spaces with GVR have been scheduled: the Thursday parking lot, Board meeting rooms, hike leader meeting spaces, orientation spaces, the potlucks and any other special event. GVR schedules out a few months at a time, so this is done several times a year.

Jeff Gross, a member since 2022 and a retired CPA, has completed a 2024 financial review of the Club and reported that all Club financial documents were complete and accurate.

A Committee to select a Hall of Fame candidate (or candidates) was formed by Sue. The other members were Duane Dotson, Kim Boswell, and Nancy White. Recent hike leader and assistant leader retirees were reviewed as potential candidates, with 4 candidates being present to the Board at the February 4 meeting. These Hall of Famers, and all "Famers" in the history of the Club, can be found on the Club website on the Information page, under "Other Information": (https://www.gvrhc.org/ClubInfoPages/Hall_of_Fame.pdf).

Sue and Nancy White attended the GVR workshop on Clubs in January. A couple of ideas emerged from the meeting that the Board could look at during the upcoming year.

The annual GVR paperwork was completed, which includes: the 10-page GVR Club Agreement, officer information, a membership roster, Club inventory (for items stored on GVR property), and a year-end financial report.

The Club has received a very nice desk sculpture from the Coronado National Forest with the inscription, "In recognition and appreciation of your partnership with the Coronado National Forest." The Board approved allowing this to be kept by each trail maintenance chair, to be displayed in their home. This will be passed on to the next trail maintenance chair when there is a turnover in trail maintenance chairs.

6. Membership

Marysia Czachor

As of February 28, 2025 there are 308 active members in the Club, 31 of which are new to the Club in the past year. As a comparison, at last year's Annual Meeting we had 330 members with 38 of those being new to the Club. Membership is down by about 7%.

One change made this year is that anyone joining the Club after September 1 will have the benefit of membership for the rest of that year as well as the following year. Previously that benefit was for members joining after November 1.

7. Awards

Mary Pulkrabek

In the past year, from March 5, 2024 to March 4, 2025, 83 awards have been given:

50 miles: 28

250 miles:	13	
500 miles:	7	
1,000 miles:	11	Peg Enders, Gene Enders, Deb Thrall, Jim Richardson, Steve Toeniskoetter, Ann Tenpenny, Barb Sincere, Peter Burgaard, Jim Delperdang, David Toeniskoetter, Steve Delisle
1,500 miles:	7	Katherine Carlson, Sue Palfrey, Marce Pross, Nancy White, Peter White, Barbara Rydall, Barb Fleshman
2,000 miles:	2	Sandy Noreen, David Powell
2,500 miles:	2	Kay Pasley, Anita Woodward
3,000 miles:	6	Jim Riley, Jim Easter, Joe Frazier, Juliana Sandahl, Patsy Sills, Janet Gerdes
3,500 miles:	3	Terry Ferguson, Jim Chisholm, Bob Koons
4,000 miles:	1	Patty Greimann
6,000 miles:	1	Kathy Chute
6,500 miles:	1	George Chute
7,000 miles:	1	Wayne Moshier

8. Social

Rhonda Wills

The March 24, 2024 social was attended by 127 members. It was different from prior potlucks in that it was a “Happy Hour” appetizer and dessert format, along with games and door prizes in an attempt to get members to mix, and started at 4 PM instead of 5 PM. The reviews were mixed and is something that the Club may want to consider for our spring event each year. We collected and Rhonda delivered 101 pounds of food and \$98 to the local Food Bank. David Colpitts, a hike leader of our Club, gave a presentation on hiking the Robert Stevenson Trail in Southern France.

The Fall Potluck was held on November 10, 2024, with approximately 94 attendees. The speaker was Les Bakke, head of the GVR Forum Club, and he gave a presentation re-capping significant events of the 1960’s. The Potluck theme was a salute to our military veterans and members and guests in the audience who were veterans of the Marine Corp., Army, Army National Guard, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard were acknowledged. Collection and delivery of 85 pounds of food and \$178 in cash was made to the Food Bank on behalf of the Club.

On January 28, 2025, the Annual Leaders Breakfast was held at La Posada. There were a total of 68 Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Emeritus Leaders, and Board Members who attended. The speaker was Zac MacDonald, with the US Forest Service Coronado National Forest Division, who presented a slide presentation.

The Winter Potluck was held on February 2, 2025. There was a total attendance of 109. The speaker was Robin Kropp from the Desert Museum, who gave an interesting presentation on “The Majestic Saguaro”. Collection and delivery of \$215 in cash together with 117 pounds of food was made to the local Food Bank.

