



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Steve Dobbs, President

Recently I went before the Town Council of Pinetop-Lakeside and the City of Show Low and updated them on what our organization is doing. The following is a short summary of my remarks.

Our trail crew logged 3,200 hours in maintaining trails in our system. Our volunteers assisted with two mountain bike races and over 9,000 hours of community service. Last year, we built the Lumberjack Trail, our first new trail in many years. We also constructed two short trails from the Mountain Meadows complex in Pinetop-Lakeside.

Our plans include beginning construction on the Buena Vista Trail System this year. We have proposed a re-route of the middle section of Chipmunk Connector, re-route of “Collarbone” on Los Burros, and the Show Low North Bike Course and continue to wait for USFS approval. With the help of the City of Show Low, we commissioned Big Loop Trails to design a new Los Caballos Trail. This will increase the trail length to 21.7 miles, look to limit grades to 5%, add a second trailhead, and feature several shorter 3–6-mile loops. We are in the very beginning stages of this project.

We can all be very proud of what TRACKS has accomplished, none of which would not have occurred without our amazing members and volunteers.

DAVE KRIGBAUM – THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!



Dave was an active member of TRACKS for many years. At age 92, we lost Dave in March. His name will be added to our Memorial Kiosk behind the Nature Center and a pinion tree will be planted in his memory at the Nature Center at a later date. Our condolences go out to the family, and particularly, Lynn Krigbaum, long-time TRACKS member and our Vice President.

Godspeed, Dave!



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PHOTOS for TRACKS

We need your photos! TRACKS is trying to keep its Facebook and Instagram pages more current and interesting. The easiest way to do this is with photos. When you are out in the forest hiking, biking or just enjoying nature and take a picture, please share them with us! You can email them to photosfortracks@gmail.com or text to 928-238-1329. When sending them, let us know the photo location and date(s) as well.



Our next idea is to distribute business cards with our TRACKS photo email address and photo text details. We are at the early stages of this project and will keep you posted. We plan on using our Facebook page to be a more timely source of information for hikes, biking, trail crew, etc. We continue to use MailChimp to send out mass emails for TRACKS' events and news.

TRAIL CREW / MONDAYS

Jerry Good, Trail Crew Coordinator

Trail crew had a nice turnout on our first day and were able to accomplish quite a bit. We were joined by Mia Larson, USFS. She was a great help and provided great advice. We are hoping more members will join us each week as they return to the Mountain for the summer.

To receive the detailed emails for our meeting times, please be sure to include "trail crew" on the membership form (for new members) or, for existing members, email info@trackswitemountains.org with your name and ask to be included in the "Trail Crew" emails.

We expect to have a very successful season. Thanks for all the great work and all the GREAT trail crew members!! See you Monday morning!

TRAIL CREW / SATURDAYS

Garth Orkney, Trail Crew Coordinator

We opened a second trail crew team for Saturdays! Since we remain under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, a primary motivation for the Saturday crew was concern over the forest closing early this year and an effort to get more work done as soon as we can. We are also hoping that anyone able will participate in BOTH Monday and Saturday; Monday remains the primary session.



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If you wish to participate on the Saturday Trail Crew, you must receive the detailed emails for our meeting times and worksites. Please be sure to include "trail crew" on the membership form (for new members) or email info@trackswitemountains.org with your name and ask to be included in the "Trail Crew" emails for existing members.

TRAIL STEWARDS

Ron Miller, Trail Steward Coordinator

We are still looking for more Trail Steward volunteers to cover a couple of trails currently lacking anyone! Please email me at "tracks_ts@yahoo.com" if you are interested in a great volunteer position! We are especially looking for folks who are very familiar with specific trails or live in the trail vicinity.



Photo from Land of the Pioneers Trail short loop.

Trail Stewards hike their respective trails several times a year to inspect trail conditions and clean up any trash or downed limbs, small logs or improve drainage ditches. They also make sure that junctions are well signed, or rock cairns are placed to help ensure that people don't get lost while enjoying the trail. As they are walking their trails, they take notice if trail diamonds need to be replaced or added. If additional work is needed that a Steward cannot handle, we reach out to Jerry Good and the Trail Crew to schedule a time for the trail crew to work on a particular trail. By staying on top of trail issues we can keep trails safe and available for the hiking public.

