SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING
February 13, 2025
Sedona Public Library
3250 White Bear Lane, Sedona, AZ

CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 pm

WELCOME

Trail Boss - Terri Petrescu

Terri welcomed both new and returning members to the February 2025 monthly Roundup meeting.

Foreman's Report – Mark Bealafeld

- Net Revenue for January: $1066
- Net Expenses for January: $221
- Cash accounts as of December: $9426
- Total YTD
    - Income $11,341
    - Expenses $947
    - 362 paid members

Voting Matters

- Approval of the Minutes of the January 9, 2004, Monthly Roundup Meeting
    - Terri called for a motion to approve the minutes.
    - Moved by Jane Dasher
    - Seconded by Sophia Sweeney
    - The motion carried

- Approval of the Foreman's Financial Reports of December 2024 (postponed from January) and January 2025
    - Terri called for a motion to approve the December and January financial reports.
    - Moved by Jane Dasher
    - Seconded by Deb Hicks
    - The motion carried

Nominating Committee

- Elected Positions for 2025-26 – Ray LaPorte
    - Four members are on the nominating committee.
    - So far there are nominees for each elected position.
    - Nominees will be presented at the March monthly meeting.
    - Elections will be held during the April monthly meeting for the following:
        - Trail Boss (President)
        - Wagon Boss (VP & Program Director)

        - Wrangler (Secretary)
        - Foreman (Treasurer)
        - Top Hand #1
        - Top Hand #2
        - Top Hand #3
        - Ambler Boss
        - Cactus Dodger/Rough Riders
        - Dogies Boss
        - Drifter Boss
        - Drover Boss
        - Mustang Boss
        - Rustler Boss
        - Tracker Boss
        - Prospector (Membership Chair)
        - Chuckwagon Boss (Food/Refreshment Coordinator)

- Appointed Positions – Kelly Malek
    - There are still seven positions that need to be filled.
        - Ranger (Forest Service Liaison)
        - Roundup Boss (Public Relations) – Need a volunteer
        - Historian – Need a volunteer
        - Sunbeam (Counselor & Card Sender)
        - Cliff Walker (Cultural Resources Education Coordinator) – Need a volunteer
        - Point Rider (Webmaster)
        - Assistant Ambler Boss
        - Assistant Cactus Dodger
        - Assistant Dogie Boss – Need a volunteer
        - Assistant Drifter Boss
        - Assistant Drover Boss
        - Assistant Mustang Boss – Need a volunteer
        - Assistant Rustler Boss
        - Assistant Tracker Boss
        - Assistant Chuckwagon Boss – Need a volunteer
        - Prospector – Need a volunteer

Red Rock Trail Fund – Camille Cox

- We have a generous offer from two Westerners to match up to $10,000 in donations.
- To make your donation, you can use the online page for the Sedona Westerners donations at: https://secure.qgiv.com/for/westerners2025febfunddrive
- Donations can also be mailed in to SRRTF, PO Box 20303, Sedona AZ 86341.
- RRTF Mission:
    - Raise funds for the maintenance and enhancement of the non-motorized USFS trails in the Sedona & VOC area.

    - Educate & inform the public about their use and management.
- RRTF is the non-profit partner of the USFS. Eleven directors and one paid staff. Volunteer board is a mix of hikers, bikers and equestrians.
- RRTF's territory is 860 square miles. 412 of these miles are non-motorized trails. 75% of these miles are in Sedona and the VOC.
- Annual cost of housekeeping ~ $750K-$1M. Federal funding is 8% of that (Great American Outdoors Act).
- New projects
    - Hardline Trail: One-mile link from Hiline Trail to the junction of Templeton & Easy Breezy Trails. COMPLETE!
    - Bell Rock Pathway Bridge: 50-foot lumber bridge. COMPLETE!
    - Doe Mountain Trail: new two-mile "figure 8" will provide a loop to access panoramic views. Begins this spring. Funding still to be raised: $160,000.
    - Turkey Creek Trail System: Will take over two years. Twenty-one miles will be new trail, will reroute 1.72 miles of trails, adopt 10.38 miles of social trails, close ~11 miles of social trails. This will all be constructed by hand and will start fall 2025. Eroded areas will be rehabilitated with native vegetation. There will be a new parking lot for ~35 vehicles, as well as an equestrian-only parking lot. Funding still to be raised: $600,000.
- Westerners' legacy of support
    - 2023 - $14,770
    - 2024 - $35,110
    - 2025 – 19 donations so far, plus $10K match from two members
    - Campaign closes 2/28/2025

**Officer Reports**

Prospector (Membership) – Sandi Heysinger

- 2024-25:
    - Total members: 403
    - New members: 105
    - Honorary members: 34
- Membership totals this time last season.
    - Total Members = 367
    - New Members = 97
    - Honorary Members = 26
- Membership totals this time two seasons ago.
    - Total Members = 423
    - New Members = 139
    - Honorary Members = 30

Historian – Terri Petrescu for Lora Ellis

- Thanks to everyone who has submitted pictures.