For the 2024-25 season, there is one final Potluck coming up on Sunday, April 6, 2025. Danny Valenzuela, an assistant leader with the Club, will be giving a video presentation on his Camino de Santiago hike.

9. Volunteer Services

Nancy White

The Club is responsible to put up flags each Memorial Day along LaCañada, between Esperanza and Continental. In May of 2024, Nancy reached out and recruited newer Hiking Club members to engage and give them an opportunity to interact with fellow Club members. As a result, on May 27, 2024, 20 members put up and took down 93 flags.

The Club is also responsible for picking up trash along a 2-mile section of White House Canyon Road for our Adopt-A-Roadway project. On November 13, 2024, 15 bags of garbage were collected by 16 volunteers, using new grabbers that were purchased by the Club. In order for the Club to keep the Pima County Adopt-A-Roadway permit active, Nancy attended the mandatory safety class in Tucson. At this training, Pima County Transportation staff expressed their appreciation to our Club for keeping our section of the road going up to Madera looking great.

Green Valley Recreation (GVR) sponsors a Club Showcase event in January. This is an opportunity for all GVR clubs to spotlight their respective clubs and recruit new members. This year we displayed, on two large monitors, photos of our Club members hiking on the trail, which drew people to our station, and Nancy was able to help register a few recruits for an upcoming orientation session.

T-shirt sales were offered again this year. After investigation by Nancy of 2 other vendors, the Board approved using the same vendor the Club used in both 2018 and 2022. Members ordered 117 shirts, with the majority of the orders coming from the two new styles Nancy added: a long sleeve and a 1/4 zip pullover. Promoting the T-shirt sales happened over a 4-5-week time span, which included a roaming display of the shirts in the parking lot on Thursdays, e-blasts, announcements in the hiking bulletins and reminders at round up by the hike leaders. Club members were able to "shop" and place their orders on our Club website in the "Store" tab. Several volunteers helped with labeling, sorting and organizing the orders so the distribution of the T-shirts went smoothly.

The Summit Hut Discount Days ran from January 13-19. Members enjoyed a 20% discount on in-stock merchandise at their two store locations. A good number of members took advantage of this. Summit Hut enjoyed seeing our hikers coming in for purchasing boots and other hiking needs. Many of the members are considered "regulars", showing up for this event year after year.

Club members have the ability to purchase name badges through the Club website. The price of a badge increased from \$6.50 to \$8.50, due to postage costs and the Club losing money on orders. Since last April, there have been 29 name badges ordered.

10. Orientation

Rich Calderazzo

This Annual Orientation Report covers all of 2024, as well as January and February of 2025.

Orientation continues to be the Club's tool to introduce people to the Club, to give them a sense of what our Thursday experience is, and to convey whether the Club is a good fit for their interests. Orientation sessions are held 3 times per month during the fall, winter, and spring, when the demand is greatest. All registration is done online and provides for a very streamlined system of keeping the records. Dates are posted and available on our Club website at least one month in advance.

In 2024 plus January and February 2025, we had a total of 29 Orientation sessions which were attended by 175 people. Of those attendees, 85 people went on to take their first hike, which represents 48% of attendees.

For 2025, we have 12 sessions scheduled through April. To date in 2025, we have had 6 sessions with 39 attendees. Of these, 14 attendees went on to take their first hike, which represents 36%.

We now have spousal co-presenters leading our sessions, including Bill White and Barb Fleshman, Dave and Jane Toeniskoetter, Rick and Deb Thrall, Keith and Liz Blair, and Peter and Nancy White.

11. Hikemaster

Kay Pasley

Hike statistics: From May 2024 through February 2025, the number of hikers per week has been about the same as the previous year. The average number of hikers per week in May 2024 was 43. During the summer months of June, August, and September, we had about 38, 30, and 31 hikers per week respectively. As our seasonal members started returning in October, the number of hikers each week gradually increased (Oct-60; Nov-78; Dec-81; Jan-101). Like last year, the busiest month was February with an average of 110 hikers per week, down from 117 in 2024.

The online reservation system continues to run smoothly. During the busy winter months, the online sign-ups remain about 40–50% of total hikers, with minimal no shows for those with reservations.

Kay's primary goal was to offer hikes that had not been on the schedule for some time, anticipating it would result in numerous substitutions, revisions, and potential archiving of hikes. Since last May, 23 hikes were revised and 20 new hikes were added to the full hike list. Ten (10) of these were run November through February and one (1) is scheduled in March. Six (6) hikes were archived, and 1 archived hike is on the active list now, being offered in April. There are currently 554 hikes on the current hike list. Another new A hike is in the works and will be added soon.

