

Green Valley Recreation Hiking Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Las Campanas Recreation Center, Ironwood Room

1. Call to Order/Quorum

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by President Mark Buchholz at 6:03 p.m. Board Members present: Mark Buchholz, Sue Palfrey Barbara Jepkema, Scott Tewksbury, Marysia Czachor, Rich Calderazzo, Nancy White, and Steve Toeniskoetter. Absent: Rhonda Wills, Mary Pulkrabek. and Kay Pasley. Committee Chairs present: Anita Woodward and Frank Surpless.

2. Secretary's Report: Barbara Jepkema

The Minutes of the October 8, 2024 Board of Directors meeting, which had been previously provided electronically to all Board Members, were unanimously approved upon motion made and seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report: Scott Tewksbury

Attached is the financial report as of November 30, 2024, which was previously provided electronically to all Board Members. Scott also provided a preliminary Budget for 2025 electronically to all Board Members for discussion and modification as necessary. Discussion was held and, upon Motion made and seconded, the proposed Budget was unanimously approved, with a couple of minor changes as discussed. The approved revised 2025 Budget is attached to these Minutes.

4. President's Report: Mark Buchholz

The Presidents hike was held on November 29th, Chino Basin-C, with a good turnout of 37 hikers.

Mark has been working with Nancy on a T-shirt sales program for this winter; also reviewing Club activity in the January GVR Club Workshop and GVR Showcase, as well as the Nominating committee and the Hall of Fame committee with Sue. He has been discussing ideas and plans with Anita for the Historian documents and duties going forward.

5. Vice President's Report: Sue Palfrey

All facilities are reserved with GVR through April at this point. If changes are necessary, please let Sue know because they are generally easy to make.

Jeff Gross, a member since 2022 and a retired CPA, has agreed to do our financial review for 2024. Thank you to Janet Reynolds for speaking to Jeff last spring when she knew that she would not be able to continue this responsibility.

The Committee to select a Hall of Fame candidate (or candidates) has been formed. The members are Duane Dotson, Kim Boswell, Nancy White, and Sue. They will meet in January and have a proposed candidate(s) for the February 4, 2025 Board meeting.

Sue will attend an annual GVR club meeting go over preparing the annual paperwork to submit to GVR and oversee submitting that paperwork.

6. Membership Report: Marysia Czachor

As of December 9, 2024, we have 166 members who have renewed and paid their membership dues for 2025. Thirteen (13) of those are new members to the Club. Membership renewals are coming in at a steady rate. Marysia will send out a reminder before the end of the year. The final count for 2024 membership was 354, with 58 of those being new members in 2024, which is one more member than 2023's final member count of 353.

7. Awards Report: Mary Pulkrabek

There have been 18 awards given during the period from October 8 to December 10, 2024:

50 miles	6
250	4
500	2
1,000	2 (Barb Sincere, Peter Burgaard)
1,500	3 (Nancy White, Barbara Rydell, Barbara Fleshman)
3,500	1 (Jim Chisholm)

8. Social Activities: Rhonda Wills

Since the last Board meeting in October, our Fall Club Potluck was held on November 10, 2024 at the GVR West Center. A total of 94 signed in at the door, however, Rhonda believes there were a few others additional attendees who did not register. The event speaker was Les Bakke, head of the GVR Forum Club, and he gave a presentation recapping significant events of the 1960's. The Potluck theme was a salute to our military veterans and we acknowledged members and guests in the audience that were veterans of the Marine Corp., Army, Army National Guard, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard. After the event, Rhonda delivered 85 pounds of food and \$178 in cash to the food bank on behalf of the Club.

The Leaders Breakfast is being held on January 28, 2025 at LaPosada. An invitation will be sent out to all leaders, emeritus leaders, assistants, and Board members in late December. La Posada has indicated that there will be a price increase this year from \$15 to \$22 per person. Our event speaker will be Zachary MacDonald, Recreation Manager with the US Forest Service.

The Winter Potluck is scheduled for Sunday, February 2, 2025, at the GVR West Center. Our program will be starting mid-afternoon to better accommodate our speaker from the Desert Museum. Invitations will be e-mailed on January 2nd.