HIKE: TUESDAY TREKKERS

Heather Steiner, Coordinator

We are getting ready for another late spring and summer of low impact hiking! *Tuesday Trekkers – Together Everyone Achieves More!* Hikes will be similar as in the past. Sincere kudos to our esteemed Ed Gorny who will be taking my place as hike leader. Ed needs us to pitch in to help lead some hikes as well. If you are interested, let Ed know. Contact Ed at ejgorny@gmail.com or 480-789-9332. I'll still be coordinating the hike routes; however, if you are interested in heading up this group, please let Ed or I know.



Please send an email to steinerhm@aol.com no later than Monday, MAY 5th validating your plan to join us on Tuesdays. Responding with a simple "yes" and your name will do. It would be cool if everyone sends a "yes"!!



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HIKE: UP THE HILL GANG

Kay Alderton, Coordinator

Our Wednesday hiking group is kicking into high gear. Below are the May hikes, as listed in the April newsletter, as well as the first June hike.

- May 7 Springs Trail Leader: Kay Alderton
 - 3.5 miles / Easy
 - 7:45 am meet at China Express
 - 8:00 am departure
 - Ride share \$2

- May 14 Country Club & Pat Mullin Scenic Vista Leader: Kay Alderton
 - 4.5 miles / Moderate
 - 7:45 am meet at China Express @ 7:45 am
 - 8:00 am departure
 - Ride share \$2

- May 21 Show Low Bluff Leader: Ron Miller
 - 3.0-mile loop / Moderate
 - 7:45 am meet at Show Low Bluff parking lot by the barn.
 - 8:00 am hike begins

- May 28 Buena Vista Leader: Kat Westberg
 - 5.0 miles / Moderate
 - 7:45 am Meet at the trailhead (take 60 to FR 300, turn left)
 - 8:00 am departure

- Jun 4 Four Springs Leader: Denny Humphrey
 - 6.0 miles / Moderate
 - 6:45 am meet at Social Security Office, 2500 E Cooley, Show Low
 - 7:00 am departure
 - Ride share: \$5

Please meet the hike leader at the meet location as not all hikes begin at trailheads. Participants drive to the hike start location either through rideshare or in their own vehicle. If you wish to rideshare, the suggested rideshare donation is listed above. Any questions, please contact Kay Alderton at 928-367-7003.



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MOUNTAIN BIKE

Kelly Milligan, Mtn Bike Coordinator



For anyone new to the group please know that helmets are required and bring plenty of fluids. Rides can range from 15 to 25 miles; regrouping often so that no one is left behind.

The **first scheduled ride of 2025** will be **Thursday, May 1st** ! Don't miss our first ride of the summer! All rides begin at 9:00 am sharp! If you're late you will be left behind.

Ride start locations:

Tues: Fire Escape/East Lane (in Pinetop, intersection of East Ln & Country Club).

Thur: Intersection of Forest Roads 185 and 283.

Sat: Intersection of Forest Roads 183 (Sky Hi Rd) and 7.

If anyone has questions feel free to direct them my way at milligankelly@yahoo.com.

LEWIS CAMPGROUND COLLABORATIVE EVENT

Sara Middleton/Ron Miller

There have been a few updates to this event being held May 17 – 21st, at the Lewis Canyon Campground near Pinedale, AZ. BCHWM is hosting the event, and the USFS is providing the campground free of charge! TRACKS and BCHWM members are invited to camp or come out for daily activities. TRACKS and BCHWM members can reserve a camping space by emailing ladibiker@yahoo.com or redhorses747@yahoo.com with the number of people and size of the camper or tent. If you bring horses, please advise of the number of horses and type of confinement (panels or highline). There's plenty of shade and vault toilets, **but no water**. Leave No Trace Principles will be practiced including proper manure disposal.

Sat, May 17 Noon Campers can start checking in
 4:30 pm Social Hour, bring an appetizer to share.

Sun, May 18 5:30 pm Potluck with entertainment by Cowboy Dave (Dave White).
 For the potluck, please bring a dish as follows based on the first letter of your last name:

A - E: Desserts

F - L: Appetizers

M - R: Main Dish

S - Z: Salads or Sides

BCHWM will provide water and coffee.



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- Mon, May 19** 8:30 am: TRACKS/BCHWM trail crew
General Crook Connector/Juniper Ridge
Trail Crew training as we work on the trails
Training led by USFS & TRACKS
- Tue, May 20** Open Day > Create a personal ride, hike, or hang out!
- Wed, May 21** Campground Clean-up

This is going to be a very fun and productive collaboration, so make your reservations early. Pray for gentle rains leading up to the campout, and sunny days while we're enjoying and caring for our beautiful Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and trails.

