

September 2018 Newsletter

August Tracks Meeting: There were about 28 people in attendance at the August 2018 General Meeting and potluck held in the Large Ramada at Woodland Lake Park. No guests or new members were present.



Announcements:

Arlene Nelson spoke about TRACKS' participation in the Fall Festival parade this year. TRACKS will have a vehicle towing our TRACKS trailer that carries our trail crew tools and supplies. The theme will be "Adventure". (see article below for details.)

Jim Snitzer announced the **bed race to take place in the center of town on August 18 to kick off Pinetop-Lakeside's Heritage Day** at Mountain Meadows, including games, music and a movie after dark.

It was also announced that there would be **an open house on August 28 at the Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District from 10:00 AM o 2:00 PM.**

Jim talked about the ongoing bike gates project. A prototype bike gate is being installed on a trail at the Nature Center . The Forest Service can inspect it and, hopefully, give the go-ahead to install more of these in the National Forest.

There will be one more potluck breakfast meeting at Woodland Lake Park this season on September 8. After that the TRACKS General Meetings will be held at Darbi's Restaurant throughout the fall and winter.

Joan Patrick announced that **Trailhead Adopters can continue to pick up maps at the old building at 928 S Woodland Road.** Malaina will continue to keep the map crate supplied with fresh materials.

The 23rd Annual Tour of the White Mountains will be on **October 13 this year. NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 01**, please let Nick

(lundaz@cablone.net or 928-241-2444) know if you would like to volunteer, **and give him your t-shirt size and cellphone number.**

If you have a preference for what you would like to do, let Nick know. Volunteers help pin-flag and de-flag the routes, help at the aid stations, serve at gates and critical turn points on the courses, record rider times at the finish line, monitor the kids' ride, etc.

Epic Rides makes a donation to TRACKS for our efforts, so the TWM is not only fun and a great community event, it is also a fund raiser for TRACKS. The earlier you volunteer, the better for making the overall volunteer plan, which is quite extensive. Last year, there were about 750 participants who chose single track routes of 9, 35 or 50 miles on our White Mountains Trail System.



COME JOIN US IN THE FALL FESTIVAL PARADE: Arlene Nelson is coordinating TRACKS' participation in the Fall Festival Parade this year on September 29 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. We plan to have TRACKS members walking along with the pick-up truck and trailer wearing hard hats and carrying tools to represent the trail crew, members on bikes and horseback representing our bikers and equestrians, a kayak in the



back of the truck with people carrying kayak equipment, folks with ski equipment, all of this representing the outdoor activities supported and encouraged by the TRACKS organization. We will be handing out maps and brochures along the route. To participate in this event, or for more information, contact Arlene Nelson at 928-368-6810.



The 13th Annual White Mountain Nature Center Benefit Dinner will take place Saturday, September 15 at the Hon-Dah Resort and Conference Center. Doors will open at 4:30 PM.

This year there will be some fantastic offerings at the live auction, along with a wonderful array of offerings at the silent auction and dessert auction and more Balloon Bags than ever.

Tickets are \$50 each and a sponsor for table for ten is \$500.

There will also be tickets on sale for raffle items. This year there will be a beautiful Bald Eagle necklace (ideal for a man or woman) designed by Peter Tims of White Mountain Jewelers.

Tickets are available at the Nature Center and the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce

Volunteers Needed For Cool

Running from 6:00 AM to 9:30 AM to assist with registration, water stations, timing and results for 10K and 2 mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, September 29th. For more information contact Malaina Spillman at Parks and Recreation, 928-368-6700
mspillman@pinetoplakesideaz.gov



Trail Care Program: The trail crew has been working on water runoff issues along the Four Springs Trail and Lookout Mountain. The Crew has been meeting at the Los Burros Trailhead #2 and carpooling to the work site. Refreshments are served after each work session of about 2 hours. If you would like to join any trail crew day, just show up. To get on the mailing list which announces work schedules, contact us through the TRACKS website at <https://www.trackswhitemountains.org/>

The following article is submitted by TRACKS member, Tim Strand, describing his amazing experience as a Lake Powell Volunteer Trash Tracker.

Lake Powell Volunteer Trash Tracker Report, August 12-16, 2018

This was the first time I volunteered to work in this program. WOW!!! The best 5 days of my life – a really great combination of work, play and relaxation. The Lake Powell Trash Tracker program has been in operation every summer for more than 30 years now. Lake Powell is a truly awesome place, 1.35 miles long with 100 amazing side canyons – all needing to be checked and cleaned by the Trash Trackers.

The houseboat we used was 25 feet by 75 feet in size with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a dining/living room, and 2 large porches. To rent this boat for 5 days, including gasoline, runs about \$5,000 but is provided for free by the National Park Service for use by the Trash Trackers and the captains. Also provided were a 40 MPS speedboat (seating 6), a 15 by 40 foot trash boat, christened “The Eliminator,” plus 2 kayaks, together quite a flotilla!



