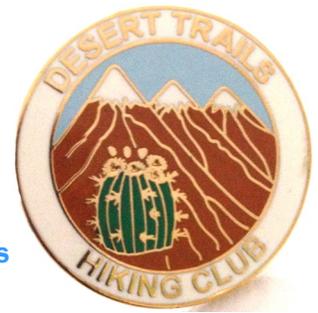


# Newsletter

Providing members a variety of hiking, social and stewardship opportunities



Winter—Jan 2017



## Mark your Calendars

- February 7- Social-Woody's
- **March 5, 2017**- Hike 4 Hope
- **March 7, 2017 - Annual Dinner.** Look for evite
- **March 2017**—Getaway—San Diego County—see DTHC website for details

## Council Members 2016/17

Diane Delong  
Rich Jarvinen  
Cathy Luckwell  
Dave Luckwell  
Dave McGuire  
Mike Ovesen  
Gary Ward

## The Old Art Smith Trail

The Public Use and Trails Plan (Trails Plan) for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, was first approved in 2008, then revised in 2014. It was a negotiated agreement between the wildlife agencies, trail users and other government and conservation organizations.

To protect the endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, the wildlife agencies agreed to reroute the Art Smith Trail rather than close it, as was originally proposed. In exchange, trail user groups, including the Desert Trails Coalition of which Desert Trails Hiking Club is a member, agreed to only use the New Art Smith Trail and other new low elevation trails in the area. However, the Old Art Smit Trail was not physically deconstructed until last month. Over time it had become a problem with large numbers of local and visitor hikers using it and creating short-cuts to it from the New Art Smith Trail. That use jeopardized the agreement with the wildlife agencies to the point that other trails could have been subject to closures if action was not taken.

As a result, the Old Art Smith segment was recently deconstructed to discourage usage and to adhere to the agreed settlement until the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep are down listed or delisted. The timeline for delisting is unknown at this time. When delisting occurs, this segment of the Art Smith Trail will be pursued for reopening.

**Until that time, the Desert Trails Hiking Club Coordinating Council is requesting that all hike leaders and hikers observe this closure of the Old Art Smith Trail and do not use it. It is basically unsafe now to use,** and we not only want to avoid conflicts with the MSHCP (Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan) or the State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife, but **we want to keep our hikers safe.** Please help!

## Farewell Dee Fox

**In October, 2000,** Dee Fox and Ilse Richards decided there was a need for a new hiking club in the growing Coachella Valley. As co-founders of the new Desert Trails Hiking Club, Dee and Ilse recruited a few hardy hike leaders, set up a schedule, advertised the offerings in The Desert Sun, and immediately picked up membership. By January, 2001, the club had 87 members. Several important decisions made early in the club's life, guide it to-day. One is the philosophy that the club is for persons of all walks of life. That means it has low membership dues, and a variety of hikes for persons of all skill levels to enjoy. Another is that camaraderie is an important attribute for the club, and as such, monthly socials were established. A third philosophy is that electronic communication was here to stay and so a major emphasis was placed on using the website and e-mail to stay in touch with the membership. In honor of their work, Dee and Ilse were awarded lifetime memberships in Desert Trails Hiking Club.

***Just a few words to say farewell to Dee Fox who has left the Coachella Valley and has moved to Carlsbad, California. You have left a legacy and it is something you should be most proud of. Thank you Dee. The phrase is simple and the words are few, but behind them is a whole lot of appreciation, and on behalf of the DTHC, we wish you all the best.***



Winter—Jan'17

## Trendsetting..... YES

How does it feel to be a trendsetter?

If you are reading this article, you are interested enough in hiking to explore our website and likely have done some hiking in the past. Desert Trails Hiking Club is based in the Coachella Valley in Southern California. This Valley is one of the world's most interesting and popular hiking areas. You already know that. What got us here?

In the last 50 years, Coachella Valley's popularity increased for many and varied reasons. Some include the Hollywood hideaway for the rich and famous, somewhat affordably priced retirement homes in the desert, the beautiful sunny weather, the openness of all lifestyles choices, the majesty and wonder of the mountains around us, the closeness of diverse and fun activities within a half day's drive and, of course, golf.

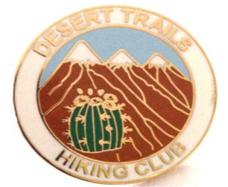
Our Valley has around 140 courses today. Many of us have tried golf with various levels of success and accomplishment. Many of us have managed the emotions with playing golf. Many of us are still struggling with it. The last 15 years has shown a dramatic drop in golf's popularity as a participation sport. This fact is well known by Coachella Valley's municipalities and the owners and managers of the courses. No fear, the Coachella Valley is not going to dry up and go away. Hiking will save the day! This Valley has always had more hiking trails than golf courses. As more trails are created, updated and improved, the destination attraction of the Valley is shifting. Step by step, it is shifting.

In every phase of a Baby Boomer's life, our choices created change. Whatever the trend was, it becomes bigger because of the number of us who participated in it. Now, we are nearing retirement, semi-retired or are fully into this great phase of life. We are generally healthier than our parents by eating better, exercising regularly and spending more time outdoors. Hiking fits that scenario perfectly. We appreciate the environment and know it needs protection. Hikers are stewards of the trails and it shows in our etiquette there. Hiking is the Valley's fastest growing outdoor activity....behind shopping. Some things will never change.

Enjoy hiking regularly with friends and family. Enjoy the lack of stress associated with other outdoor activities. Take pride in your participation in another Baby Boomer phenomenon.

Keep up the good work ~~ Trendsetter!!

“Please email [info@deserttrailscoalition.org](mailto:info@deserttrailscoalition.org) if you have or know who has the logbook from Cowboy Camp on the Guadalupe. There is a request to have it added to a Coachella Valley historical museum.”



