

SEDONA WESTERNEERS MONTHLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

AT SEDONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
3250 WHITE BEAR LANE
SEDONA, AZ

CALL TO ORDER-WELCOME

Trail Boss Ray LaPorte called the meeting to order at 6:32PM

Trail Boss Ray LaPorte welcomed new members to the monthly meeting and invited them to stand to introduce themselves. New members come from California, Arizona, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund Drive

Camille Cox, SRRTF Manager, praised the efforts of the Sedona Westerners for their fulsome support of the SRRTF. The Board of Directors of the SRRTF is made up of eleven volunteers, six of whom are members of the Sedona Westerners: Sophia Sweeny, Mark Bealafeld, Kelley Malek, Sandi Heysinger, Dick Williams, and Amanda Maxwell. After a brief video about the SRRTF projects, she explained that the Trail Fund had a singular focus on the maintenance and repair of Sedona's trails. They are open to hikers, unmotorized bikes, and horses, according to the topography of the particular trail. In 2024 they will complete the fifth phase of the Cathedral Rock trail maintenance. Next year they will proceed to the development of the Turkey Creek Trail area. Camille added some fun to her presentation by sharing some facts about the Fund with the Westerners, and the members in the audience who guessed the exact numbers won SRRTF hats. The SRRTF has completed 412 miles of trails in its ten years as a 5013C. She mentioned that this year was a very significant year for fundraising for the SRRTF as a Sedona Westerner anonymous donor has offered a \$10,000 challenge match. She encouraged the club as it launches its February Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund Drive. The Drive continues throughout the month of February.

OLD BUSINESS

--APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2023

Ray called for a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2023 membership meeting. Mark Bealafeld made the motion, Kevin Cook seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

The Trail Boss also called for a motion to approve the Financial Report of January 31, 2024. Hassan Hosseini made a motion, seconded by Donna Forsythe. The motion carried.

--OFFICER REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT (MARK BEALAFELD, FOREMAN)

Mark reported \$8,800 in the Wells Fargo account at the end of January, with a net income for that month of \$56. We have 58 members fewer members at this time as compared to last year in January, so there will be a shortfall. The good news is that only the Spring Cookout expenses remain.

CHUCKWAGON REPORT (ADRIENNE PICHETTE, CHUCKWAGON BOSS)

Adrienne thanked her assistant Chuckwagon Boss, Lynn Moffatt for her help, particularly in setting up the Sedona Public Library for the meeting on short notice. The Chuckwagon Boss also thanked those who brought cookies to the meeting.

ROUNDUP BOSS REPORT (SARA STIFFLER, ROUNDUP BOSS)

Sara is still soliciting articles for the current hike year. She currently has enough for the Friday issue of the Red Rock News through March 22.

PROSPECTOR REPORT (SANDI HEYSINGER)

Ray reported for Sandi that there are currently 369 members in the Sedona Westerners as compared to 426 last year. There are 99 new members and 27 honorary members.

RANGER/FOREST SERVICE REPORT (HASSAN HOSSEINI, RANGER/FOREST SERVICE LIAISON)

Hassan reported on six activities:

- 1) Volunteer Trail Maintenance Day sponsored by the Westerners. Thirty volunteers participated in the trail maintenance of which five were Westerners. Four volunteers helped serve lunch. Mark Bealafeld arranged for Famous Pizza to give a 50% discount for the lunch items provided.
- 2) Cathedral Rock Closure in March and April. Hassan is seeking volunteers to assist in Informing potential users of the closure and of the dangers that hiking on the trail would entail. The volunteer staff will position itself near the Trail Head to keep hikers off the

trail. He currently has only one third of the needed volunteers. He thanked those who have already volunteered.

3) Metal signs placed at trailheads by the Sedona Westerners over the years. The Forest Service has begun taking out the metal signs placed by the SW. They have removed 26, another ten will be removed this week. He requested some help in moving these very heavy metal signs with concrete bases in the next weeks.

4) Donation of one sign to the Sedona Heritage Museum. The Board of the Sedona Westerners decided to donate one sign to the Museum to provide an historical record of one of the contributions of the SW to the Sedona trails.

5) Auction of the signs. The signs will be given over to the SRRTF to auction off. The proceeds will be designated by the SRRTF for trail maintenance and repair.