9. Volunteer Services: Nancy White

Adopt a Roadway: Fifteen (15) volunteers did roadside clean up on November 13th. Fifteen (15) bags of litter were collected in 2 hours. Prior to the clean-up day, a call was placed into Pima County regarding a large concrete disc that would need a front-end loader to remove it.

The Club's Right-of-Way permit for Adopt-A-Roadway expires 1/10/2025. In order to renew the 2-year permit, a refresher safety training needs to be attended by the Volunteer Services Coordinator at the Public Works. The Pima County programs coordinator, Katrina Noble, will inform Nancy in January 2025 once training dates are known.

Name Badges: Four (4) name badge orders were received during the late summer and early Fall, the work order was placed, the name badges received, and the invoice has been paid. A new name badge order has come in and it will be included in the next submission to our vendor.

Summit Hut Discount Days: Summit Hut is offering a 20% discount to Club members starting on Monday, January 13, 2025, thru end of day Sunday, January 19, 2025. The discount is good at both locations (E. Broadway and N. Oracle Rd), in-stock merchandise only, no special orders, and requires showing the GVR card. Members will be advised once in both November and December, and twice in January.

10. Orientation: Rich Calderazzo

The class limit is currently 12, however, will be extended as necessary to accommodate additional attendees. To date, this has not been necessary.

Since the last report of 10/8/2024, 29 people have attended Orientation, which brings our total number of attendees this calendar year to 125 people. Of these, 45 people have become new members. This equates to 36% of attendees becoming members.

There are 2 Orientation sessions and 3 hiking Thursdays remaining for 2024. With the holiday coming, Rich does not anticipate our numbers changing dramatically during this period.

11. Hikemaster: Kay Pasley

Hiking Numbers: The number of hikers per week during the months of October through November continue to be similar to those reported last year for October and November: October 2024 = 298 (5 weeks) vs. 2023 = 232 (4 weeks)
November 2024 = 313 (3 weeks + President's Hike) vs. 2023 = 363 (4 weeks)

Leader/Assistant Leader Retirements and New Leaders/Assistant Leaders: There has been one leader retirement since October (Jim Riley) and no retirements among the Assistant Leaders. However, two deaths are noted: Winnie Krupper (Leader Emertius and first female Hikemaster) and Geri Paxton (Assistant Leader).

There are currently 34 leaders, of which 28 are able to lead hikes (plus one starting in February); 6 are injured, absent, or traveling and not available. Dave Graber will complete his training in February, bringing the total to 29. We have 27 Assistant Leaders (one which is training as a leader), but have added another new Assistant Leader this month, Jodi Tewksbury, plus there are two additional completing or starting their training (Denise Graber and Nancy Wood).

Hike Selection Committee: The Committee met in November to make recommendations for selection of hikes for February/March/April, completing their term under Kay's leadership. Because they worked hard to bring back many hikes, there have been many changes to Bulletins as scouting results in requests for substitutions. They have also worked to incorporate new hikes into the offerings, including 9 new hikes to be offered December through April.

Hikemaster Manual, Leader/Assistant Leader Training Materials, and Training Materials for the New System: Kay continues to work with Steve on updating procedures in the manuals to reflect the use of the new database system. They have edited the existing training materials for Leaders and Assistant Leaders, and Steve updated the materials for second training of leaders on the new system.

New Hikes and Revisions: Eleven (11) hike revisions have been completed, and 4 new hikes were added to the current hike list. Nine (9) of our new hikes this year will be offered during December – April.

Database Project: Steve offered another leader training on October 29, and 11 leaders attended. Another training will be offered to the 3 remaining leaders on January 4, 2025.

12. Assistant Hikemaster: Steve Toeniskoetter

In addition to what Kay included regarding Steve's participation in activities in her report, Steve reported that the Hikemaster portion of the new software was completed in April and continues to be used by the Hikemaster; the Orientation portion has been completed and now being used/tested by Rich; and the Membership portion is still being worked on.

13. Committee Reports

A. Historian Anita Woodward

Anita has called the U of A Library several times with respect to our donation of the Club's library, without a response. Her conclusion is that they have no interest. After discussion by the Board, it was agreed all of the books and periodicals we have in our Library should be offered first to the membership and then to the Pima County Library annex in Green Valley. Anita was asked to put together an email to the entire Club membership, asking them to look online at the index of the books and periodicals we have in our current Library and to contact her if they would like anything by a date approximately two weeks after the email is set, and then after that date the Club Library will be donated to the Green Valley Library Friends Bookstore.

