

SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING

April 11, 2024

AT THE SEDONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
3250 WHITE BEAR LANE, SEDONA,
AZ

CALL TO ORDER-WELCOME

Trail Boss Ray LaPorte called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Ray continued his cartographic history lesson of last month by showing an Old Timer Westerner's Map from 1965. Formation names for Thunder Mountain, Cathedral, and Court House Butte reflected earlier names: Grey Mountain, Court House, and Church. These were the pre-WWII names, changed around the time of WWII to reflect new times. The Westerners at that time also engaged in fundraising to contribute to the Sedona Public Library, the Fire Department, and the trail markers that we are now auctioning off.

Ray gave a shout out to all those Friends of the Forest and Westerner members who volunteered to help out in the Cathedral Rock closure.

Ray welcomed new members to the monthly meeting and invited them to introduce themselves. New members come from Tucson, Colorado, Flagstaff, California, and California.

Foreman's Report

Dave Vanderwater reported for Mark Bealafeld that we currently have \$8,300 in the bank.

Old Business

Voting Matters

Approval of the Minutes of March 14 Monthly Meeting

Ray called for a motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2024. Adrienne Pichette so moved and Kevin Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of the Foreman's Report of February, 2024

Ray called for a motion to approve the financial report for the month of February, 2024. Bea Hicks so moved, John Losse seconded. The motion carried.

Officer Reports

Prospector Report (Sandi Heysinger)

Sandi reported that we have 397 members, of which 123 are new members. At the same time last year we had 448 members.

Sandi also reported on the joint hike with the AZ Trailblazers on Sunday, April 1. There were 22 hikers of which 10 were Trailblazers.

Putting on her hat as a member of the Board of the Red Rock Trail Fund, Sandi announced that Westerners will be receiving an email announcing the step- by-step process for bidding on the Westerner Sign Sale/Auction. This is being carried out by the Red Rock Trail Fund as the proceeds will go to support the Trail Fund. The Sedona Westerners formally signed over ownership of the signs to the Red Rock Trail Fund so that they could handle the auction.

Bidding in the first round will be only open to Sedona Westerners. The minimum opening bid will be \$100, with counterbids in increments of \$10. Bidding will take place from April 14-April 20. All profits from the sale of the signs will go to the Red Rock Trail Fund to be used for trail repair and construction.

Historian Report (Margaret Davis, Historian)

Margaret reports that she needs more Scout photos. If anyone has been on the test hikes for the potential new group and has taken photos, Margaret would love to include one in the Scrapbook.

Roundup Boss Report (Sara Stiffler, Roundup Boss)

Four articles have appeared in the *Red Rock News* since the last meeting. Three more are coming up.

Chuckwagon Report (Adrienne Pichette, Chuckwagon Boss)

Adrienne thanked those who brought snacks for the meeting. She needs eleven more volunteers for the picnic.

Ranger/Forest Service Liaison (Hassan Hosseini)

Standing in for Hassan, Ray thanked all who had volunteered and supported the Cathedral closure. It was a huge effort by 28 volunteers, many doing multiple shifts.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominating Committee (Elected Officer Nominations for 2024-25 Season)

Donna Forsythe, Immediate Past Trail Boss and Chairman of the Nominating Committee

Donna presented the list of candidates for the 2024-25 Hike Season. She asked if there were any additional nominees. There were none.

Trail Boss: Terri Petrescu

Wagon Boss: Kelley Malek

Wrangler: Jan Taylor

Foreman: Mark Bealafeld

Top Hands: Jim Kemper

Mary McCaffrey

Dave Vanderwater

Ambler Boss: John Petrescu

Rustler Boss: Lisa Critchlow

Drover Boss: Amanda Maxwell

Dogies Boss: Jim Thomas

Mustang Boss: Bob Apter

Cactus Dodger (Rough Rider Boss): Randy Dent

Prospector: Sandi Heysinger

Chuckwagon Boss: Lynn Moffatt

Linda Schermer made a motion to approve the candidates for officers for the 2024-25 Hike Season. Bea Hicks seconded. The candidates were approved.