There were 4 volunteers plus 2 captains. The captains have been working together on the lake for more than 15 years. After working together for several years they got married on the houseboat! They are really Lake Powell experts – they know every nook and cranny of the lake.

The 4 volunteers each moved all the stuff they needed for their 5-day voyage (clothes, food, etc.) on to the boat using large wheelbarrows starting at 7:30 Sunday morning. Orientation was 8:00 to 8:30 and then we left the marina, not to see it again ‘til Thursday afternoon.



We worked about 7 hours each day cleaning the shores of the lake and removing any debris from the water and the first 50 yards or so of the canyons of the water’s edge. The lake is huge and about half of each work day was spent just getting to the beaches and water filled canyons of the lake. These transport times were magnificent sightseeing adventures guided by the all-knowing captains.

We had about 2 hours for lunch and a swim each day. We also hopped in the lake, clothes, shoes, hats and all, several times a day, whenever we got hot. The outside temperature was about 105 at midday on most days.



Close to the marina the lake looks pretty boring, just lots of water in somewhat rugged desert terrain, but once you get 5-10 miles up the main channel amazing changes take place. It's like a combination of the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley but filled with and surrounded by lots and lots of water, extending off in all directions.

The endless variations and massive size of the natural artwork and stone edifices are unbelievable.

We usually cleaned one or two major canyons per day. The most memorable for me was "Last Chance Canyon." It's 8 miles long and about a mile wide, with about 15 side canyons, each one separated from the next by stone skyscrapers hundreds of feet tall and wide and extending far into the side canyons. It makes the skyscrapers and avenues of New York look puny in comparison.

One of the volunteers, Simona, was a photographer. In between taking countless pictures she said it was really fun watching me staring upward at the massive stone skyscrapers with my mouth open and shaking my head in disbelief. This magnificent display was but one of many. Simona did one 360 degree panoramic picture that included water in all directions, leading to and surrounding stone towers and pillars and spires with mountains in the background in several directions. On the 4th day we boated 50 miles up the lake to Rainbow Bridge National Monument, with 2 mile high Navajo Mountain providing the backdrop (and the stream that made the stone arch).



All in all, 5 days of jaw-dropping displays of unimaginable natural artwork and massive monuments in stone created by tectonic forces, ice floes, wind, water and gravity over the ages – and as many would say – created by God.

September 1, Saturday	13th Annual Wild Life Festival at the Nature Center. Interactive booths and displays with lots of live wildlife, demonstrations and exhibits.	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
September 5, Wednesday	Audubon Monthly Meeting: Speaker Nancy Brown, Recreation Technician at Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River will present a program about the history o this beautiful area.	6:30 PM at the Nature Center, 425 S Woodland Rd. Lakeside.
September 5, Wednesday	Up the Hill Gang Hike Indian Springs Trail #627. Leader Kay Alderton	6:45 AM at Pinetop KFC. 7.5 mi. loop of moderate hiking. Carpool \$5
September 6, Thursday	TRACKS Board Meeting	1:00 PM at the Nature Center. TRACKS members welcome
September 8, Saturday	TRACKS General Meeting & Potluck. Bring a dish to share	8:00 AM at Woodland Lake Park Large Ramada
September 12, Wednesday	Up the Hill Gang Hike Panorama Trail #625. Leader Kay Alderton	6:45 AM at Pinetop KFC. 5 miles of moderate hiking. Carpool \$2
September 15, Saturday	13th Annual Nature Center Benefit Dinner. Great fun, Merchandise, Prizes, Entertainment and Food. See article above for more info.	5:00 PM Hon-Dah Convention Center This event supports annual operating expenses and diverse programs
September 19, Wednesday	Up the Hill Gang Hike Woodland Trails. Annual potluck after hike. Leader Arlene Nelson	8:45 AM at Pinetop KFC. 5 mi easy hiking. Carpool \$2
September 23 & 24	Charlie Clark's Annual Fall Festival	9 AM to 3 PM Lynn needs volunteers for TRACKS table
September 26, Wednesday	Up The Hill Gang Hike Escudilla Trail #308 Leader Kay A;derton	6:45 AM _at KFC in Pinetop, 6 mi moderate to difficult hiking. Carpool \$5.00
September 29, Saturday	Fall Festival and Parade See article above	Contact Arlene Nelson (480-368-6810) to volunteer to help with or participate in Parade
October 13, Saturday	Tour of the White Mountain Bike Race See article above for details	Contact Nick Lund – lundaz@cablone.net to sign up as volunteer
Mondays	Trail Crew https://www.trackswhitemountains.org/	Contact TRACKS to get on mailing list:



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