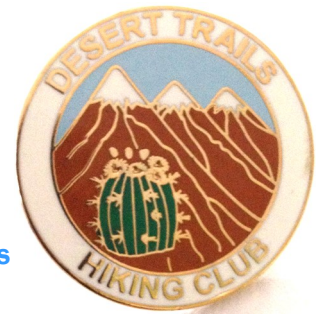


Newsletter

Providing members a variety of hiking, social and stewardship opportunities



December 2015



Welcome Back

..... to a new season of hiking, socializing and trail stewardship for the
Desert Trails Hiking Club.



On August 25, 2015, we lost a very special friend and hiker, Justine Hill. Her upbeat, enthusiastic attitude was infectious. While growing up in the east, she later traveled the world as a photographer, and journalist and reported on her adventures in nature at various venues. She spent twenty years in the LA and desert areas, and hiking became paramount in her life. Over the years while in Palm Springs, Justine used her wide travel knowledge as a guide, based here, while taking tourists to various Western destinations in the US. Many of us in the hiking groups were fortunate to have attended day trips such as the one to the Rose Bowl Parade, which Justine made memorable with videos and lively commentary. Our "end of year" social Dec. 31st was marked by her gift of pink grapefruit with bags provided, to the hikers, from her tree in PS. She also served as an able volunteer with the Agua Caliente Band, assisting them with activities during the year. Justine had three sisters and they had an annual reunion in Boston during Thanksgiving. This year, while marked with the sadness of her passing, a celebration of her life was held. A group sent along messages and flowers to the family as her friends here served as her "family" for a number of years. Justine "marched to her own drummer" and our unique friend will be missed by many –

written by Gayle Connelly

Mary Barlow and Gayle are dedicating their Jan 14 hike to Justine. They would love to have people join them to share stories and remembrances of Justine.



January social is
2nd Tuesday this
year—Jan 12th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

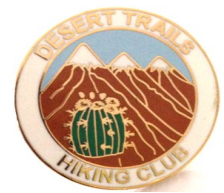
- Socials—1st Tuesday of the month from Oct-April Look for your Evite or check our website.
- Hike for Hope - March 6, 2016
- DTHC Getaway - March 13-17, 2016

Tucson, Arizona

(Check website for Information)



Mike Ovesen is our newest DTHC Coordinating Council member replacing Carl Gorretta as our Hike Leader Co-Ordinator. Mike is originally from Seattle, now residing in Rancho Mirage since 2005. Mike has been leading Desert Trails hikes since 2012. Welcome Mike.



December 2015



On Sunday, March 6, 2016, join us for a fundraising hiking event in one of the most historical and beautiful hiking areas in and around Palm Springs. All levels of hikes are available ~ easy, moderate, strenuous and very strenuous. Hike4Hope is open to all ages supporting the City of Hope's efforts in fighting cancer unique to women.



City of Hope is one of the 25 members of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. That network includes such names as Memorial Sloan Kettering, John Hopkins, M.D. Anderson, Cleveland Clinic and Mayo Clinic. City of Hope is a big league player in cancer research, treatment and education. Your contributions to the Hike4Hope directly support the cause for fighting women's cancers. All of your contributions really count in this worthwhile fundraiser.

These Indian Canyon hiking trails and lush terrain are considered a treasured recreational oasis and part of the centuries old sacred homeland of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Agua Caliente Indians are long term sponsors for this fundraising event opening the trails to Hike4Hope hikers and providing overall emergency and access support.

Desert Trails Hiking Club is also a sponsor of Hike4Hope providing Hike Leaders and Sweeps for the participants for many years. Jonelle Dedrick is again coordinating with the Hike4Hope planners on the role that the Desert Trails volunteers will play this year.

If you are interested in joining us for this event, you need to sign up at the [Hike4Hope website](#). You can participate as part of a team or start your own team, as an individual or as a virtual hiker but you need to contribute. Our website will list the event on Sunday, March 6, 2016, but you need to register online with Hike4Hope.



facebook Like us on Facebook !!!!!



December 2015

Summary of DTHC Coordinating Council Meeting

Dec 2, 2015

Your entire Coordinating Council membership recently gathered at Gary Ward's home for an orderly two hour, 30 minute session to address routine, old and new business of keeping our Club on the trail.