6) The next project will be a collaborative between the Friends of the Forest and the Sedona Westerners to be sure that the maps at the trail heads are accurate and legible. In particular, current indication of the location [you are here] should be clearly visible.

HIKE BOSS REPORTS

The hike bosses thanked their assistant hike bosses, hike leaders and tailgaters for their good work.

AMBLERS (JAN TAYLOR)

Jan Taylor reminded members of the upcoming hikes to Marg's Draw/Crimson Cliffs; Cibola Jordan Loop, and the Mescal Circumnavigation. The Amblers had two hikes cancelled due to inclement weather.

RUSTLERS (MARK HURTT)

Future Rustler hikes include Munds Wagon, Mescal and Up, Cemetery/ Ridge Hog trails, and Baldwin Trail Plus.

DROVERS (KELLEY MALEK)

Kelley mentioned the upcoming hikes: Submarine Rock; Quarter Twisted Sister; Fay Canyon Overlook.

DOGIES (LISA CELESTE)

Dogies will be hiking Courthouse Butte/Rabbit Ears; Elmersville/Lime Kiln Spur; and Dry Creek/Earl's Cabin Loop in the next weeks. Two hikes were cancelled due to rain and snow.

MUSTANGS (BOB APTER)

Bob announced the upcoming hikes: Court House Ledges and Edges; Bear Paw; Up Periscope and more.

ROUGH RIDERS (TRISH TRAVIS, CACTUS DODGER)

Future hikes for the Rough Riders include Woods Canyon/Hot Loop; Lincoln Canyon/Loy Canyon Loop; and Sycamore Canyon Lollipop.

TRACKER BOSS (LINDA WARREN)

Filling in for Linda, Ray showed a photo of the trip to the Waste Water Processing Plant. Linda is taking names for the Polygons and Pyramids led by Ernie and Lynn Pratt.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (ELECTED OFFICER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2024-25 SEASON, DONNA FORSYTHE, IMMEDIATE PAST TRAIL BOSS, CHAIR OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE)

Donna and her committee of Mark Hurtt and Bob Apter are assembling a slate of officers for the 2024-25 hiking season to be presented at the March meeting and voted on at the April meeting. She is currently seeking hikers interested in the Tracker, Rustler, and Wrangler position.

PRE-AMBLER HIKING GROUP

Donna Forsythe, Immediate Past Trail Boss, announced that the Executive Committee has approved a trial test of a potential hike group for people who sought hikes shorter than the four-mile Ambler hikes. Please contact her to sign up for several trial hikes to be held on Wednesdays in the coming months. If there is interest, a group will be formed once there has been a change in the bylaws to add the group.

BREAK AND REFRESHMENTS

GUEST SPEAKER DONDI WEST, ASSISTANT CAPTAIN, VERDE VALLEY SEARCH AND RESCUE, Hiker Safety and VSAR Statistics

Dondi West, the Assistant Captain of the VSAR, spoke about the work of the VSAR and the importance of its work in Yavapai County. Dondi said that her volunteer job is the most rewarding work that she has done. She noted that the job of the VSAR is to look for lost people. The Fire Department attends to the injured once they are located by the VSAR volunteers. They have 138 active volunteers who live in Sedona, Rim Rock, the Village of Oak Creek, and Cottonwood. Prescott also has five teams. Since 2020, they have had about 80 searches a year. The most common problems encountered by those lost are transitional weather, hypothermia, heat exhaustion. Most incidents occur at night when the hiker is caught out after sunset and does not have sufficient clothing, food, or equipment to be comfortable. Lost hikers should call 911 immediately, not other people, to be sure that their cell phone battery does not go dead. Carrying a flashlight, a whistle, a mylar blanket, sufficient water, a rain jacket, a map, a GPS,

chocolate may save your life. She recommends carrying a garbage bag in case of rain, a lighter and alcohol wipes (if a fire is needed to survive in the snow), duck tape, and a knife.

Beside the searchers who go to a destination in 4X4s and then proceed on foot, there are mountain bike teams and equestrian teams, as well as drone teams, useful at night.

Sedona Westerners may consider carrying, especially in summer, an extra bottle of water in the event that they find some hikers that have insufficient water. The SW provide an extra pair of eyes in the forest.

Dondi provided a number of examples that were of interest to the SW audience. Questions followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Losse, Wrangler