



TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC) – *Tour of the White Mountains Trail Work*

By Jerry Good

We on the trail crew are working hard to get ready for the Tour of the White Mountains bike race in October that will be a lot sooner than anyone expects.

Because of the rains and wash outs, a lot needs to be done before then; however, we have an outstanding trail crew. So hopefully we will be ready for the race and it will be a successful operation.

The trail crew will work into October depending on weather and then will be off for winter. Probably resuming in April of 2022.

The trail crew would like to thank Christine for all the work she has done on the newsletter. She has done a wonderful job. Thank You THE TRAIL CREW. 🙌

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

(WMNC) -- The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am – 12pm each week. The WMNC holds special programs throughout the summer to provide family-oriented fun with a discovery focus on increasing awareness, understanding and responsible action towards nature. The Fall schedule is (please contact the WMNC to confirm events):

October 30th Fall Festival

The WMNC is a non-profit organization and donations are also gratefully accepted. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our center and programs and for board members! Please contact us if you are interested at: (928) 358-3069. For more information, please visit our website at:

<https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/> or Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteMountainNatureCenter/>. 🙌

SPOTLIGHT – *Supporting TRACKS*

By Nick Lund

TRACKS is a non-profit, 501.C.3 organization that relies on member donations to help fund trail work, tools, signs, and other organizational expenses, like insurance. Once a year we encourage members to donate to TRACKS.

Donations may be made by mailing a check made out to TRACKS, Inc. at: 958 S Woodland Road, Lakeside AZ 85929, by giving a check to a Board member at a general meeting, or by using PayPal on www.trackswhitmountains.org.

You can also make a gift directly from an IRA account if you are age 70½ or older, that fulfills your required minimum distribution (RMD) and avoids income tax on those funds. If you choose this option, contact Nick Lund, TRACKS President or David McCullough, TRACKS Treasurer drmccull67@gmail.com for TRACKS bank routing and account numbers.

Your support is greatly appreciated! 🙌

SAVE THE DATE: TRACKS end of year party. We will have a potluck on the lake!

Date Saturday December 11th starting at 11:00 and lasting at least until 3:00.

Location: Jim Snitzer's sister's cabin (she won't mind!) right on Rainbow lake.

Directions: In Lakeside, turn south from Hwy 260 onto Neils Hansen lane. It is across the road from the Forest Service Office and next to the Lakeside Campground. Go one short block and turn right (west) onto Rainbow Lake Lane. Go about 1/2 mile with the campground on the right and The Shores on the left.

Look for a standing chimney from a burned-out cabin on the left (long story), then a 2401 street number on a tree. Turn left onto a gravel drive and it will lead you directly to the cabin.

If you get lost, call Jim Snitzer at 928-368-3283.

TRACKS BIKING*By Nick Lund*

TRACKS mountain bikers continue to ride three times weekly, and will likely stop when the temperatures get too cold.

Rides are social, not competitive, and are mostly on forest service roads. If you wish to be on the email notification list, please send an email to Nick nplundaz@gmail.com. ☺

White Mountain Happenings**SEPTEMBER**

30th Tour of the White Mountains Volunteers Dinner
4pm

OCTOBER

2nd Tour of the White Mountains – Pinetop-Lakeside
9th Color Fun Run & Walk – Pinetop-Lakeside
16th Jack Barker Memorial Golf Tournament
(928) 369-4531
28th – 31st The Wall That Heals – Pinetop-Lakeside
30th Trunk or Treat Blue Ridge HS – Pinetop-Lakeside

NOVEMBER

11th VFW Veterans Day Remembrance – Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall

DECEMBER

No events to list at this time.

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/

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

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

White Mountain Apache Tribe:
<http://whitemountainapache.org/>

Sunrise Ski Resort: <https://www.sunriseskipark.com/>

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG) And Tuesday Trekkers*By Susan High and Jim Meeker Respectively*

WEDNESDAYS: The Wednesday morning **Up The Hill Gang** has enjoyed a great schedule of summer hikes! October is the last month of "official" hikes. If you wish to keep trekking after that and want some hiking partners, please connect with like-minded people and exchange contact information. It's always safer to hike with a partner or two! Here is the October 2021 schedule, and please note the 7:45AM start time due to cooler weather:

- 10/6 Poll Knoll
Meet at GDE 7:45am
6 Miles, (Rating 2.5) Rideshare \$5
- 10/13 Green's Peak
Meet at GDE 7:45am
5 Miles (Rating 2) Rideshare \$5
- 10/20 Government Springs
Meet at GDE 7:45am
6 Miles (Rating 2) Rideshare \$5
- 10/27 Juniper Ridge
Meet at Arbys (by old Kmart in Show Low)
7:45am
6 Miles (Rating 2.5) Rideshare \$3

The rideshare amount is always the suggested contribution if you ride with someone.

TUESDAY TREKKERS: We have had a very successful summer – averaging 15 hikers each week. We feel that we have filled a useful niche for people who would like to hike, but aren't sure about taking on the longer hikes.

