



TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

By Jerry Good

Rain has slowed the progress on trail work almost to a crawl. We are hoping to get the trails ready for the Tour of the White Mountains bike ride and we think we will with the great hard working trail crew. We are all grateful for the wonderful rain. All who have worked on the trail crew this season are invited to join the Up The Hill Gang hikers for an end of season potluck on Sept 28 in the large Woodland Lake Park ramada starting at 11am. Bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice.

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER (WMNC)

The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am – 12pm each week and holds special programs throughout the summer.

- Daily 3 to 4:15 Free Raptor Training Shows
- Sept 3 9 AM Nature Center Hike Ron Miller
- Sept 10 10 AM Honey Extraction Dennis Chandler
- Sept 17 9 AM Nature Hike Rich Gagnon
- Sept 17 6 PM NATURE CENTER DINNER**
- Sept 24 Geocaching John and Balinda

Note: All events are held at the Nature Center on Woodland Lake Road. Please contact the WMNC.

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

SPOTLIGHT – RAMP GATES APPROVED

At a meeting with the USFS Lakeside head ranger, TRACKS president Nick Lund was notified that all 43 ramp gate locations have been approved by FS and sent to SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) for approval and likely will be approved. The AZ manufacturer was sent a heads up that we hope to get them installed prior to the Tour of the White Mountains starting with the Country Club trail requiring 3 ramp gates. Purchase of these gates is through a grant administered by AZ State Parks and Trails and, as part of the matching funds for the grant, TRACKS will pay for the installation. Volunteers may be asked to help carry the gates from the nearest forest road to the installation site if needed. The gates will be installed in the fence lines next to the existing gates so that hikers and mountain bikers can pass through the fence line without having to open/close the existing gate preventing grazing cattle from escaping. Another advantage of the ramp gates is encouraging physically challenged athletes to ride. The existing gate can still be used but remember to close after use. The FS will consider the proposed Blue Ridge short cut. !

TOUR OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

By Nate Kear

The 26th annual Tour of the White Mountains bike ride is less than **6 weeks** away and there are still volunteer positions available. We need a few more folks for registration/packet pickup on Friday afternoon Sept 30 and there are still a few positions open at aid stations and for course marshals out on the course. At an aid station you'll provide the nutrition and hydration that the riders need to continue on their way. As a course marshal, you'll guide the riders at critical turns or facilitate the safe crossing of forest roads. These spots are great locations to view the race as the riders come speeding by. TRACKS is the major beneficiary for the event; Epic Rides makes a sizable donation to TRACKS that helps support activities throughout the year. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering for the event; please send your response to Nate Kear at natekear@gmail.com !

TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

TRACKS mountain bikers continue to enjoy rides on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Rides are social and non-competitive. If you are interested in joining the rides, email Nick nplundaz@gmail.com or use the "join" form on the TRACKS website and check mountain biking as one of your interests. Helmets are required and your bike needs to be in good, rideable condition. 🚲

SEPTEMBER WHITE MOUNTAIN HAPPENINGS

- 3rd Taylor Sweet Corn Festival
- 7th Audubon Chapter Meeting
- 11th Patriot Day Flag Ceremony Pinetop/Lakeside
- 16th POS/MIA National Remembrance Day P/L
- 17th WMNC ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

\$50 per person includes traditional Hawaiian Luau Dinner, complimentary Hawaiian cocktail, dessert, and silent auctions. Steelin' The Night Away all girl steel drum band performing. No host cash bar. Wear your favorite Hawaiian attire. Tickets at WMNC

Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays 10am to 2pm.

- 23rd Cavalcade of Cars
- 24th Fall Festival Parade
- 24th – 25th Fall Artisans Festival
- 24th – 25th Run to the Pines Car Show

For more information on the above events and other events happening in the White Mountain region, please visit the respective website and/or Visitor Center for more information.

Pinetop/Lakeside

<https://www.VisitPinetoplakeside.com>

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/>

Wednesday Hike Schedule — Up The Hill Gang

By Susan High

- Sept. 7 Billy Creek and section of Blue Ridge Loop - 5 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet at 6:45AM. *GDE. **Rideshare \$3
- Sept. 14 Country Club Trail and Pat Mullins Vista (Vista optional) - 4.5 miles. Difficulty 2.0. Meet at 6:45AM. *GDE. **Rideshare \$2
- Sept. 21 Escudilla Wilderness (Nutrioso area) - 7 miles. Difficulty 3.0. Meet at 6:45AM. *GDE. **Rideshare \$5
- Sept. 28 End of Year Potluck and hike at Woodland Lake - 5 miles. Difficulty 1.5. Meet at Woodland Lake Park. Bring a dish to share.

*Golden Dragon Express, in the Pinetop Safeway Parking lot, 20 W. White Mountain Blvd.