The changing of the guard centered around Carl Gorretta attending his last Council meeting as a member and Mike Oversen stepping forward to assume Carl's seat at the table and role as Hike Leader Coordinator. Thank you, Carl, and Mike for your contributions-past, present and future! The rest of the Council members will serve at least another year.

Our **Treasurer**, Gary Ward, advised us that membership is perking up with the return of the Snowbirds and renewed interest from past members. At the time of the meeting, membership stands at 461 and growing. Financials are in the black providing positive guidance for another year of gifting to local hike-related organizations.

Rich Jarvinen, our **Social Coordinator**, said the December Social at Las Casuelas Terraza gathered about 60 Members. From the perspective of those attending, the non-stop free appetizers were excellent, the liquid refreshments were cold and the company was exceptional. Desert Trails members always have a good time.

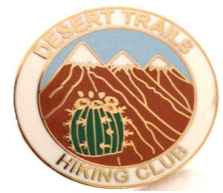
Our **next Social will be held on Tuesday, January 12**. *Evite* will be sent to members with exact time and place a week or so beforehand.

Dave Luckwell, our **Hike Schedule Coordinator**, stated 64 hikes were on the October-December schedule. Hike Leaders are now requested to put their January-March hikes on the Schedule. Learning curve for using the Website Hike Scheduler certainly seems to be history.

2016 Tucson Getaway planning is being done by Carl Gorretta and Jonelle Dedrick. Dates are March 13-17, 2016. Website now reflects how to reserve rooms at the Tucson hotel. More details to follow will be posted on the website. Organized car pooling from our Valley to Tucson is being considered and coordinated by Dee Fox.

Carl Gorretta, retiring **Hike Leader Coordinator**, said he desires to stay involved with the Hike Leaders with special projects but not as a Council member. Current number of Hike Leaders on the roster needs some clarification due to inactivity of some but number is about 26 active Leaders. This season, DTHC Hike Leader training will be done in January with smaller groups at our hands-on workshop.

Cathy Luckwell, **Communications Coordinator**, is methodically updating the 'About Us' section of the Website as well as writing the timely Newsletters. Most recently, the Club History has been the latest revision. Broadening the scope of communications within the Club beyond the Newsletter will become Cathy's focus as Dave McGuire has volunteered to lend a hand at this and future Newsletters.



December 2015



Our Rich Jarvinen, and also President of the **Desert Trails Coalition**, has asked our Council to consider support, in principle, for the CV Link. That support was unanimously approved and a letters of support will be forwarded to the CV Link Group and the Friends of CV Link

Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy is considering development for a new trail, the Indio Hill Trail. Desert Trails Hiking Club Council is considering adopting and providing leadership for that trail, physically creating it and annually maintaining it for use by all Valley hikers in cooperation with the Conservancy. Preliminary discussion is positive.

BLM/Indian Land Exchange decision possible in February 2016

Dave McGuire, Website Coordinator, confirmed his desire to pass the Website torch to Dave Luckwell. Over the summer, McGuire created a How-To Manual for that function and presented it to Luckwell at this meeting. Now all Website functions-general and hike scheduling are the responsibility of one capable guy, Dave Luckwell.

To insure a smooth transition, McGuire will assist and be on-call during the season to Luckwell.

Jack Hope, Workday Coordinator, reported that the next Workday is Tuesday, December 15, at the Coachella Valley Preserve.

Jack is planning a meeting with FODM Gordon Fidler and CVHC Nancy Bone to discuss workday overlap among the groups. Coordination is essential if trail maintenance is to be kept at the high standard we enjoy today.

Role Changes on the Coordinating Council

Carl Gorretta is retiring from the Council but will stay involved with Hike Leaders on Special Projects

Mike Oversen has joined the Council and will assume the Hike Leader Coordinator's role

Rich Jarvinen will remain Social Coordinator but will gain assistance by Jane Udall on site selections

Dave Luckwell will assume the total Website Coordinator's role combining both the general site and the Hike Scheduling

Dave McGuire will remain on the Council and begin writing the seasonal Newsletters

Cathy Luckwell will have more time for marketing and public relations handing off the Newsletter responsibility

Jack and Char Hope will continue their roles for this season but are taking a sabbatical from the Valley next season and traveling. Their roles will likely be absorbed by other Council members during their time away.

Club Bylaws are being rewritten to reflect current practices and will be published on the Website once completed in the next several weeks

Remember to

Continue checking our website for all current and updated DTHC news, especially the **hike schedule. The schedule is updated often, so remember to review frequently.**