In addition, Anita, along with Mark and another member newer to the Club, will go through the past photos to pull out those they feel should be included in our photo gallery on the Club's website.

B. Trail Tales Frank Surplless

The spring/summer issue of Trail Tales is being planned.

C. Webmaster: Steve DeLisle

Steve reports there has not been much activity other than normal maintenance tasks, such as Orientation sessions, posting new hikes, and archiving hikes. Steve also investigated several "complaints" regarding posting photos to the Club's photo gallery. Previously, Tumblr rules required one to have an account and be logged on if uploading via a phone app. Now it appears an account and login is required if uploading from a desktop browser as well, so Steve put together detailed instructions on the process of creating a Tumblr account, logging on once an account is established and, finally, how to upload to the photo gallery. In addition an update was made regarding updates to the monthly hike bulletins.

D. Records: George Chute

Nothing to report.

E. Trail Maintenance David Kean

Nothing to report.

14. Old Business:

- a. T-Shirts: Nancy contacted the same vendor that the Club used in 2018 and 2022, Starbuck Custom Tees, out of Tucson. The cost per shirt from the vendor has increased. There is an order minimum of 72 pieces; if we do not meet that, each shirt would be an additional \$1.90. There is also a \$15.00 set up fee to absorb.

This year, for first time, we will offer long sleeve t-shirts in a women's fit and a men's fit. T-shirt sales will run from January 7 until January 24, 2025 (18 days). As in the past, people will need to go to the store tab of the website to order their shirts and pay with a credit card. The turnaround time once our large order is placed is 1-12 business days. Distribution to members should begin sometime in mid to late February.

T-shirt sales will be promoted via e-blasts, the December and January hiking bulletins and verbal announcements via leaders at the end of a hike. Also, Nancy will be in the parking lot every Thursday to answer questions. Three (3) sizes of the women's and 3 sizes of the men's long sleeve shirts will be available to try on.

Nancy also contacted a local person in Green Valley who was willing to take on the Club's T-shirt sales. This option would put the whole transaction between her business and our members. Club members could get the shirts more often and more quickly (1 week turnaround) and in person (between November and April). A member could go directly to this vendor to try on the various shirts and look at color options in a catalog. The set-up fee for each logo would be \$50 for the Club.

After discussion with respect to the two options for the sale of t-shirts: (1) use our previous vendor, or (2) use a local vendor that the GVR Pickleball Club uses,

Upon motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed that for this coming year the Club will contract with Starbuck Custom Tees for the sale of T-shirts to members for 2 weeks in January, 2025. Short sleeve T-shirts will be sold for \$17.50 each and long sleeve shirts will be sold for \$20.50 each.

The Club will further investigate alternatives for the sale of t-shirts thereafter.

- b. Historian – see Committee Reports above
- c. Membership: New Members joining in the fall and Annual Dues: After further discussion with respect to the current policy of when new members join in the fall and are allowed membership into the next year,

Upon motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed that the Club's Policy Manual be revised as follows:

Under "Membership Definitions", to state that a new member may join the Club in September and October, in addition to November or December, and receive membership privileges through the following calendar year;

Under "Annual Dues", to state that when new members join the Club in September and October, in addition to November or December, they may hike in those months by paying the full amount of the next year's dues.

The Secretary will make those two (2) changes to the current Policy Manual for final approval at the next Board meeting on February 4, 2025. The revised Policy Manual can then be posted on the Club's website thereafter.

15. New Business:

- a. Nominating Committee: Barb Fleshman has agreed to head the Nominating Committee for 2025, and will recruit two other members to assist her. The Board positions open beginning March 2025 are: Awards, Social Activities, and Volunteer Services. Barb will have a list of nominees for these positions for our next meeting on February 4, 2025.
- b. It was brought to the Board's attention that the Trail Maintenance information on the website is old and needs to be updated. Mark stated that he will speak to Dave Kean about getting that information current.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Our next Board Meeting will be February 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Las Campanas Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jepkema, Secretary