- Lora encourages pictures of the hikers, preferably from the front and with their faces.

Roundup Boss Report – Sara Stiffler

- Thank you to those that have written articles for the Red Rock News and those that have promised articles.
- We have had articles published from each group so far this year.
- We need a few more articles for this season.

Chuckwagon Report – Lynn Moffat

- Lynn gave thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers for snacks at tonight's meeting and, especially her assistant, Adrienne Pichette. Please sign up to bring snacks to the next meeting.

**Hike Boss Reports:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Drifters:** | **Donna Forsythe** |
| **Amblers:** | **Jon Petrescu** |
| **Rustlers:** | **Sara Stiffler for Lisa Critchlow** |
| **Drovers:** | **Amanda Maxwell** |
| **Dogies:** | **Jim Thomas** |
| **Mustangs:** | **Bob Apter** |
| **Cactus Dodger/Rough Riders:** | **Randy Dent** |
| **Trackers:** | **John Regalski** |

The Hike Bosses thanked the assistant hike bosses and those who led, co-led and tailgated on the January/February hikes; and shared news of upcoming hikes. All are encouraged to participate in scouting for upcoming hikes, which are posted on the Sedona Westerners website.

Upcoming Trackers Events – John Regalski

- Archeology Ledge House - 3/26
- On-Trail Emergencies – 4/2
- Botanical Beauties – 4/9
- Naturalist Hike – 4/30
- Birding with the Northern Arizona Audubon Society – 5/7

**Old Business**

- On February 15, the hike on the Butcher Jones Trail near Apache Junction will take place with the Arizona Trailblazers. The hike will be 6-7 miles long. Meet at the trailhead at 9:00.

- USFS desires an update to the Letter of Agreement with the Westerners.
    - We will need to amend the 2014 letter of agreement.

- A board meeting is called for next week as the next step in addressing the USFS request to amend the letter.
- We will keep the membership notified of the progress being made and hope we can come up with an agreement.

**New Business**

Special Events:

- Silent auction for outdoor items donated by John and Debbie Losse and Bea Hanks. Checks or cash will be accepted for the auction. Proceeds will go to the Red Rock Trail Fund.

**Break for Refreshments**

**Presentation:**

**Duncan Orr introduced Andrew Orr (son of Westerner, Duncan Orr), who gave a talk on California Condor Reintroduction Project**

Formerly based in Flagstaff, Andrew Orr had the opportunity to volunteer with the Peregrine Fund's California Condor Reintroduction Project in Northern Arizona. For five years, he spent much of his free time photographing and learning about the largest land bird in North America. Andrew provided a brief overview of the Arizona/Utah California Condor Project and shared stories and photographs of what it's like documenting this critically endangered species.

California condors are a New World vulture, closely related to the Andean condors of South America. The have a nine-foot wingspan and are 20-25 pounds. At the end of the Ice Age, their population starting reducing. By the 1970s, only a few dozen remained. In 1980, only 35 remained. April 1987, the last wild condor was brought in from the wild. Only 22 existed in captivity then. In 1988, the first condor chick hatched from captivity. In 1993, the Peregrine Fund got involved. By 1994, over 100 eggs had been laid in the breeding facilities indicating the success of the captive breeding efforts. Pairs only have one chick every two years, but if that egg doesn't produce (breaks or disappears), they can lay a second egg that same season – double clutching. In the early 90s, biologists took advantage of this by removing the first condor egg so a second would be laid. The removed chicks were fed with a condor puppet. They had no direct interaction with humans

The first California condors were released in Vermilion Cliffs in 1996. All released birds are tagged by white numbers. Some have tracking devices. We are now up 1200-1300 condors that have been bred. They only eat carrion.

The main reason for their mortality is due to humans hunting with lead shot. After the hunted animal is gutted in the field, the gut pile left behind has lead shot fragments which are eaten by condors, resulting in lead poisoning. Copper bullets have been made available, but lead ammunition is still available and not outlawed. Condors with lead poisoning are brought in for treatment if possible.

Currently there are about 90 in the wild in the AZ-UT release area. A couple of years ago, an avian disease killed off quite a few. Lead poisoning is still a huge issue.

Andrew also discussed the unique photographic printing process he uses to showcase his condor photography—a mid-19th-century method of platinum/palladium printing.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Taylor, Wrangler