

SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING

March 9, 2023
at Sedona United Methodist Church

Call to Order – Welcome

Trail Boss, Donna Forsythe, welcomed both new and returning members to our monthly meeting. The meeting started at 6:59 pm.

Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund

Representatives from the Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund came to thank the Sedona Westerners for their generosity during their fund drive last month. Fifty-one members of the Sedona Westerners donated a total of: \$ 14,470.00 and, along with a \$1000 from Sedona Westerners with a matching grant from the City of Sedona, brought it to a total of \$16,470.00. This surpasses last year's record for individual donations by over 25%!

Votes (Foreman's Report, Monthly Meeting Minutes)

The **Minutes of our last Monthly Meeting held February 9, 2023**, as a "draft" posted on the website by our Wrangler, Sophia Sweeny, also needs Membership approval. Motion was made by Jan Taylor and seconded by Mark Bealafeld. The vote was unanimous. **Motion approved.**

Our Treasurer is called the Foreman, who is presently Mark Bealafeld. The **Foreman's Monthly Reports** for the month of February 2023 was posted on our website for review by our members. Motion to approve the Foreman's Reports was made by Sandi Heysinger and seconded by Sophia Sweeny. The vote was unanimous. **Motion approved.**

Nominating Committee:

Terri Petrescu, the head of this year's Nominating Committee, gave us the following list of candidates. We are to consider these volunteers and be prepared to ask questions and vote at our next monthly meeting. The candidates are:

Sedona Westerners: Elected Officer Nominees 2023-2024		
Position	Current Officers	2023-24 Nominees
Trail Boss (President)	Donna Forsythe	Ray LaPorte
Immediate Past Trail Boss (Last Year's President)	David Minott	Donna Forsythe
Wagon Boss (Vice President & Program Director)	Ray LaPorte	Dave Vanderwater

Wrangler (Secretary)	Sophia Sweeny	Debby Losse
Foreman (Treasurer)	Mark Bealafeld	Mark Bealafeld
Prospector (Membership Chair)	Michael McCaffrey	Sandi Heysinger
Chuckwagon Boss (Food/Refreshment Coordinator)	Adrienne Pichette	Adrienne Pichette
Top Hand #1 - Actively Hiking Honorary Member (Director)	Jim Kemper	Jim Kemper
Top Hand #2 - Former Trail Boss (Director)	Al Vander Peut	Mary McCaffrey
Top Hand #3 - Actively Hiking Member At-Large (Director)	Dave Vanderwater	Terri Petrescu
Ambler Boss (Ambler Hikes Coordinator)	Jan Taylor	Jan Taylor
Rustler Boss (Rustler Hikes Coordinator)	Deb Hicks	Mark Hurtt
Drover Boss (Drover Hikes Coordinator)	Kelley Malek	Kelley Malek
Dogie Boss (Dogie Hikes Coordinator)	Lora Ellis	Lisa Celeste
Mustang Boss (Mustang Hikes Coordinator)	Jim Sweeny	Bob Apter
Cactus Dodger (Rough Rider Hikes/Scouts Coordinator)	Kelly-Leigh Thomas	Trisha Travis
Tracker Boss (Special Hikes Coordinator)	Charles Schudson	Linda Warren

Officer Reports

Prospector (Membership, Michael McCaffrey): Our total members are currently 437, with 152 of them being new members, and 30 honorary members. We have more members than last year at this time.

Old Timer (Sandi Heysinger) Thanks for all the photos. Please keep them coming, especially spring pictures and some action shots.

Roundup Boss (Red Rock News articles, Dick Williams): Many thanks for all the articles submitted and please keep them coming! He related that the articles that received the most positive comments were

the ones where authors relayed their feelings, what was done and seen. If you would like to provide an article, please contact the Roundup Boss through his contact on our Officers page at : <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

Chuckwagon Boss (Adrienne Pichette, Chuckwagon Boss): Thanked those who brought treats to our meeting and asked for volunteers for refreshments for our next monthly meeting in April 13, 2023. Also, volunteers needed for the May 11 Spring picnic. If available, please contact Adrienne Pichette, whose contact is on our Officers page at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

Foreman (Treasurer, Mark Bealafeld): presented the current financial status and outlook for the members.

Sunbeam (Sunbeam, Peg Cook) There was no report shared at this meeting.

Hike Boss Reports

Amblers Boss:	Jan Taylor and Jon Petrescu
Rustlers Boss:	Deb Hicks and Christina Loggia
Drover Boss:	Kelley Malek and Hassan Hosseini
Dogie Boss:	Lora Ellis and Lisa Celeste
Mustang Boss:	Jim Sweeny and Gary Morgan
Cactus Dodger (Roughriders Boss):	Kelly-Leigh Thomas and Trish Travis
Trackers Boss:	Charlie Schudson and Tim Lowrey

The Hike Bosses thanked those who led, co-led and tailgated on the past month's hikes, information on the criteria for their level of hikes was provided on the power point slide, and they shared news of some upcoming hikes.