Hike Selection Committee: This Committee assists the Hikemaster by selecting hikes for each month and meeting quarterly with the Hikemaster to review the hike selections. The 2024-2025 members of the committee were Jim Chisholm and Bill White (A hikes), Kim Boswell and Barbara Jepkema (B hikes), Duane Dotson and Judith LeClair (C hikes).

Leader retirements and new leaders: Since May 1, 2024, 3 leaders and 1 assistant leader retired, and 1 took a leave-of-absence. One leader who retired decided to return as an assistant leader when needed. As a result, Emeritus patches were given to Jim Riley and Wayne Moshier. Dave Graber joined the leader group, and Denise Graber, Jeff Gross, Zael Lutz, Bob Treadway, and Nancy Wood became assistant leaders. Susan Pyle is currently training to be an assistant leader and Barbara Oemcke will train in March. We currently have 35 leaders (5 are unable to currently lead), and when Susan and Barbara complete the training there will be 33 assistant leaders. There are a few members who have indicated interest in training to become assistant leaders in the near future.

Hikemaster Manual: Given the use of the new data management system, much of the information is not relevant, and Kay is working to revise these materials for future Hikemasters, although there will continue to be changes as we incorporate more of procedure into the new system.

Training on the New Database Management System: Of the returning hike leaders, 15 were trained in June 2024 on the use of the new system for inputting their monthly hike preference. In October, another 11 were trained, and in January the final 3 were trained. In February, 23 assistant leaders were trained.

We have had a parking lot problem of others from adjoining businesses parking in the leader row on Thursday mornings, which was thought to be resolved last year. Kay and Mark Buchholz had to again meet with GVR recently with respect to that problem, and it is hoped that issue is now finally resolved.

12. Assistant Hikemaster

Steve Toeniskoetter

The Assistant Hikemaster's primary responsibility is the first aid kits, along with notifying Border Patrol of hikes near the border and helping the Hikemaster train leaders and assistant leaders.

The content of the first aid kits is very complete, but we continue to consider possible additions. This year we added a non-drowsy antihistamine in addition to the normal antihistamines.

The first aid kits were only used about 20 times in the past 10 months. Steve wanted to remind everyone that the kits are there to be used. Though the inclination is to not get the kit out for aches and pains, or upset stomach or other issues, do not hesitate to ask, especially in the case of bleeding. We want you to get cleaned up, and drivers do not want you getting in their car if you are a mess.

13. Committee Reports:

a. History

Anita Woodward

An inventory of paper file and photos was completed. Arrangements are being made to scan some documents, such as Trail Tales, to save space storing paper. Other documents are being uploaded to the Club's Box storage so they will perpetually be available electronically if needed.

The Lending Library, started many years ago and maintained until his move to Oregon by Tom Johnson, has been donated to Club members. The decision to dismantle this Library was not an easy one, but was made for several reasons. First, fewer than one book a month had been checked out, on average, for the last 11 years. Second, most of the books we had are available at the public library. And third, the experience by both Tom and Anita in this role was that most people interested in a topic these days go to the Web for information. People were not even asking to borrow books they had seen referenced on the web. Because of the space requirements of maintaining this Library and the difficulty in transporting sample books to potlucks, it was decided that it was time to dissolve this. For those who knew him, Anita wants to assure that Tom Johnson was completely on board with this decision. In fact, he and Anita had been discussing the wisdom of this before he moved in early 2024.

The electronic Library, also started by Tom, continues to be available, although it too is not often used. In the coming year it is hoped we will find ways to acquaint more members with this resource that is available to them, and encourage more members to write articles for the Library.

b. Trail Tales

Frank Surpluss

Trail Tales is about our members or hikers we know, and about the leaders and sweeps and hikemasters who make it all work, not to mention the members of the many Club working groups quietly toiling to ensure a smooth operation for our Club. Frank does the copy and Duane Dotson, as co-editor, does the layout, color, and the striking appearance of each issue.

Frank and Duane wish to thank everyone for the many suggestions for Trail Tales coverage over the past 9 years. So many first-person stories, or tales, have heightened the interest in our twice-yearly issues.

c. Webmaster

Steve Delisle

It has been a year since Steve took over the role of webmaster from Stephen Herron. In that time he has assisted in all requested and/or necessary modifications to the systems used to support the Club's various activities. This includes maintaining the hike list, which as of this writing contains 554 active hikes and 130 archived hikes. He has also made

periodic updates in support of orientation sessions, sales, socials and meeting announcements.

