

SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 11, 2021 – 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.

We hope in the coming months to be able to return to in-person monthly meetings; however, presently, the COVID spread rate remains in CDC's *High Category* for all of Arizona, and for Yavapai and Coconino Counties in particular.

Veterans Day

Before beginning the meeting agenda, we took a moment to acknowledge that it is November 11, Veterans Day. We honor and thank all our veterans, both those who are among us now, and those who have served in the past and are no longer with us.

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 September and October 2021 were posted on our website. Motion to approve the Foreman's Reports was made by Dave Vanderwater and seconded by Sophia Sweeny. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

The **Minutes of our last Monthly Meeting held September 9, 2021**, as posted on the website by our Wrangler, Sophia Sweeny, also need Membership approval. Motion was made by Donna Forsythe and seconded by Patti Pierce. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Hike Boss Reports

Before we have the Hike Bosses give their reports, the Trail Boss recognized Linda Shook for diligently leading the Drovers group from May through October. Linda had to reluctantly relinquish the Drover Hike Boss position due to a combination of an injury and work obligations. Many thanks to Linda for her good work. Thank you also to Ray LaPorte and Amanda Maxwell, who have generously stepped up to serve as the new Drovers Boss and Assistant Boss, respectively.

Amblers Boss:	Dave Minott read report by Judy Dolloff
Cactus Dodger (Roughriders Boss):	Kelly-Leigh Thomas read report for Ken Ferguson
Dogie Boss:	Harry Strong
Drover Boss:	Ray LaPorte
Mustang Boss:	Jim Sweeny
Rustlers Boss:	Patti Pierce
Trackers Boss:	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, during November and December there will be offered hiking technique courses. Fortunately, there has been such a popular demand, that a second series of classes will run in January. Please note that if you are interested in tailgating for the December 8th and the December 15th classes, please contact the Tracker Boss, Charlie Schudson, whose contact is on our Officers page at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

Officer Reports

Prospector (Membership, Michael McCaffrey): Membership is up to 317, of which 92 are new members and 32 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) related our current financial picture.

Sunbeam (Sunbeam, Peg Cook) Dave Minott read report for Peg Cook

- Linda Schermer was kind enough to pass along the news that her friend and long-time Westerner, Marilyn Thaden Dexter, has passed away at age 86. Marilyn became an active hiker, mountain climber, and skier after moving to Seattle, Washington in 1971. She shared her active outdoor life with her husband, David Dexter, after the two were married in 1983. After David's death in 1998, Marilyn moved to Sedona, where she became very active in the Sedona Westerners from 1999 to 2017. Donations in Marilyn's name can be made to Chamber Music Sedona or to the Verde Valley Sinfonietta.

Ranger (Forest Service liaison, Michael Henry) Dave Minott read report for Michael Henry

- Since we last met in September, Michael conveys that Westerners hikers have made two reports of graffiti to the Ranger. One of those reports was, unfortunately, another incident attributed to a long-sought after serial tagger. Michael Henry wants to give a special shout-out to Amanda Maxwell and Ray LaPorte for their recognition of this incident as a high-priority graffiti tag, their instant response in reporting the tag, and then their extra effort extended in guiding the graffiti clean-up team to the location of the tag. And to wrap up this report, Michael makes 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): reported on his efforts at trying to get All Trails do something about our sensitive areas (for example, Keyhole/Subway). A representative from All Trails told him that they could not remove the track information about the Keyhole/Subway, but that they could and did add a phrase to alert hikers to be aware and cautious of the sensitive ruins. Interestingly enough, Gary reported that he had double-checked on the status of said phrase this morning and he found that this track has been removed entirely from the All Trails site. The Cliff Walker will be accepting input for any other sensitive tracks that we want have phrases to alert potential hikers of respecting the sensitive sites. If you would like to send your input to the Cliff Walker, Gary Morgan, you may find his contact on our Officers page at:

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

Historian (Sandi Heysinger) reminded us to keep the photos coming. Donna Forsythe posed a question on a catalog of hikes and photos. It was suggested that those who want to look at photos of specific hikes, look at Sedona Westerners member, Alan Gore's website: alangorepix.com under the Hiking menu.

Chuckwagon Boss – Patty Persons, Chuckwagon Boss, was unable to attend tonight, but she wishes to convey her thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the Fall Cookout a success.

Roundup Boss (Red Rock News articles, Dick Williams) please keep the articles coming. Please note that some of those who have submitted have had difficulty with their pictures. The photos need to be greater than 1 megabyte in size. Should you have any questions regarding your photos that would be submitted with your article, please send to the Roundup Boss, whose contact is on our Officers page at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

Holiday Party Plans

The Board of Directors voted to cancel the Holiday Party planned for December 9, as it will not be possible to conduct this event while observing the CDC-recommended COVID safety precautions for this type of indoor venue. We truly regret having to cancel this, the second Holiday Party in a row.

Guest Speaker

2021 is the 60th anniversary of the Sedona Westerners, our Diamond Anniversary.

Our Trail Boss, Dave Minott presented the highlights of our history since our founding in 1961. Among the highlights were:

- Founded in 1961 as a Western-themed social club and civic organization
- Hiking began in 1965, with one hike per week
- By 2000, there were 5 hiking groups
- By late 1961 there were 39 members, including members and/or descendants of 3 of Sedona's founding families (Schnebly, Thompson, and Purtyman)
- Sponsored "Western Days" (1967 – 1972), a weekend event that included dressing in Western clothing, riding horses, providing Western-style entertainment to tourists (square dances, hay rides, rodeos, bullfights, parades, burro races, and barbeques)
- The publication "Those Early Days" (1968), written by Westerners Allen Bristow and Myrtle Smith, contained historical content based primarily on the recorded recollections of over 50 Sedona-area pioneers
- The Sedona Westerners were instrumental in standardizing names for many of the formations in our area
- The Sedona Westerners were early leaders in trail marking in Sedona
- The Sedona Westerners were early leaders in producing Sedona Trail Maps
- Were focused on conservation and stewardship from the beginning
- Bob Fuege wrote an account of the Sedona Westerner history for the 40th anniversary, which is available on our website.

Meeting was adjourned at: 8:29 pm