

**TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)** *By Jerry Good*

Time has gone by fast this year with many changes to TRACKS. One thing that has stayed constant is all the good work of this trail crew.



*Getting ready for TWM, wearing past years' volunteer shirts!*

*Are they hikers or trail workers?*

They have risen to any task and have excelled. We still have a few months to work with much to do. The bike race is coming up soon and we will be ready. Anyone who would like to help is welcome to join us every Monday morning through October. 🇺🇸



*Jerry and his rocks!!*

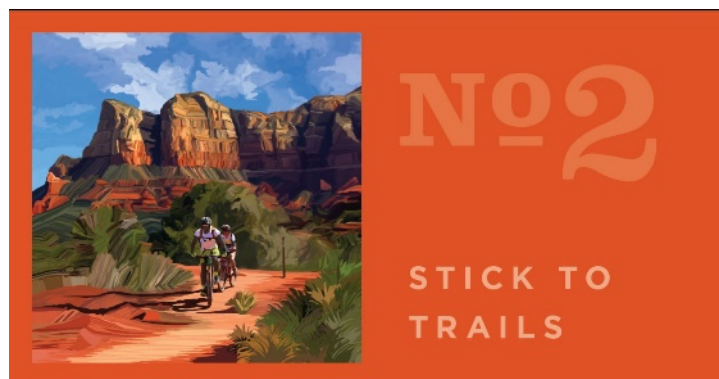
**TOUR OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS** *By Nate Kear*

**WE NEED YOU!!** to volunteer for the **Tour of the White Mountains Bike Race** coming up the first weekend of October. We still need volunteers to help with packet pickup on **Friday afternoon Oct 6** at **PLAC&S** (Pinetop Lakes Equestrian Center). This is a great opportunity to be involved with the event if you're not available on race day. There are also several spots open on race day **Saturday Oct 7** at aid stations or to help guide riders at turns and road crossings. The Tour is TRACKS' largest volunteer and fund-raising event of the year, and it doesn't happen without your support.

Click this link to volunteer:

<https://signup.com/go/MdPwJfx>. If you have any questions or issues with the signup process, please let me know at [natekear@gmail.com](mailto:natekear@gmail.com). Thanks, and I hope to see you event weekend. 🇺🇸

**LEAVE NO TRACE, Principle #2**



In June, TRACKS and our White Mountain Tail System were the Spotlight Event for Leave No Trace to give presentations about environmental ideas and conservation practices. To continue giving this information to TRACKS members we are reviewing the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace in each of the next newsletters.

**Principle 2: TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES**

- Durable surfaces include established and maintained trails and designated campsites; on rock, gravel, sand, dry grasses and even snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

**In popular areas:**

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

**In pristine areas:**

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

For more information, go to: [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org) 🇺🇸

**TRACKS BIKING** By Nick Lund



*Great mountain biking memories!*



It's been a great season as seen from these pictures! Mountain bikers ride every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, as long as the weather permits! If interested, contact Nick at [nplundaz@gmail.com](mailto:nplundaz@gmail.com).

*And they even enjoy a potluck!*

**NEW AT TRACKS** By Steve Dobbs

TRACKS has always been diligent about maintaining their trails, and now you can help! We are implementing a new email address that will help us when there are issues on the trail such as washouts or downed trees across the trail. The email is [Report@TracksWhiteMountains.org](mailto:Report@TracksWhiteMountains.org). When you send us a message, let us know the location by using the numbered white diamonds every ¼ mile. For example, if there is a tree down, you could say that you spotted a small tree across the trail between C10 and C11.

TRACKS is also exploring the idea of starting a *Closed Group* on Facebook with a focus on our trail system. The benefit of the closed group is to see pictures and information about trail conditions while keeping out trolls and bad behavior. A person would send a message to the admin of the group who would check the group roster to see if that person is a member before admitting them to the group. No one on the board is very experienced with Facebook. We are looking for two things: is this a good idea and do we have a couple of people that would agree to be the admin for this group? You can reach me at [TRACKS.Steven@gmail.com](mailto:TRACKS.Steven@gmail.com).

In addition, TRACKS has added a calendar of our activities and events on our website at: <https://trackswhitemountains.org/calendar>. We are revamping the website, please check it out. It's a work in

progress, so if you have any ideas and suggestions, please let Cathy Purvis know at [cpurvis25@gmail.com](mailto:cpurvis25@gmail.com) !

**SAVE THE DATE!**

TRACKS will be participating again in the **Fall Festival and Parade** the weekend of September 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in helping us "man" our booth at the Fall Artisan Festival at Charlie Clark's Orchard, please contact Lynn Krigbaum at: [gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:gemma.krigbaum@yahoo.com). We also need volunteers to walk in the Parade and pass out Trail Maps on Saturday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact Arlene Nelson at: [bluesisterbob5@gmail.com](mailto:bluesisterbob5@gmail.com), if you are interested.

**WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER (WMNC)**

The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 AM – 3 PM each week and holds special programs throughout the summer.

September 9 at 6 PM – E-Bikes Joya Szalwinski, USFS-Lakeside

September 23, 8 – 10 AM, Cowboy Breakfast



*Note: All events are held at the Nature Center on South Woodland Road. Please contact the WMNC to confirm events.*

The Nature Center in collaboration with Land On Sky Wildlife Experiences is bringing a world-class free-flight Raptor Show to the White Mountains. Daily training exhibitions from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM are free to the public.

The WMNC is a non-profit organization and donations are always gratefully accepted. Please visit our website [www.wmnature.org/](http://www.wmnature.org/) or [www.facebook.com/wmnature](http://www.facebook.com/wmnature)

If you are interested in volunteering at WMNC, please contact us at: 928-358-3069 or [whitemountainnaturecenter@gmail.com](mailto:whitemountainnaturecenter@gmail.com). !

**UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)**

*By Susan High*



*Group of hikers at Indian Springs*

The White Mountain TRACKS Up the Hill Gang invites you to join our Wednesday morning summer 2023 hikes! Meet at W-Z Ramen-Hibachi Kitchen, 44 E White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop at 6:45 AM unless otherwise indicated.

**Sept. 6: Billy Creek** and section of **Blue Ridge**, 5 miles. Difficulty rating 2.5. Suggested ride-share donation is \$2.

**Sept. 13: Sipes White Mtn. Wildlife Area** (Springerville area), 5 miles. Difficulty rating 2. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5. Stop for lunch on the way back to Pinetop.

**Sept. 20: General Crook Trail** (from Lewis Campground), 5 miles. Difficulty rating 2. Meet in Arby's parking lot, 680 W. Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, at 6:45 AM. Suggested ride-share donation is \$5.

**Sept. 27: Woodland Lake hike**, 5 miles. Difficulty rating 1.5. Meet at large ramada at Woodland Lake at 9:00AM.

**End of Year Potluck** after the hike. Please bring a dish to share. Outlets are available to plug in warming dishes. Kay will stay at the ramada during the hike. 🇺🇸

**TUESDAY TREKKERS**

*By Jim Meeker*

Meet 7:45 AM for 8:00 AM departure on the south side of Pinetop McDonald's unless otherwise indicated.

**Sept 5: Four Springs Trail No 652.** Easy hike about 3 miles. Suggested ride-share donation \$5.00.

**Sept. 12: Squirrel Spring Trail No. 331 (Riparian trail plus).** Easy hike about 3 miles. Suggested ride-share donation \$5.00.

**Sept. 19: Railroad Grade Trail No. 601 from F.R. 87 Crossing.** Easy hike about 3 miles. Suggested ride-share donation \$5.00.

**Sept. 26: Panorama Trail No. 635.** Easy hike about 3 miles. Suggested ride share donation \$2.00. 🇺🇸

**SUMMER HIKES** *By Kay Alderton and Cathy Purvis*

What a season this has been for hiking in our beautiful White Mountains. This past July/August, the hikes have been free of mud and mosquitos due to our late monsoon. Plus, nice cloud cover kept the temperatures comfortable. **Up The Hill** hikes have been averaging 10-12 hikers which is manageable on the Wilderness Trails. On the Greer hike, the wildflowers were in full bloom with magnificent colors. We've seen Scarlet Cinquefoil, Blue Flax, Wild Bergamot, False Hellebore just to name a few. The wild raspberries and gooseberries have been a nice snack as we hiked along the trails. During a hike on the Indian Springs Trail, near Big Lake, we didn't see many flowers but did see horned lizards, an Arizona Tree Frog, a hawk, and a group of wild horses. Surprising we haven't seen many mushrooms. More the reason to join us in September!



*Our thanks to Joanie Porterie for her amazing photos!*

**A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER** *By Cathy Purvis*



*What an awesome crowd we had!*



*Four of the five past presidents (sorry Jim!) who attended*

We used the August General Meeting to celebrate the history and people who started TRACKS in 1991. More than 80 members attended—our all-time high for attendance!

Five past presidents joined us: #1 Bev Garcia; #2 Lynda Klingler; #5 Doug Brown, #6/8 Nick Lund and #7 Jim Snitzer. We presented each one with a wood disc plaque and our appreciation for all they did—especially Bev, who had the foresight to establish and maintain trails back in the late 1980s.

The Handorfs sent a beautiful arrangement of red and yellow roses with a note saying, “GO TRACKS.” Jerry Handorf was our first trail boss, and he developed the original design for our network of interconnecting trails.

Nick Lund did a wonderful job as the MC and honoree as our #6 and #8. He first led the group in a moment of silence in remembrance of those TRACKS members who have passed. TRACKS and the Nature Center have a

Memorial Arboretum behind the Nature Center with a kiosk where their names have been added.

