

# SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING

## SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 – POSSE GROUNDS PARK

### Welcome Back to In-Person Meeting

Trail Boss, Dave Minott, welcomed members back to our first in-person meeting since February 2020, starting the meeting at 5:53 pm.

### Gretchen Yager Update

Background: Last January, while taking a morning bike ride in San Diego, Gretchen was hit by a drug-impaired driver, sustaining devastating, life-threatening injuries. After a long stay in intensive care, Gretchen has committed herself to physical-therapy rehabilitation, and since Spring, has progressed from being completely bed-ridden to using a walker, to walking with two hiking sticks, and now to walking with only one hiking stick

Tom spoke and gave an update on Gretchen; she is walking up to 2 miles per day on flat, level ground. Both Tom and Gretchen thanked the Sedona Westerners for their outpouring of support.

### Leadership Recognition for this Past Season

The past year and a half will be remembered for two notable challenges, COVID and wildfire forest closures. These challenges have been met with some wonderful leadership from within our ranks. We would like to thank them all.

**Terri Petrescu:** After taking over the Trail Boss position early from Scott McFeely in March 2020, when the COVID disease was ravaging the country, We thank Terri for very capably leading the Westerners in implementing necessary COVID suspensions of Westerners hiking and meetings activities, and later, the resumption of hiking as the spread eased.

**Dr. Curt Kommer:** provided sound medically-based advice to the Board early in the COVID pandemic regarding prudent measures to take in modifying or curtailing our hiking and meetings activities to prevent COVID spread. Curt was the perfect individual to make appropriate and practical safety recommendations, being both a medical doctor and an avid Westerners hiker.

**Sophia Sweeny and Dave Vanderwater:** When COVID began its rampage in late 2020, we had to suddenly switch from holding our Monthly Meetings in-person, to holding them virtually, via Zoom. That major transition went with nary a hitch, and all of our Zoom Monthly Meetings, including guest speakers, have gone very smoothly. This success was the result of the competence and diligence of our Zoom Managers.

**Michael Henry and Velma Keller:** The year 2021 will also be remembered for its drought, raging wildfires, and the complete closure of our National Forests in the region to hiking, biking, camping, and entry for any reason. When the forest closures occurred last June, over 40 Sedona Westerners volunteers were quickly dispatched to help the Forest Service monitor the closures of popular local trailheads. This was a very successful effort, much appreciated by the Forest Service. Credit goes to our Ranger, Michael Henry, who is our local Forest Service liaison. Michael, ably assisted by Velma Keller, rapidly organized and coordinated the successful volunteer response by the Westerners.

### Presentation of Trail Boss Bolo

Pursuant to the annual Sedona Westerners' tradition, the past year's Trail Boss, Terri Petrescu presented the new Trail Boss, Dave Minott with a bronze, Trail Boss bolo.

## **Bob Dannert to Receive Silver Bolo Award**

Dave Minott, Trail Boss, announced that at the Fall Picnic, to be held next month, our own Bob Dannert will be presented with an Honorary Silver Bolo, in person. It has been about 10 years now since the last Silver Bolo was awarded, so this is a very special honor. Very simply said, Bob Dannert is the iconic Sedona Westerner, and he has been for the past 23 years.

## **New Member Introductions**

At least 12 new members introduced themselves. We welcome them to our group and look forward to hiking with all of them.

## **New Honorary Members**

To become an honorary member, you must be a member for a minimum of 10 years and hold four club officer positions. There are no new Honorary Members this year.

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

Dave Minott asked for a motion to approve the **Foreman's Monthly Reports** for the months of April through August 2021. Motion was made by Jim Meade and seconded by Alan Gore. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Dave Minott asked for a motion to approve the **Minutes of our last Monthly Meeting, held May 13, 2021**. Motion was made by Terri Petrescu and seconded by Kevin Cook. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

## **Hike Boss Reports**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Amblers Boss:</b>                     | Judy Dolloff                                |
| <b>Cactus Dodger (Roughriders Boss):</b> | Absent                                      |
| <b>Dogie Boss:</b>                       | Harry Strong                                |
| <b>Drover Boss:</b>                      | Linda Shook                                 |
| <b>Mustang Boss:</b>                     | Jim Sweeny                                  |
| <b>Rustlers Boss:</b>                    | Patti Pierce                                |
| <b>Trackers Boss:</b>                    | Dave Minott read report by Charlie Schudson |

Bosses thanked those who attended and assisted on the first day of hikes, gave information on the criteria for their level of hikes, and shared news of some upcoming hikes.

