

**Minutes of TRACKS General Meeting August 12, 2023
at Woodland Lake Park, Pinetop, AZ85935**

- 1) Meeting called to order by Steve Dobbs at 8:05AM.
- 2) Guests and new members – Steve asked guests to stand for recognition and there were many. Approximately 80 people attended.
- 3) Minutes of previous meeting were distributed and reviewed. Motion by Jerry Good to approve and seconded by Ron Miller. All in favor.
- 4) Guest speaker, Josh Miller, from the Forest Service spoke about wildfires, which have become a crisis in AZ. Methods to control include prescribed burning, thinning and restoration projects set up into next 5 years. A question-and-answer session ensued. Joya Szalwinski and Jevon from Lakeside FS District were recognized. Joya is Recreation Staff officer at Lakeside.
- 5) Nick Lund spoke and told the group that today was a special day to celebrate charter members, previous Presidents/leaders. Nick spoke of the past Presidents and old members that are still alive, as well as their family members. He quoted messages of these members. Nick spoke of the special memorial at the Nature Center. A kiosk holds plaques of those who have passed away and there are trees planted there. He spoke of all the contributions to TRACKS of past Presidents. Bev Garcia, the First President, Lynda Klingler, Ron Major, Mark Ginsberg, Doug Brown and Nick Lund. Also Jim Snitzer was an interim President and now Steve Dobbs. Jim Snitzer spoke of our trail system of the White Mountains that has received State and National recognition. He also spoke of the coded system on the diamonds on the trees that have facilitated past rescues.
1. Mark Chilton, one of the original trail bosses, commented on the energy and determination that was required for the beginning of the trail system. Each trail had its own boss back at the start. Nick also gave special recognition to Lorna McNeil Cox, recently retired from the Forest Service. Nick also spoke of Pat Calkins who initiated the Up The Hill Gang hikes for Wednesdays. Ed Collins, past Lakeside District Ranger, Sylvia Weber of the White Mtn. Horse Assn., who also helped develop the first trails. Other names recognized were Bob Pena, Kathryn Melsted and Lorraine Harmon. Wooden engraved plaques from juniper, made by Jim Snitzer, were given to all those named. Mark Chilton also stated that the White Mtn. Trails were the first to be developed in the continental U. S. Nick told members that Jerry and Ginny Handorf were not able to attend and sent flowers for the event. Nick also lauded Dave McCullough for his long-time service as Treasurer and introduced the new replacement, Garth Orkney.
- 6) Announcements
 - a) Steve told the membership that we are a month away from full installation of the Ramp Gates.
 - b) End of season potluck on 9/27 at Woodland Lake Park, Ramada 2 at 9AM. First is a hike and the potluck commences at 11AM.
- 7) Next General TRACKS meeting is September 9th at 8AM at WLP, Ramada 2.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20AM

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Secretary/Board Member