CANINE CAMPERS – Bringing Dogs to the National Forest

General Information:

- The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are **dog friendly**.
- Dogs **can** be **off leash** in the forest in some situations, but **must** be **leashed** in developed recreation sites (*Developed recreation site* means an area which has been improved or developed for recreation such as campgrounds, picnic areas, day use areas, trails, parking lots, etc.).
- Dogs must remain under the **owner's control at all times**.
- It is best practice to keep your dogs and other pets inside an enclosed vehicle or in a tent at night.
- You **must** clean up pet waste, no matter where it is.
 - Yes, federal law requires owners to pick up after their dogs. Picking up dog waste is also just a common courtesy. Dog waste can spread disease to wildlife, and it can contaminate water. 36 CFR § 261.11b / 36 CFR § 261.11d
 - Even if your dog poops off trail, the poop can negatively affect the surrounding environment. Most dogs eat nutrient-heavy pet foods and when they leave behind their waste, they are leaving behind nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Excess of these nutrients in many ecosystems create unstable conditions and throw the ecosystem balance out of equilibrium.
 - If you forget a doggy bag, most trailheads have extra doggy bags available for the public, but if there aren't any, you can deposit pet waste in a 6-8" deep hole at least 200 feet (70 big steps) away from any water sources.





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- Do **not** leave a poop bag on the trail to pick up later - they are often forgotten or missed on the way back leaving litter on the trail.

For more information, visit the US Forest Service website at: [Canine Campers-Bringing Dogs to the National Forest](#).

**** Just a reminder, when participating in a TRACKS event, dogs must be leashed at all times.****

WHITE MOUNTAIN HAPPENINGS – SAVE THE DATE

- May 17th Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund’s Taste of the White Mountains**
 10:30 am - 2:00 pm TRACKS Volunteers needed!
 To volunteer contact Kelly Estill at 928-242-0732 or kelly.estill@icloud.com
 Location: Camp Grace
- Jun 7th National Trails Day Celebration/TRACKS**
 8:00 am Big Springs Clean-up Project
 -with Save Our Park and other community members
 4:00 pm Speaker Mary Ellen Bittorf
 4:30 – 7:00 pm TRACKS General Meeting and Potluck
 Location: Ramada #2, Woodland Lake Park

Below are some resources for information in the White Mountains Trail System area:

- White Mountain Nature Center** wmnature.org
- Apache Sitgreaves National Forest** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>
- Leave No Trace** Lnt.org
- Springerville Ranger Distr. Trail Guide**
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5227797.pdf
- Timber Mesa Fire** <https://www.timbermesafire.org/>

** For additional hiking trails (not maintained by TRACKS) please see the *Take a Hike* book available for purchase at the White Mountain Nature Center.



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TRACKS CALENDAR			
GROUP	DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION / DETAILS
TRAIL CREW	Monday & Saturday Mornings 8:00 am	Hard hat & Tools provided. *Please wear good boots, gloves, sunscreen and bring ample water.	Be sure to include "trail crew" on the membership sign up form, or email info@trackswitemountains.org and request an update to your "interests" to include "Trail Crew".
MOUNTAIN BIKE	Beginning Thurs, May 1 st 9:00 am Tues / Thurs / Sat	Rides range from 15 - 25 miles. *HELMETS REQUIRED* * Bring plenty of fluids	Tues: Fire Escape/East Lane (in Pinetop, intersection of East Ln & Country Club). Thur: Intersection of Forest Roads 185 and 283. Sat: Intersection of Forest Roads 183 (Sky Hi Rd) and 7.
HIKE: Up the Hill Gang (Wednesdays)	May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28 Jun 4	Springs Trail Country Club/Pat Mullin Show Low Bluff Buena Vista Four Springs	3.5 miles / Easy 4.5 miles / Moderate 3.0 miles / Moderate 5.0 miles / Moderate 6.0 miles / Moderate
BOARD MEETING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 8 Jun 5 	1:00 pm Thursday prior to the Saturday General Meeting	Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall 325 W White Mountain Blvd, Lakeside
GENERAL MEETING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 10 Jun 7 	8:00 am second Saturday of the month Visitors welcome	May -Sal & Teresa's Mexican Restaurant Jun - Woodland Lake Park, Ramada #2, 4-7 pm