Note: we still need to recruit an **Assistant Dogies Boss**, so if you might be interested, please contact Trail Boss, Dave Minott, whose contact in on our Officers page at:

<https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

Note: Due to COVID precautions, the Trackers special hike and field trips have been suspended presently. However, during November and December there will be offered hiking technique courses. After that, with COVID precautions permitting, we should resume our field trips.

## **Officer Reports**

### **Prospector (Membership, Michael McCaffrey)**

Dave Minott read the report by Michael McCaffrey. As of September 3, some 182 Westerners have registered as members for the new season, including 34 new members. This is far ahead of registrations this time last year and similar to two years ago.

### **Foreman (Treasurer, Mark Bealafeld)**

Our Treasurer presented his monthly report.

### **Sunbeam (Peg Cook)**

Two cards have been sent out:

- Sympathy card to the family of Honorary Member, Al Smeeth, who passed away in May at age 93. Al was an active leader within the Westerners from 1989 through 1998, serving as Trail Boss in 1991, Al also held many other offices
- Get Well card to Cathy Lutz, following surgery.

Should anyone know of any occasion where a card would need to be sent regarding a Sedona Westerner, please inform our Sunbeam, whose contact information is found on the Officers page at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

### **Ranger (Michael Henry)**

Our Ranger professed thanks for all those who volunteered at the trail heads during the closing of our National Forest earlier this year. Also mentioned was an effort by a group of Westerners who helped with graffiti removal; thanks to all who participated. Reminder to report any graffiti by reporting them to the Ranger with a photo of the graffiti and GPS coordinates. You may find the contact information for the Ranger at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

### **Cliff Walker (Gary Morgan, Cultural Resources etiquette)**

Our Cliff Walker introduced himself and looks forward to assisting in educating both Sedona Westerner members and the public at large in the proper etiquette when visiting ruin sites.

### **Historian (Sandi Heysinger)**

Our Historian mentioned that last year's yearbook is available for viewing online on the Sedona Westerner website. She also mentioned that photos are needed for this year's yearbook. Photos of scenery, hikers (show faces), flora are all welcome. You may find the contact information for the Historian at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

### **Chuckwagon (Patty Persons)**

Our Chuckwagon Boss mentioned that she is currently recruiting volunteers for our October picnic. Should you be interested, please contact her at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

### **Roundup (Dick Williams, News articles)**

Our Roundup Boss mentioned the need for articles for the Red Rock News. They would need to be about 600 – 800 words in length, not mentioning any ruins, rock art or caves. Pictures taken during the hike not showing the faces of the hikers and not showing any sensitive sites (ruins, rock art or caves). Please contact the Roundup Boss at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

## **Fall Picnic Plans**

The Fall Picnic is on for October 14 at Noon at the Posse Grounds.

Note that the CDC specifically recommends cookouts as a safer outdoor activity.

Note that two special, COVID-protection measures are being adopted for our picnic:

- First, we will limit seating while eating to only four people per table. To enable this separation, we will be renting 20 more tables with four folding chairs per table.
- Second, our volunteer food servers will wear masks while serving.

Registration for the picnic will open on the website later this month. There will be an announcement to the membership about this.

Registration for the picnic is free for Members and \$10 for guests.

## **Holiday Party Plans**

Plans for the Holiday Party on December 9 are uncertain and will depend on whether the COVID spread rate has abated sufficiently to enable such an indoor function. A determination will be made next month.

We have reserved the venue we had been using, the Village of Oak Creek Association's club room.

## **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bandanas**

Last winter, Donna Forsythe, our Wagon Boss, took on the task of designing and procuring special Anniversary Bandanas to distribute to all our members this year to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sedona Westerners (2021 is our 60<sup>th</sup> year).

Over the course of many months, Donna worked very diligently to settle on just the right design for the bandanas, and then researched and selected a vendor to make the bandanas. Those at the meeting tonight, may take one. There will also be an opportunity to receive your bandana at our Fall Picnic.

Meeting ended at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Sweeny

Wrangler