



### TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC) – TRACKS Highway Cleanup

By Lynn Krigbaum

If you have driven on HWY 260 in the past week you may have noticed that the TRACKS signs are on a "new" mile. We have received the Shepherd of the Mountain Lutheran church mile. It is Mile 347 to 348. That is from the Atrium medical building to the Maverick gas station.

So, while we have the signs out saying TRACKS, we can't do the highway clean up yet. (COVID-19, of course). The Adopt-a-Highway people will let us know when it is permissible to do it and I will let you know when it is scheduled. This should be a great improvement over our last 2 miles so we are grateful to Betty Zink and her church people for giving us this mile.

We look forward to doing the clean up soon!

*Jerry Good and Ron Miller tackle a log and rock blocking hikers on the Springs Trail May 2020. 🙋🙋*



### WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

As of the publication of this newsletter in mid-May 2020, The White Mountain Nature Center is temporarily closed due to COVID-19. **We still are receiving injured raptors, please call 928-358-3069.**

Please check our Facebook page and website closer to June 2020 to see if we are able to start our Nature Discovery Programs at:  
<https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/>  
or Facebook page at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/WhiteMountainNatureCenter/>  
or call (928) 358-3069. 🙋🙋

### SPOTLIGHT – TRACKS Remembers a Good Member, Supporter and Friend, Jerri Freeman

From Jerri Freeman's Son

On Monday, April 20, 2020, our beloved mother and grandmother, Jerri Freeman, age 88, departed this life of natural causes and will be reunited with the love of her life; our father and grandfather Jim Freeman (deceased).

Jerri was a Winslow, AZ, native and the daughter of Dan and Vivian Hitchcock (both deceased). Jerri and Jim raised four children in Winslow: Dan (wife Candice and daughter Devin), Janet (husband Ken and sons Rick and Riley), Bruce (wife Pauline and daughter Christina), and Craig (wife, Mary and daughter Sara and son Derek).

Throughout her life she fiercely loved and supported her family and passionately supported veterans, medical relief, arts, and environmental organizations in the Valley of the Sun and White Mountains communities where she resided. She loved challenges and was an avid hiker, trail repairer, and amateur archaeologist.

Her wish was to be cremated, and due to the challenges, the nation is facing our family has decided not to have a memorial service.

Anyone wishing to join with us in celebrating her life is encouraged to donate to any of the following organizations:

Walking Down Ranch Veterans Village Lakeside – Lakeside, Az [walkingdownranch.org](http://walkingdownranch.org);

White Mountain Nature Center Pinetop, Az [whitemountainnaturecenter.org](http://whitemountainnaturecenter.org);

White Mountains TRACKS Trail System 958 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside, Az 85929 [www.trackswhitemountains.org](http://www.trackswhitemountains.org);

or the

Arizona Archaeological Society – SanTan (Queen Creek) [www.azarchsoc.org](http://www.azarchsoc.org).. 🙋🙋

**TRACKS BIKING – Tour of the White Mountains***By Nick Lund*

About a month before the 2018 Tour of the White Mountains mountain bike ride, a group of TRACKS mountain bikers rode into the Los Burros trailhead #1 campground. We noticed a couple that we did not know getting ready to ride the trail, so we rode over to talk with them. It turned out that she was the woman who came in first of all the women mountain bikers in the first Tour of the White Mountains (TWM) about 20 years before! They live in Tucson and do not ride in large group events any more. Felt like we were talking with living history!