Winter-Jan'17

## Summary of DTHC Coordinating Council Meeting January 13, 2017

Your Coordinating Council held its second meeting of the season on January 13, 2017. In attendance were Rich Jarvinen, Cathy Luckwell, Dave Luckwell, Dave McGuire, Mike Ovesen, Gary Ward with Guests Bernard and Herbie Rochet.

Since the last meeting, **Jack and Charlene Hope** notified the Coordinating Council that their future plans will not include the Coachella Valley and are formally resigning from the Council. **Cathy Luckwell** also had informed the Council of her resignation as of the end of the March 2017 meeting.

Dianne Delong joined the Coordinating Council after the last meeting in November.

**Treasurer's/Membership Report:** Gary reviewed financial status as of 12/31/16. Membership at year-end 2016 was 469. Cash flow is positive. Approval of the Financial Report was passed unanimously.

A new format for our financials to reflect budgetary impact for making annual contributions made by the Club is being developed by Rich and Gary.

**Social Report:** Rich and Dianne Delong will work with him on the remaining Socials for this season. Dianne will be the Council's Social Coordinator for the 2017-2018 Season. Rich again thanked his Social Team: Jane Udall, Alta Hester, Helen Mandry and Suzanne Jarvinen for their wonderful planning efforts.

February Social is planned for Tuesday, 2/7/17. The Annual Dinner is considered the March Social [Tuesday-3/7/17] taking place at Cimarron Golf Resort in Cathedral City. There may be a May Social this year. If not, our final Social of the Season will be Tuesday, 4/4/17. Evite invitations will be sent to all Members for upcoming Socials.

**Hike Leaders Report:** Mike is planning a Hike Leaders two hour meeting on Friday, 1/27/17. Once a location is secured, Mike will contact the Hike Leaders and Council members.

Mike confirmed another Hike Leader meeting scheduled for Friday, 2/3/17, with Rich Peregrin discussing trail safety, backpack essentials and handling emergencies. Where and when details will be timely distributed by Mike.

**Workdays Report:** Rich announced that all future workdays for the Club will have more than one week's notice. Desert Trails Hiking Club [DTHC] Workdays be posted in the Hiking Schedule. Primary focus of these special Workdays would be on DTHC specified trails and work dates, and complement the existing trail maintenance schedule of the FODM. Our Club's trail stewardship has been a longstanding tradition and worthy of enhancing.

**2017 Getaway:** We could have as many as 100 people participating during the Julian Getaway. Response to the B&B and the hotel has been brisk with very few rooms still available. Fortunately, Julian is close enough for day hikes from Coachella Valley.

Hikes for the Getaway are being selected based on the desires of the participants. Rich's Getaway Hike team [Rochelle Carlton, Jane Udall, Bernard and Herbie Rochet] will be fine tuning the list to assure we have enough EASY, MODERATE and STRENUOUS hikes for all participants. Rich will be seeking participating volunteers to lead and sweep the hikes.

If you have not completed your Registration Form for the Getaway on our website, please do it now. It will help the planners make your Getaway experience the best it could be.

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**Hike Scheduler and Website Report:** Hike Leaders are encouraged to plan ahead and enter hikes into the Hike Scheduler for the Quarter. Although it is not required like it used to be, it offers all hikers more flexibility. With the change at the Desert Sun on no longer publishing hikes in the paper, our website becomes the primary resource for hiking options.

**Communications Report:** "Trailwork Ahead" signs are now being used for Desert Trails Hiking Club Workdays to alert hikers to the volunteer activity of keeping our trails in top shape. Some of that trail work is the removal of graffiti to keep the trails as natural as possible. This type of sign is being used by Friends of the Desert Mountains [FODM] in their trail maintenance program and generating good response from trail users. Thanks to Gordy for the idea!

Our Club is endorsing a FODM Weed Warrior monthly activity for February, March and April. Since Gary is the Chair of the Weed Warriors, these workdays will be posted in the DTHC Hike Schedule with Gary as the Hike Leader.

**Desert Trails Coalition [DTC] Report:** Rich shared an update on the East Indio Hills Trail. The East Indio Hills Trail is one that the Desert Trails Hiking Club is sponsoring and providing the volunteers to build the trail with FODM participation. Funding is being provided from Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy [CVMC] and the City of Indio. Due to scrambling and steep slopes, the East Indio Hills Trail is a strenuous loop hike of about 7 miles. Elevation gain should be around 1000'. Once trail pads are improved, the hike will be more of a moderate hike.

Once the Green Light is given for initiating the actual trail development, our volunteer effort will begin in full force. Get out your work gloves and join in creating our adopted new trail!

**ONGOING BUSINESS:** February Council meeting to include realignment of Council memberships and roles including adjustments to the Annual Work Plan.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Your Club is sharing sponsorship with Coachella Valley Hiking Club of an upcoming presentation titled 'Cherishing the Big Horned Sheep' at the Palm Springs Library on Tuesday-1/31/17. Read about it in Breaking News.

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, 2/13/17, from 1-3 and Monday, 3/13/17, from 1-3**

**Meeting lasted 2 hours 15 minutes**

### **Reminders**

- ⇒ **DTHC has organized its next trail project starting Friday, 2/10/17. That will be the first of 3 workdays on the new East Indio Hills trail. We'll be working with FODM and other trail user groups to prepare it for public use.**  
**"See the hiking schedule for timing and contact information"**
- ⇒ The DTHC website continues to be updated all the time. Continue checking our website for all current and updated DTHC news, especially the hike schedule. The schedule is an ongoing process that should be reviewed frequently.
- ⇒ Make sure and **DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE** lying around in your car when hiking. It just entices individuals to break into your car.