

# SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2022 – VIA ZOOM

## Call to Order – Welcome

Trail Boss, Dave Minott, welcomed both new and returning members to our monthly meeting, starting the meeting at 7:02 pm.

## Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund (SRRTF)

Our annual donation campaign starts this week. You will receive an email invitation to donate using a special Westerners' only link. Our donations this year will help fund the much-needed reconstruction of the upper Cathedral Rock Trail. Please donate generously. Additionally, the Westerners, as an organization, will make a \$1,000 donation from our bank account, as in past years.

Note that in past years, the Westerners have made their \$1,000 organizational donation directly to SRRTF. On December 9, 2021, the Board voted to make this \$1,000 donation to the SRRTF through the Sedona Trail Keepers organization instead, in a five-year donation commitment. A membership vote is now required.

The reason for the change: By making our donation to the SRRTF through the Sedona Trail Keepers instead of directly, earns an additional \$1,000 match by the Trail Keepers, funded by Sedona's bed tax. The Sedona Trail Keepers are a partnership between the SRRTF and the Chamber of Commerce. Most Trail Keepers donors are businesses, but there are also many outdoors-oriented non-profits (KSB, SOAR, trail-biker organizations)

### **Motion:**

*"I move that the Sedona Westerners, as of January 1, 2022, make their annual organizational donation to the Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund (SRRTF) in an amount of \$1,000 per year for five years and make that donation through the Sedona Trail Keepers organization; and, I also move to approve individual Member donations being made directly to the SRRTF with no change from how this was done in 2021."*

This motion was made by Michael McCaffery and seconded by Alan Gore. The vote was unanimous.

**Motion approved.**

## Trailhead Parking Bans and New Shuttle Bus Service

The City of Sedona is implementing a shuttle bus system, beginning in March 2022. This system will serve Cathedral, Soldier Pass, Little Horse, and Dry Creek (Devil's Bridge) trailheads. The shuttle bus system will operate Thursday – Sunday 8 am – 6:30 pm. Furthermore, the Forest Service plans to close the Cathedral and Soldier Pass parking lots during the days and hours that the shuttle bus operates.

Judy Dolloff and Dave Minott spoke with the City's Transit Administrator, Robert Weber, on December 15<sup>th</sup> about whether the Westerners might be given special access to the closed parking lots, given the large size of our hiking groups. At this time, that does not look possible. So, the Westerners will have

to devise our own work-arounds for using the Cathedral and Soldier Pass trailheads. We will continue to monitor the parking-bans and shuttle-service plans as they evolve over the coming months.

### **Another New, Forest-Service Trailhead Project**

Linda Schermer received an announcement that the Forest Service will construct expanded parking and a new, trail-access point for the Mescal Trailhead area. The apparent location is along Dry Creek Road. The goals of this project will be to alleviate traffic and parking congestion along Dry Creek Road (Devil's Bridge) and Long Canyon Road, and to provide a new access point to: Devil's Bridge, Mescal, Chuckwagon, Long Canyon, and the Secret Mountain Wilderness. John Losse reports that construction has begun on this project.

### **Votes (Foreman's Report, Monthly Meeting Minutes)**

Our Treasurer is called the Foreman, who is presently Mark Bealafeld. The **Foreman's Monthly Reports** for the months of November and December 2021, and for January 2022 were posted on our website for review by our members. Motion to approve the Foreman's Reports was made by Dave Vanderwater and seconded by Donna Forsythe. The vote was unanimous. **Motion approved.**

The **Minutes of our last Monthly Meeting held November 11, 2021**, as posted on the website by our Wrangler, Sophia Sweeny, also needs Membership approval. Motion was made by Donna Forsythe and seconded by Dave Vanderwater. The vote was unanimous. **Motion approved.**

### **Hike Boss Reports**

<b>Amblers Boss:</b>	Dave Minott read report by Judy Dolloff
<b>Cactus Dodger (Roughriders Boss):</b>	Ken Ferguson (Absent) – no report
<b>Dogie Boss:</b>	Dave Minott read report by Harry Strong
<b>Drover Boss:</b>	Ray LaPorte (Absent) – no report
<b>Mustang Boss:</b>	Jim Sweeny
<b>Rustlers Boss:</b>	Patti Pierce
<b>Trackers Boss:</b>	Charlie Schudson

Bosses thanked those who led, co-lead and tailgated on the past month's hikes, gave information on the criteria for their level of hikes, and shared news of some upcoming hikes.

Note: Due to COVID precautions, the **Trackers** special hike and field trips have been suspended presently. However, a second series of hiking technique courses are running in January.

### **Officer Reports**

**Prospector** (Membership, Michael McCaffrey): Membership is up to 370, of which 121 are new members and 33 are honorary members. We are delighted to note that not only is the total number at this time above last year's, but it is also greater than that of 2 years ago.

**Foreman** (Treasurer, Mark Bealafeld): Dave Minott related our current financial picture.

**Sunbeam** (Sunbeam, Peg Cook): related that there were no new events this past month.

**Ranger** (Forest Service liaison, Michael Henry): related that there were 2 reports of graffiti for this past month. Michael made his usual reminder that photos and GPS coordinates furnished by Westerners hikers are of vital importance when reporting instances of graffiti, transient camping, and excessive trash. Resources are limited for researching and remediating these situations, and, with the available technology almost everyone has these days, pictures and GPS coordinates save time and effort.

**Cliff Walker** (Cultural Resources etiquette, Gary Morgan): reminded all that when using our tracking apps, to please make sure that it is not making a public recording; some apps make it difficult and you have several buttons to click to allow that designation. Also, please ensure that when taking photos ruin sites to turn off the GPS on the photos.

**Historian** (Sandi Heysinger) reminded us to keep the photos coming. She especially needs photos of Trackers and Amblers hikes and Officers who have not provided a current photo.

**Chuckwagon Boss** (Patty Persons, Chuckwagon Boss): Dave Minott related that there was no news to report for this past month.

**Roundup Boss** (Red Rock News articles, Dick Williams): please keep the articles coming. The number of articles is getting rather low and submissions would be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or want to submit an article, please email the Roundup Boss, whose contact is on our Officers page at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

### **Guest Speaker**

Our Wagon Boss, Donna Forsythe introduced our Guest Speaker, Lloyd Masayumtewa, National Park Service, Superintendent of Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle. His topic was: "Stewarding the Heritage and Natural Resources of National Park Service Sites". Among items discussed:

- His primary duties are to monitor, document and preserve our ancient sites, (he originally started under the Vanishing Treasures Program).
- There are philosophical differences with respect to the preservation of ancient sites between what has been done for many years as preservation and that of the Hopi people. The Hopi people believe that the structures are from the land, should return to the land.
- Mr. Masayumtewa is a member of the Hopi, Water Coyote clan.
- In Tuzigoot, there had been preservation and restoration projects many years ago, where cement was used. Water seeps into the cement and dissolves the walls from the inside, so now when restoring a wall, they use a mixture of cement and soil.

Meeting was adjourned at: 8:29 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Sweeny

Wrangler