The TWM is usually the first weekend in October, so please mark your calendars so that you can join many other TRACKS members as a volunteer. TWM volunteers help pinflag the routes during the week before the event, deflag the routes during the week after, serve at aid stations to provide refreshments/water to riders, be at critical turns in the forest to direct riders, etc. The TWM is a fundraiser for several regional non-profits that support the event, including TRACKS, since Epic Rides, that manages the event, makes a donation to each. The donation to TRACKS is substantial, since TRACKS provides about 80% of the volunteers for the TWM. Last year there were about 900 registered riders for the event. Routes include a forest road ride and rides of 9, 35 or 50 miles on our single-track trails, and the start/finish area is the Pinetop Lakes Equestrian Center on Buck Springs Road. The TWM is a community event that not only is high energy and fun, it is also a "clean industry" that provides significant economic benefit to the White Mountains region. 🇺🇸

**UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)***By Jim Meeker*

For the present, rather than having organized hikes, the Up The Hill Gang is encouraging small groups of family, friends and neighbors to plan outdoor hikes that will allow everyone to easily maintain the social distancing guidelines given us by medical professionals while we enjoy the out of doors. You're not limited to Wednesdays.

There are lots of resources that will help you in planning hikes this summer. Start with the Tracks online maps ([www.trackswhitemountains.org](http://www.trackswhitemountains.org)) as your first stop. You will find detailed maps of all the trails that are within the White Mountain Trail System. You can print your map, and put it in your pocket. There is almost a summer's worth of hikes right there.

Another resource is the U.S. Forest Service. For a few dollars, they sell a detailed map of Apache Sitgreaves National Forest. You can also visit their website ([fs.usda.gov/asnf](http://fs.usda.gov/asnf)) and poke around for information, or go directly to their hiking list on the web ([fs.usda.gov/activity/asnf/recreation/hiking](http://fs.usda.gov/activity/asnf/recreation/hiking)).

Remember to take lots of water, and wear sunscreen and proper footwear so that you can enjoy your hiking experience. If you are hiking in unfamiliar surroundings, use a GPS device, and create waypoints along the way. If you have questions about a trail when you are planning a hike, send a question to [upthehillgang@gmail.com](mailto:upthehillgang@gmail.com), and we will try to answer it. Happy hiking! 🇺🇸

**White Mountain Happenings – June 2020**

- 6<sup>th</sup> White Mountain Women's Club Fashion Show – Torreon Golf Club (623) 340-4131  
Cruz'n the Rim Car Show – Show Low (928) 521-0171  
An Evening of Apache Culture – MMRC -- Pinetop/Lakeside (928) 367-1079  
Wine in the Pines – Charlie Clarks Orchard – Pinetop (928) 368-5869
- 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>  
Show Low Days – Frontier Park – Show Low (928) 537-2326
- 13<sup>th</sup> High Mountain Beer & Music Festival – Pinetop (928) 367-4290
- 16<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Lavender Festival – Concho (928) 337-2289
- 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>  
Sunrise Pow Wow – Sunrise Ski Resort (855) 735-6779
- 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>  
White Mountains Hot Air Balloon Festival – Pinetop/Lakeside (928) 882-2665

Due to current changing COVID-19 circumstances, events may be cancelled and/or delayed. Please call or contact the respective organization or town websites to confirm that events are still being held in June as scheduled.

For more information on the above events and other events that are happening in the White Mountains, please visit the respective website and/or Visitor Center for more information:

**Pinetop/Lakeside** Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.pinetoplakesidechamber.com/calendar/>

**Show Low** Chamber of Commerce: [www.showlowchamber.com/](http://www.showlowchamber.com/)

**Snowflake/Taylor** Chamber of Commerce: <https://snowflaketaylorchamber.org/calendar/>

**White Mountain Audubon Society:** <http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org/> 🇺🇸

## Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – Lakeside Ranger District News

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

In alignment with current Federal, State, and local pandemic guidance to ensure health safety of its employees, visitors and volunteers, the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest is continuing with the temporary closure of Los Burros, Scott Reservoir and Lewis Canyon campgrounds and restrooms. Additional closures now include the Los Burros and Juniper Ridge Trailheads located within the closed campgrounds under Order # 03-00-00-20-010. Trailhead access to both the Los Burros and Juniper Ridge trails is still available at the second trailhead for the Los Burros Trail just up the road from Los Burros Campground the second trailhead for the Juniper Ridge Trail on Farnsworth Ranch Road.