Notes:

- **Scouts:** Kelly-Leigh Thomas (the Cactus Dodger), mentioned that there is now a description on the website for the Scouts, which she read to all.
- **Trackers:** Upcoming events (to sign up, email Charlie at: keynoteseminars@gmail.com or Tim Lowrey at: vittadinia@gmail.com , depending on the hike
 - **Grand Falls a.k.a. Chocolate Falls Tour** – This has been cancelled, due to the Navajo Nation closing this site till further notice, due to heavy destructive tourism.
 - **Clarkdale and Jerome Museums and More** – April 5 (sign up after noon on March 12 at: vittadinia@gmail.com)
 - **Lowell Observatory** – April 19 (sign up after noon on April 3 at: keynoteseminars@gmail.com)
 - **Botanical Beauties** – April 26
 - **Painted Desert** – Date TBD

Welcome to New Members attending the Monthly Meeting. The Trail Boss invited the new members in attendance to introduce themselves.

Sedona Westerners' t-shirts still available: The Trail Boss mentioned that there are still a number of t-shirts available for purchase at \$15 (cash or check). Currently, there are still some Women's size medium, and Men's size XL and 2XL. See the Trail Boss, if interested.

Cliff Walker (Cultural Resources etiquette, Gary Morgan): showed us a video from the Bears Ears Educational Partnership on proper etiquette when in and near ruin sites: do not bring your poles or your backpacks into ruin sites, stay clear of the walls, do not eat in ruin areas, do not climb on or touch the walls, use rubber tips on your hiking poles.

Ranger (Forest Service liaison, Amanda Maxwell): Reported on: Update on the **Trail Closure Project**. Dick updated us on this: This is being rebuilt to National Park Standards, not National Forest Standards (the National Park Standards are more rigorous). The volunteers (both Sedona Westerners and Friends of the Forest), have been at work keeping the tourists off the closed trails. Because of the weather, they may have to have a Phase Five to be able to complete the project, as they will not finish by the end of March, which is the time that the Park had the closure. If you want to volunteer for helping with the closure, the contact for the Ranger is on our Officers page at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

- **Reporting:** report all items: campfires, illegal camping, trail maintenance, illegal vehicles, graffiti, suspicious activity, etc. Include the date/time description, GPS coordinate, and report on the Sedona Westerners' website: Go to: About Us: Stewardship, Contacts and Reporting, Ranger/FS Liaison.
- **Hiker Tip of the Month:** Stay on the Trail (Part 2): Don't Bust the Crust! - Cryptobiotic crust consists of lichen, mosses, green algae, micro fungi, and bacteria. The three functions of cryptobiotic crust: It stores water and nutrients, creates soil stability and fixes nitrogen in the soil. This crust is very fragile and our footprints can do irreparable damage to the crust (can take up to 5,000 years to replace itself). Be careful NOT to step on the crust! Some more Cryptobiotic Fun Facts:
 - 70% of the Colorado Plateau is covered with cryptobiotic crust.
 - Bacteria in cryptobiotic crust excrete sticky filaments which bind algae, lichens, moss, and micro-fungi into a structured, sponge-like mass.
 - Cryptobiotic crust creates a shelter under which plants can germinate.
 - Cryptobiotic Crust is only active when wet. When dry it is dormant.
 - Cryptobiotic Crust can have a suntan. It produces melanin to protect against UV rays. That's why it is dark in color. Species that do not produce melanin hide beneath those that do, using them as a sunscreen.
 - Cryptobiotic Crust inhibits the introduction and growth of invasive plant species

Guest Speaker

Our Wagon Boss, Ray LaPorte introduced our Guest Speaker, Kenneth J. Zoll. Ken is the Executive Director Emeritus of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center and an expert on Native American historical sites and rock art. But this time he'll be speaking on an entirely different topic: meteorites. He's just written a new book entitled, H.H Nininger: Master of Meteorites, in which he discusses the work of Harvey Nininger who studied and collected meteorites and eventually established a meteorite museum in Sedona. This presentation brought up some interesting facts, among them:

- Harvey Nininger was considered the "father of American meteorites"
- In 1923, Mr. Nininger read an article "Meteorites" in Scientific Monthly. Shortly after, he saw a meteorite light the sky, and he decided to try to find it. Although he never found that particular meteorite, the process he developed is still used today.

- During the Great Depression, he would pay \$1 a pound for meteorites. Many farmers sold him meteorites, making more money selling meteorites to Nininger, than farming for a year.
- He was first in the world, to do an archaeological dig on a meteor crater.
- Wrote "Arizona's Meteorite Crater: Past, Present and Future".
- Wrote an autobiography "Find a Falling Star".

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Sweeny, Wrangler