Test Hikes for the Pre-Amblers

Donna reported that there had been a very successful test hike to Woods Canyon. Ten hikers participated and enjoyed the experience. If you know someone who would enjoy a shorter hike than those completed by the Amblers, please alert them to future test hikes, announced on the website. If the experiment is a success, there will be a vote on whether or not to regularize such a group.

Appointed Officer Nominees 2024-25

Donna said that they had a list of nominees for the appointed officers. It falls to the new Trail Boss to appoint these nominees. There are still some openings. Should members be interested, they should let Terri Petrescu know.

Ranger/Forest Service Liaison: Hassan Hosseini

Round Up Boss: Sara Stiffler

Old Timer/Historian: open

Sunbeam (Counselor and Card Sender): Lisa Celeste

Cliff Walker (Cultural Resources Education Coordinator): open

Point Rider (Webmaster): Jim Sweeny

Assistant Ambler Boss: Deb Barnes

Assistant Rustler Boss: Annette Such

Assistant Drover Boss: open

Assistant Cactus Dodger: Walt Bullock

Assistant Tracker Boss: Dick Williams assistant Point Rider: open

Assistant Chuckwagon Boss: Adrienne Pichette

Hike Boss Reports

The hike bosses all thanked their hike leaders, co-leaders, and tailgaters for their service.

Amblers (Jan Taylor) Jan thanked her assistant hike boss, Jon Petrescu for his work this year. The Amblers have accomplished four hikes since last meeting and have three left: Mescal Circumnavigation, Chuckwagon, and the Grand Canyon.

Rustlers (Mark Hurtt)

Mark thanked Deb Hicks for her valuable work during the hike season. The Rustler hikes were well-attended—most hikes in the double digits. Remaining hikes include: Ridge Trail Lollipop, Munds Canyon Trail, and Kachina Trail.

Drovers (Kelley Malek)

Reporting for Kelley, Ray showed the photo of the Mescal Circumnavigation. There is still more Drover fun on the following hikes: Hangover, Woods Canyon, and Damfino.

Dogies (Lisa Celeste)

Lisa thanked her assistant hike boss Jim Thomas. She showed a fun picture of the Huckaby Windows hike. Upcoming hikes include: Baldwin Loop, Doe Mountain/Cockscomb, and Brins Ridge.

Mustangs (Bob Apter)

Bob commented on a photo of two hikers on Balanced Rock. They appeared to be trying to push it over, but, as we all know, there is far too much of Balanced Rock to move, despite appearances. There is much more Mustang fun to be had this year with the following hikes: Brins Ridge/Soldiers Pass Loop VI, Queen's Backyard, and Grandview Trail in the Grand Canyon.

Rough Riders (Trisha Travis)

Ray reported Trisha's congratulations to Randy on becoming the new Cactus Dodger or Rough Rider Boss. Upcoming hikes include: Agua Fria, HS/Secret Canyon Loop, Robbers Roost Plus, and Huckaby Heights.

Trackers (Linda Warren)

Ray showed a picture of the Foraging Edibles hike. Ken Zoll will be leading the upcoming Native American History Trail/Garden Tour.

---- Break for Refreshments ----

Speaker: Alex Schlueter Acting District Ranger for the Red Rock Ranger District

Title: Red Rock Ranger District Trails Updates

The Red Rock Ranger District proposed the Red Rock Trails Access Plan in November 2023 to much public interest, receiving hundreds of comments. The project has since been split into two projects, one focused on the Turkey Creek Trail System and one focused on all of the other trails proposals. This presentation will cover the latter project (non-Turkey Creek trails), what projects were proposed, what changes are being considered, and what to expect in the coming months.

After a brief story about his early days in the Forest Service when he encountered a very large female moose, Alex passed the microphone to Kevin Kuhl, who oversees trail realignment in the area. Kevin presented a short history of trail mapping before focusing on several main areas of the zones identified for major construction and repair: Turkey Creek (for future development); Doe Mountain Loop Trails on top; Schuerman Mountain Trail Connector; and the Hardline Trail. The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer period.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Losse, Wrangler