

SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

AT SEDONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CALL TO ORDER—WELCOME

Trail Boss, Ray LaPorte, welcomed both new and returning members to the monthly meeting. He invited new members to stand up and introduce themselves. New members come from Hawaii, Sedona, Redondo Beach, and Kansas City.

Ray also demonstrated the miniature bell that he found in the collection of Sedona Westerner memorabilia that has been handed down from Trail Boss to Trail Boss. As he showed, the bell makes a hearty ring capable of silencing even the most engaged chatter of club members.

Ray thanked the members for giving him the chance to serve as Trail Boss and expressed his gratitude to the immediate past Trail Boss, Donna Forsythe, for the mentoring he received.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mark Bealafeld, Foreman, gave the year-end treasurer's report. The finances are in good shape as a result of the healthy membership last year of 426 members and careful stewardship of the finances. Expenses and revenue were nearly equal. The SW closed the year with \$8,000 in the bank. This year to date, two of the three big expenses, insurance and the Fall Cookout, have already been paid. Membership is well on its way to reaching the 400+ members achieved last year. There are sufficient funds to more than cover the final big expenses of the year: the Holiday Party and the Spring Cookout.

BUSINESS (Monthly Meeting Minutes, Foreman's Report, Honorary Memberships)

The Trail Boss asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of April 13, 2023. A motion was made and seconded. **Motion approved.**

Ray LaPorte requested a motion to approve the financial reports since June 2023. A motion was made and seconded. **Motion approved.**

The Trail Boss recognized the new **Honorary Members**, who have been members for at least ten years and have served as officers for at least four years: Peg Cook, Tom Yager, Dave Vanderwater. He congratulated them for their service.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chuckwagon Boss (Adrienne Pichette): Adrienne thanked those who had brought snacks for Monthly Meeting.

Roundup Boss (Sara Stiffler): Sara reported that there had been ten articles to date in the Redrock News. She has articles lined up until December 22 from every group. She mentioned that she is looking for articles on hikes for January and February. She also mentioned that a journalist from Phoenix participated in a Rustler hike and will be preparing an article on the Sedona Westerners.

Prospector (Sandi Heysinger): Sandi noted that the following statistics:

Total members: 297

New members: 57

Honorary: 26

Membership totals last year (2022) at this time:

Total members: 342

New members: 83

Honorary: 30

Historian (Margaret Davis): Margaret thanked members for the many photos they had taken and submitted to her for the annual scrapbook.

Holiday Party

The Trail Boss reminded members that the Annual Holiday Party will take place on December 14, 2023 at the Oak Creek Country Club. Through Ray's timely action, the Sedona Westerners will be entertained by the Jerome Ukulele Band. Members will need to sign up online on the Sedona Westerners' Website. A count is needed by November 30.

HIKE BOSS REPORTS

Amblers Boss:	Jan Taylor (Jon Petrescu reported for Jan Taylor)
Rustlers Boss:	Mark Hurtt
Drover Boss:	Kelley Malek
Dogie Boss:	Lisa Celeste
Mustang Boss:	Bob Apter
Cactus Dodger (Roughrider Boss)	Trisha Travis
Tracker Boss	Linda Warren

The Hike Bosses thanked those who led, co-led and tailgated on the September and October hikes. They shared news of upcoming hikes.

Special upcoming hikes include:

Amblers: Brins Mesa; Coffee Pot

Rustlers: Pyramids and Polygons; Turkey Creek Loop, Submarine
Drovers: Cathedral on Sunday; Airport Loop Tabletop; Huckaby Loop
Dogies: Hangover; Hartwell Canyon
Mustangs: Lost Wilson; Wild Turkey
Rough Riders: Bear Wallow; Wise Cracks; Bear Mountain/Fay Overlook
Trackers: Rock Art Ranch; Patriot Recycling

Tracker Notes: Linda reported that forty people have signed up for the very popular Rock Art Ranch next Wednesday. If you are interested, there is a waiting list and, since there are cancellations, it is always worthwhile to sign up.

Ray LaPorte spoke about the opportunity to learn how to lead hikes by accompanying Hike leaders on the scouts of the upcoming hikes. He suggested that you try doing this to see if you would like to volunteer to lead or co-lead a hike.

Break for Refreshments

Guest Speaker

Our Wagon Boss, Dave Vanderwater, introduced the guest speaker, Roger Naylor, author of *Awesome Arizona: 200 Amazing Facts About the Grand Canyon State*. Author of several books, including *The Amazing Kolb Brothers of Grand Canyon*, *Boots & Burgers: An Arizona Handbook for Hungry Hikers*, *Arizona Kicks on Route 66*, and *Crazy for the Heat: Arizona Tales of Ghosts, Gumshoes, and Bigfoot*, Roger Naylor is Arizona's premier travel writer and a member of the Arizona Tourism Hall of Fame. For Arizona travel enthusiasts, his two previous travel books: *Arizona Scenic Roads and Hikes* and *Arizona State Parks* will be of interest.

Roger Naylor began by reading from the introduction to his work. He spoke about what brought him to Arizona, specifically to Northern Arizona University. He noted that by the age of eighteen, he knew he was going to be a writer and that he was going to live in Arizona. He then proceeded to elaborate on some of the 200 amazing facts about Arizona in a lively and engaging presentation:

Fact #2: Arizona is the only state that contains one of the seven wonders of the world, the Grand Canyon. One of his favorite pastimes is to drive to the Grand Canyon from his home, hike down the Grand Canyon, eat lunch, and climb back out in time to drive home.

Fact #15: Arizona has the only village to which the U.S. Postal Service still delivers mail by mule: the village of Supai in Havasupai Canyon.

Fact # 71: Arizona has more lighthouses than any other state in the nation: 28 in Lake Havasu City.

These are just a few of the 200 amazing facts about Arizona that Roger Naylor shared with us.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Losse, Wrangler