Currently the campgrounds at Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area remain open to self-contained recreational vehicles only.

Other recreation opportunities, such as dispersed camping, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting remain available to the public on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. To protect public health and safety please:

- Avoid visiting the forest if you are sick.
- Follow Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on personal hygiene and social distancing before and during your visit to the forest.
- Take your trash with you when you leave.
- Please use the restroom before and after your forest visit. Unmanaged waste creates a health hazard for employees and other visitors.
- Use less occupied locations and avoid high-use periods of time.

For tips from the CDC on preventing illnesses like the coronavirus, go to: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html)

U.S. Department of Agriculture information is available at [www.usda.gov/coronavirus..](http://www.usda.gov/coronavirus..) !?

“The clearest way into the Universe  
is through a forest wilderness.”

— John Muir

## Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) NEWS

By Jamie Van Kirk

The Arizona Game and Fish Department would like to remind residents and visitors that black bears are moving through the forest and human-bear encounters need to be anticipated.

Annually, AZGFD receives calls about bears around homes. The majority of these calls had one common theme: bird feeders and trash. The greatest cause of human-bear conflict is bears becoming habituated to human food sources and garbage.

AZGFD spends considerable time and resources removing or relocating habituated bears to minimize the risk to people. However, removing a bear does not solve the problem. Here’s how you can help reduce the risk:

- Keep all trash inside a secured area until collection day or keep food waste in a bag in the freezer and place those in the trash as close to collection time as possible.
- If you’ll be out of town or are a weekend visitor, ask a neighbor to place your trash out on collection day.
- Take bird feeders down at night.
- Keep pet food inside.

More information can be found online at [www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/LivingWith](http://www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/LivingWith).

For more information about news and events, visit the AZGF website at: <https://www.azgfd.com/>. !?

### WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE RESERVATION FIRE MANAGEMENT NEWS

The mission of the BIA and Tribal wildfire management program is to reduce the incidents of unwanted and useless human caused wildfires on the Fort Apache Indian Reservations and to provide leadership, training and guidance to develop strategies to reduce the number of human caused wildfires.

Current fire prevention, prescribed burns and other relevant information for the White Mountain Apache tribe can be found by visiting the WMA Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BIAFAAFireMgt/> or by contacting Candy Lupe at (928) 338-5425. !?

## TRACKS MONTHLY SCHEDULE – June

Legend for calendar is as follows. **Blue** – Trail Crew (TC), **Green** - Up the Hill Gang (UTHG), **Purple** – Biking (Summer) and Cross Country Skiing (Winter), and **Red** – TRACKS meetings and events.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew work is being done on an as needed basis. Emails are being sent accordingly.	<b>Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails</b>	To volunteer please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and/or email Jerry Good at: <a href="mailto:jgood6@cox.net">jgood6@cox.net</a> . See page one of newsletter for more information about trail crew news.
No official rides are being scheduled in June due to COVID-19.	<b>Biking:</b>	To get biking information please check box on the website for “Biking” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at <a href="mailto:lundaz@cablone.net">lundaz@cablone.net</a> . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
No official hiking is being scheduled for June due to COVID-19.	<b>Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) Hiking:</b>	To get UTHG information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Jim Meeker at <a href="mailto:jmeeker@azsunshine.us">jmeeker@azsunshine.us</a> .  See page two for specific hiking schedule information.
No general meeting is being held for June due to COVID-19.	<b>TRACKS General Meeting</b>	
<b>June 4 -- 1pm</b>	<b>TRACKS Board Meeting (members ONLY in June due to COVID-19)</b>	<b>White Mountain Nature Center 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside</b>

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958 S. Woodland Road  
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[www.trackswhitmountains.org](http://www.trackswhitmountains.org)