**Suggested donation amount for carpool drivers.

Tuesday Hike Schedule — UTHG-Tuesday Trekkers

By Jim Meeker

- Sept. 6 Four Springs Trail No. 652. Easy hike about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure at PM ** Rideshare \$5*
- Sept. 13 Squirrel Spring Trail No. 331 (Riparian trail plus). Easy hike about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure at PM**. Rideshare \$5*
- Sept. 20 Railroad Grade Trail No. 601 from F.R. 87 Crossing. Easy hike about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure PM** Rideshare \$5*
- Sept. 27 South Fork Trail No. 97. Easy hike about 3 miles. Meet 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 a.m. departure at PM** Rideshare \$5*

*Suggested donation for carpool drivers.

**Parking lot south of Pinetop McDonalds 🚲

Notes on hiking: Hiking distances are approximate, and the difficulty rating is subjective. Please know your limitations, and bring extra water, snacks, and other supplies as needed for your safety and enjoyment. In compliance with ASNF policy, dogs are allowed as long as they remain leashed. Leashes must be 6 feet or shorter, and hikers with dogs will be asked to walk at the back of the group to avoid tripping and other hazards. Please put your phone in "silent" mode prior to the hike. For maps, newsletters and additional information, please see the Tracks website: <https://trackswhitemountains.org/> 🚲



APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST Lakeside Ranger District News

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

The forest is still receiving heavy widespread rains and diverting surface water off the trails is a priority. Since running water erodes tread and support structures and damages trail tread, it is a good idea to design and maintain trails to keep water off the trail to prevent erosion damage and widening trails. To drain water off existing trails where grade reversals are not an option, installing a *knick* in an existing trail is an effective outsloped drain. Getting water off the trail takes more than digging a drainage ditch. A better way to address puddles that form in flat areas on existing trails is a knick. A knick is a shaved down semicircle about 10 feet long that is outsloped about 15% in the center. Knicks are smooth and subtle and should be unnoticeable to users. For a knick to be effective, the trail tread must have lower ground next to it so the water has a place to drain. If terrain prevents such outsloping, the next best solution is to cut a *puddle drain*, which will be addressed next time. Stay tuned for more on diverting water from trails. Enjoy the rain and keep watching out for lightning! Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Fire Management webpage <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf> and <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/asnf/fire>. 🌧️

MESSAGE FROM NICK LUND

Each year we ask members to donate to TRACKS to help defray costs of trail maintenance and other organizational expenses, like liability insurance. TRACKS is a non-profit 501.C.3 organization, so your donation is tax deductible. We hope you enjoy being a member and using the White Mountains Trail System. Please donate by mailing a check for TRACKS, Pinetop-Lakeside Public Works Building, 958 S Woodland Road, Lakeside AZ 85929 or by using PayPal on the TRACKS website. The check method works best, as no fee is charged by PayPal. Thank you in advance.

END OF SEASON POTLUCK

The Up The Hill Gang always has a potluck after the last Wednesday hike of the season; this year it is September 28. All Up the Hill Gang including Tuesday Trekkers and Wednesday Hikers are invited, as well as anyone who has worked on the trail crew this season. Meet at Woodland Lake Park at 9:00 am, if you would like to hike first. The potluck is at the big ramada #2 starting at 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and BYOB. Plates, utensils, napkins will be provided.

MESSAGE FROM ARLENE NELSON

Saturday, September 24th is the Fall Festival Parade! TRACKS has participated for 3 years and even won first place once!! The theme this year is "Over the Mountains and Thru the Woods". Planning for this event takes all of your great ideas! Please call or text Arlene at 928-242-4639 with your brainstorms! We need music, artwork, etc. Let's get creative and have some fun representing our amazing organization! 🌧️



TRACKS MONTHLY SCHEDULE – September

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew: No official schedule. Work will be done depending on weather and trail needs.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails <i>Weather permitting</i>	To volunteer, visit our website www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe , and tick the checkbox for Trail Crew, or email Nick Lund at: nplundaz@gmail.com . See page one of newsletter for information about Trail Crew news.
Biking: Tuesday through Saturday.	Biking <i>Weather permitting</i>	To receive biking information visit www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Biking or email Nick Lund at nplundaz@gmail.com . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
UP THE HILL GANG Sept 7 Billy Creek Sept 14 Country Club Sept 21 Escudilla Sept 28 Woodland Lake with potluck	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers hiking: <i>Weather permitting</i> See page two for specific hiking schedule information.	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 .
TUESDAY TREKKERS Sept 6 Four Springs Sept 13 Squirrel Trail Sept 20 Railroad Grade Sept 27 South Fork		To receive UTHG & TUESDAY TREKKERS information visit www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe and tick the checkbox for Hiking or email Jim Meeker at jmeeker@azsunshine.us .
BOARD MEETING: Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00 September 8	TRACKS Board Meeting Members and visitors welcome	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
GENERAL MEETING Second Saturday of the month September 10 8:00 am	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	This potluck meeting only held at the smaller Ramada at Woodland Lake nearer the restrooms. Limited seating; bring a chair.

SUPPORT TRACKS: Use smile.amazon.com to select a charity of your choice (hopefully TRACKS) and the Amazon Foundation sends a donation to that charity that is a percentage of each of your purchases. Use the same username and password as you do on Amazon.



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