Changes are in progress as we migrate towards a more centric approach using the Black Pug database. It is currently being used for all hike selections, scheduling and metrics collection. As more features are added, it is envisioned that the Club will no longer need to use Wild Apricot for Member Services support. This decision will be made once we are sure there will be no impact to our needs.

Submissions to our Photo Gallery have become problematic for some users as Tumblr appears to have made policy changes that require folks to have a Tumblr account and be logged on to their account in order to submit to our gallery. Steve has been researching alternatives to Tumblr and this is still a work in progress, as there is difficulty in capturing old photos.

d. Records

George Chute

The Records Committee, made up of George, Judith LeClair, Sue Palfrey, Katherine Carlson, and Jim Chisholm, is responsible for the maintenance and retention of the Club's master Hike File and weekly updates of hikers and hikes.

George reminded everyone to make sure to print your name and GVR number legibly on the sign-up sheet, if you don't sign up online.

e. Trail Maintenance

David Kean

The Club web page has recently been updated to include current Trail Maintenance information. To access this information, open to website and select information from the drop down. Under Club Documents you will find the Trail Maintenance page. When you select that you will see 3 items to select from. The first is the Agreement For Sponsored Voluntary Services. This is a 2-page document to be downloaded, printed, and filled out by first time volunteers. Next is the Volunteer Position Description which is a general overview of trail maintenance activities. Last is the Mount Wrightson Wilderness Volunteer User Instructions. This document shows how volunteers report their work hours by answering 5 easy questions.

Since renewing our relationship with the Forest Service, we have had good communication, including information about training opportunities and other trail maintenance volunteer activities.

We have had one (1) trail maintenance day so far this year, on Monday, January 13, 2025, on the lower Florida trail. Seven (7) volunteers participated and spent time digging out Desert Spoon and Catclaw plants and cutting back brush to meet Forest Service trail width requirements.

Another workday is planned for Monday, March 10, 2025, which will include removing brush from the Super Trail downhill from Josephine Saddle. More volunteers are needed so please contact David if interested.

The Club received a Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Department of Agriculture/Forest Service for our service in 2024, along with the desk plaque noted by Sue Palfrey.

14. Election of New Board Members:

i. Nominating Committee Report: Barb Fleshman

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Barb Fleshman (Chair), Toni Garreffa, and Janet Gerdes.

The 3 board positions open for 2025 are:

- Social Committee Chair, being vacated by Rhonda Wills, who has completed her three-year term.
- Awards Chair, being vacated by Mary Pulkrabek, who has completed her three-year term.
- Volunteer Services Coordinator, currently held by Nancy White, who will move into her new role of Vice President.

Josie Trobec has agreed to stand for election to the Board of Directors with the intent of serving as the Social Committee Chair. The nominating committee recommends that Josie Trobec be elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Jim Easter has agreed to stand for election to the Board of Directors with the intent of serving as the Awards Chair. The Nominating Committee recommends that Jim Easter be elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term.

The Volunteer Services Coordinator is the first step of a three-year progression, followed by one year each as Vice President and then President of the Club. Bob Senning has agreed to stand for election to the Board of Directors with the intent of serving as Volunteer Services Coordinator. The Nominating Committee recommends that Bob Senning be elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term.

ii. Election

Upon motion made and seconded, Jim Easter, Josie Trobec, and Bob Senning were unanimously approved as Board members.

15. Hall of Fame Inductions

Sue Palfrey

The following four (4) individuals presented by the Hall of Fame Committee to be inducted into the GVRHC Hall of Fame were unanimously approved by the Board at their February Board Meeting: Wayne Moshier, David Colpitts, Jim Riley, and Stephen Herron.

Nancy White presented David Colpitts as a new inductee, citing his many outstanding contributions to the Club. His picture and list of contributions to the Club will be added to the Club's Hall of Fame website.

Sue Palfrey presented Stephen Herron as a new inductee, citing his many outstanding contributions to the Club. His picture and list of contributions to the Club will be added to the Club's Hall of Fame website.

Kim Boswell presented Wayne Moshier as a new inductee, citing his many outstanding contributions to the Club. His picture and list of contributions to the Club will be added to the Club's Hall of website.

Peter White presented Jim Riley as a new inductee, citing his many outstanding contributions to the Club. His picture and list of contributions to the Club will be added to the Club's Hall of website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Jepkema
Secretary