The Tuesday Trekkers are a new group this summer, and they demonstrated that there was a need for easy hikes around the White Mountains. Count on seeing a schedule of hikes for 2022 starting in May. Tuesday Trekkers October Schedule is:

- 10/5 Green's Peak
Meet at HonDah 9:00am
3.5 Miles Easy – Rideshare \$5
- 10/12 Billy Creek and Blue Ridge Trails
Meet at McDonalds/Pinetop 9:00am
3 Miles Easy – Rideshare \$5
- 10/19 East Fork Trail
Meet at HonDah 9:00am
3.5 Miles Easy – Rideshare \$5 ☺

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – Lakeside Ranger District News

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

Thanks to all for the hard work this year!

The last installment this year for trail maintenance is something we've all struggled with on the trails this monsoon – Surface Water Control (USDA Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook).

“Diverting surface water off the trail should be near the top of your list of priorities. Running water erodes tread and support structures and can even lead to loss of the trail itself. Standing water often results in soft, boggy tread or failure of the tread and support structures. Water is wonderful stuff – just keep it off the trail.” Some techniques for adequate trail drainage that we will explore in future editions include grade reversals, knicks, rolling grade dips, and water bars.

Hope everyone has a safe winter and we're already looking forward to next season!

Don't Forget! Cold mountain storms can mean fun in the snow! To stay safe, good fun means good planning:

- Travel with a companion if possible.
- Let someone know where you'll be and when you'll return.
- Dress for success! Warm and waterproof with lots of layers.
- Wear sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses.
- Carry and drink plenty of water and bring food.
- Rest often and don't over-exert.
- Bring a first aid kit and emergency supplies.
- Be weather-wise.
- Be aware of road conditions and whether 4-wheel drive or chains are required.

For more information and to see if there are any changes, please visit the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>.

NOTE: Most forest roads are primitive roads that are not plowed or maintained in the winter. Please avoid rutting and damaging wet roads and respect road closures. Visit our website for more information at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>. ❗

Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) NEWS

By Jackie Follmuth

On October 1, Silver Creek switches to its catch and release season regulations until March 31. During this time, only artificial flies/lures and barbless hooks are allowed. Flood damage due to monsoon rainfall may lead to lower angler success at Silver Creek this season.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) will stock super catchable rainbow trout into the lower section of Silver Creek as annually done before the seasonal catch and release regulation season. These fish are larger than normal and are expected to remain in the creek until April 1, when catch and keep season returns. However, the upper section of Silver Creek which typically holds three to ten pound trout likely saw a significant reduction in trout numbers from recent flooding. Poor water clarity has limited the ability to assess exact fishery expectations, but lower catch rates are expected currently.

AZGFD is accepting applications for 2022 hunt permit-tags issued through the draw process for spring turkey, javelina, bison, bear and raptor capture. The deadline for the department to receive all applications is 11:59 p.m. (Arizona time) Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021. More information and the draw application can be found at:

www.azgfd.gov/hunting/draw. ❗

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE RESERVATION NEWS

WMAT camping and fishing is open to non-tribal members as weather conditions permit. Phase One reopening plans and other pertinent information can be found at the WMAT website at:

<http://whitemountainapache.org/>.

The White Mountain Apache Reservation is now lifting fire restrictions and re-opening closed off sections of the reservation:

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 – October through December

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew: No official schedule for Fall – some work will be done on dependent on weather and trail needs.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails Weather Permitting	To volunteer please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at: nplundaz@gmail.com . See page one of newsletter for information about trail crew news.
Biking: Tuesday through Saturday Biking will continue through October. And after that will be completed for the year.	Biking: Weather Permitting	To get biking information please check box on the website for “Biking” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at nplundaz@gmail.com . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
<p>WEDNESDAYS 7:45am October 6th Poll Knoll October 13th Green’s Peak October 20th Government Springs October 27th Juniper Ridge</p>	<p>Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers Hiking: Weather Permitting</p>	To get UTHG WEDNESDAY information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Susan High at shigh118@gmail.com .
<p>TUESDAYS TREKKERS 9:00am October 5th Green’s Peak October 12th Billy Creek/Blue Ridge October 19th East Fork</p>	See page two for specific hiking schedule information.	To get UTHG TUESDAY TREKKERS information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Jim Meeker at jmeeker@azsunshine.us .
<p>BOARD MEETING: Thursdays Before General Meeting 1:00pm October 7th November 11th December 9th</p>	TRACKS Board Meeting (members and visitors welcome)	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
<p>GENERAL MEETING Second Saturday of the Month October 9th – 8:00am - Darbis November 13th – 8:00am - Darbis December 11th – 11:00am – 3pm Potluck</p>	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	DECEMBER 11TH POTLUCK NOTE: Potluck will be from 11:00am to 3:00pm at Jim Snitzer’s sister’s cabin on Rainbow Lake. See Spotlight column for directions.

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