Nick recognized Charter Member, Mark Chilton, who gave a very nice overview of the early years working on the trails. He recognized the hard workers with the Pi-Square pin and told of how the White Mountain Trail System was awarded #3 Trail Town USA by the American Hiking Society. Nick also recognized members who were involved in the early years: Mary Ellen Bittorf, Pat Calkins, Ed Collins, Warren Goff, Lorraine Harmon, Allana Jackson, Dave Maio (deceased), Ron Major (our 3rd president and is deceased), Kathryn Melsted, Lorna McNeill-Cox, Sharon Narus, Linda Pearse, Mike Pearse, Bob Pena (deceased), Sherrill Sigmen (deceased), John Vuolo, Sylvia Weber, and Liz Wise (deceased). Jim Snitzer presented Nick with his plaque showing President #6 on one side, and President #8 on the other side.

Jim had seven pages of notes of all Nick’s accomplishments during his 16 years as president. We also used the opportunity to recognize other TRACKS members who have worked hard through the years on the Board and on various activities, such as Betty Zink, our former webmaster; outgoing treasurer Dave McCullough; and Jan Newton, former treasurer and currently our Highway Cleanup coordinator. We know there are many more members who have contributed their time, energy and ideas. Everyone’s work is much appreciated!

Those attending enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Definitely a good time was had by all! I personally felt honored to meet Bev Garcia and to talk to Jerry Handorf on the phone. Their vision and that of others who were not able to attend resulted in TRACKS and the White Mountain Trail System being recognized as world class! 🎉



*Jim Snitzer (president #7) honoring Nick on all his TRACKS achievements*



*Our thanks to Mary Freemon who made the delicious celebration cake, and to the Handorfs for sending such beautiful flowers!*

Did you see the article in the local paper about our event?  
To view it, go to:

[https://www.wmicentral.com/news/tracks-heralds-history-looks-ahead-to-the-future/article\\_12f48afa-1b6c-5b23-9194-3994a7460309.html](https://www.wmicentral.com/news/tracks-heralds-history-looks-ahead-to-the-future/article_12f48afa-1b6c-5b23-9194-3994a7460309.html)

### White Mountain Happenings

- Sept 2 Taylor Sweet Corn Festival
  - Sept 2 Show Low Battle of the Bands & Vans
  - Sept 6 White Mountain Audubon Meeting
  - Sept 8 Arts Alliance Annual Fall Show
  - Sept 10 Darrin Reed Memorial Golf Tournament
  - Sept 16 White Mtn Sustainable Living Expo
  - Sept 22-23 – Fall Artisan Festival and Parade
- 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:** <https://www.VisitPinetoplakeside.com>

**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/>

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

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

**TRACKS SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew: Work is ongoing. Join us at 7:30 on Mondays.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails <i>Weather permitting</i>	To volunteer, visit our website <a href="http://www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe</a> , and tick the checkbox for Trail Crew. See page one of newsletter for information about Trail Crew news.
Biking: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.	Biking <i>Weather permitting</i>	To receive biking information visit <a href="http://www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe</a> and tick the checkbox for Biking or email Nick Lund at <a href="mailto:nplundaz@gmail.com">nplundaz@gmail.com</a> . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UP THE HILL GANG</b></p> <p>Sept 6 Billy Creek            Sept 13 Sipes White Mtn Wildlife Area            Sept 20 General Crook Trail            Sept 27 Woodland Lake &amp; potluck  <b>TUESDAY TREKKERS</b>            Sept 5 Four Springs Trail # 652            Sept 12 Squirrel Spring Trail #331            Sept 19 Railroad Grade Trail #601            Sept 26 Panorama Trail #635</p>	<p>Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers hiking:  <i>Weather permitting</i>            See page three for specific hiking schedule information.</p>	<p>To get UTHG WEDNESDAY information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Susan High at <a href="mailto:shigh118@gmail.com">shigh118@gmail.com</a>.            For maps, newsletters and additional information, please see the Tracks website: <a href="https://trackswitemountains.org/">https://trackswitemountains.org/</a>            To receive TUESDAY TREKKERS information visit <a href="http://www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe</a> and tick the checkbox for Hiking or email Jim Meeker at <a href="mailto:jmeeker@azsunshine.us">jmeeker@azsunshine.us</a>.</p>
<b>BOARD MEETING:</b> Thursdays before the General Meeting at 1:00 PM September 7	<b>TRACKS Board Meeting</b> Members and visitors welcome	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Rd, Lakeside
<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> Second Saturday of the month at 8 AM September 9	<b>TRACKS General Meeting</b> (visitors welcome)	<b>Last of our Summer Potluck meetings!</b> Please join us at 8 AM at the big Ramada at Woodland Lake. We will resume meeting at Darbi’s in October.



958 S. Woodland Road  
Lakeside, AZ 85929  
[www.trackswitemountains.org](http://www.trackswitemountains.org)