

The Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 19, Issue 4

February 24, 2006

~ Radisson Fort McDowell Resort & Casino ~

Contemporary elegance and heritage merge at the northeastern side of the Valley to create more than just another Scottsdale hotel. Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Conference Center, Arizona's newest resort, embodies the spirit of the Yavapai people with strong Native American images and an unscathed desert and mountain setting that cannot be found anywhere else in Scottsdale.

A grand lobby greets guests with a stone replica of the Verde River winding from the front doors back to the resort pool. Great effort has been put into creating a sense of the Yavapai culture among the resort's modern design. The windows are offset and spaced unevenly to reflect the weave of a basket, and the building's copper trim, displays the traditional weave of Yavapai-crafted baskets. Throughout the resort and its accompanying conference center, Yavapai symbols showcase the culture of this remarkable Nation.

Join us for a tour through this beautiful new 247 room resort on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and find out more about this newest jewel set in our lush Sonoran Desert.

When: Monday, March 13, 2006

***Where: Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Conference Center
(East on Shea Blvd. through Fountain Hills to Beeline Hgwy, then left
(north) to resort entrance on left (west side of highway before the Casino light).
Phone: 480.836-5300***

***Time: 6:00 P.M. for Reception and Hospitality.
7:00 P.M. Tour and information on the resort.***

Following the program will be short reports from officers and committees of the association.

Please RSVP to Dee Hunt: jazzhunt37@cox.net or 480-429-1747.

President's Notes.....

In Memory of On February 13, I was hired to give a tour of the Wrigley Mansion Club. It was a significant day! Geordie Hormel had just passed away on Sunday, February 12. The group of Valley visitors enjoyed hearing the stories of William Wrigley Jr. and by the time we reached the Colina Room we all sang, "Double your pleasure...Double your fun...Double good...Double good...Doublemint Gum". I found myself being extremely grateful to Jamie and Geordie Hormel for the preservation they have maintained at this National Historic Place since 1992, when it was purchased by them. I'm sure the Arizona Guides Association and Destination Management Companies in the Valley join me in saying, "Goodbye, Geordie, and thank you so very much!"

Betsy Todd, AGA President

Next Board Meeting:

When: March 6, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.

***Where: Kathryn Lee's
11026 E. Poinsettia Drive
Scottsdale, AZ***

In case you missed it...from the Arizona Republic

Hilton re-brands Biltmore The Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa will become part of Hilton's new Waldorf Astoria Collection, a brand designed to extend the cachet of New York's landmark hotel to select properties. The Biltmore is one of three hotels that will launch the brand in February, in addition to the original Waldorf in Manhattan. Hilton Hotels Corp. has agreed to buy the management contracts for the Biltmore, the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa in Maui and La Quinta Resort & Club in La Quinta, Calif., from KSL Resorts for an undisclosed sum. All three properties will keep their names, with a "Waldorf Astoria Collection" tagline. Hilton said it chose the properties for their individuality, historic nature and quality and quality amenities. Sean Maddock, who will remain vice president and general manager of the Biltmore, said the staff is excited to become part of an exclusive brand and a dynamic hotel chain. No material changes have been announced. "As far as we know, it is business as usual," Maddock said. "For generations, the Waldorf name has stood for elegance, sophistication and high-level quality in guest experience, aspects of hospitality that will translate to any environment." KSL sold the three properties, including the Biltmore, in 2004 to Orlando-based CNL Hotels & Resorts, which will continue as the owner. A representative said KSL is selling the management contracts so it can focus on other properties as well as future acquisitions.

Wright trademark re-designed..... In another era, when Frank Lloyd Wright finished a drawing, he would authenticate it with a trademarked red square on which he signed his name. Now the Scottsdale school that bears his name is using the red square - with a twist - to help market itself. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, owner of the school and the square, recently approved a design that features the word Taliesin within the scarlet block, whose official color is "warm red." Since the master architect's death in 1959, the square has been reserved for limited use. When Dean Victor Sidy requested permission to add the name Taliesin to the square, the issue became whether the name of the school would be adequately featured. Famous as the name for Wright's homes in Wisconsin and Scottsdale, which double as the school's campuses, Taliesin is synonymous with the school to many architects, foundation sources say. It means "shining brow" in Welsh, Wright's heritage. The foundation approved making Taliesin more prominent for use in marketing, but the school remains the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture.

State land sale a record..... Two home builders and a mall developer are planning what amounts to a small city on a vast piece of West Valley land used to test cars. As many as 30,000 homes could go up on 5,500 acres of desert that Daimler Chrysler has held as a proving grounds since 1958. The carmaker sold the land for a little more than \$312 million in a deal that ranks as the top land sale in state history. The buyers are builders Toll Bros. and Meritage Homes and mall developer Simon Property Group. They are planning a mixed-used project that would include a variety of housing, employment and shopping. The land is between Arizona 74 and U.S. 60 near the small community of Wittmann on the way to Wickenburg. It still retains the remote characteristics that persuaded the company, then known as Chrysler, to set up shop there, but it is squarely in the path of the growth wave that has transformed the West Valley from a farming hub to one of metropolitan Phoenix's most important housing markets. The land needs water and sewer lines and better roads to handle an influx of residents. The land sale easily beats the previous record of \$250 million paid for a chunk of Estrella Mountain Ranch in Goodyear last year.

Rawhide gives way to homes The 160 acres of Wild West land - where tourists roamed and cowboys fell to their simulated deaths - officially become the grounds of Scottsdale's newest master-planned community. Once the Scottsdale City Council approves zoning changes and drafts a conditional-use permit for a health-care facility, Rawhide will give way to Silverstone. Eventually, the site southeast of Pinnacle Peak and Scottsdale roads will boast 976 housing units, an assisted-care facility that will rise 45 feet, as well as offices and commercial space. City planning officials met numerous times with leaders for the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, and agreed that no permits would be granted until the roads were widened to handle the traffic. Scottsdale Road will carry six lanes of traffic up to Pinnacle Peak by 2010 and Pinnacle Peak will be four lanes by 2008. The developer, RHVT Limited Partnership, also will have to widen Miller and Williams roads to four lanes.

Paradise Valley limits businesses..... In an effort to control traffic, the PV Town Council approved an ordinance that prohibits certain home-based businesses that are disruptive to a neighborhood. The ordinance, which consolidates existing rules and adds new ones, bans the renting or use of residential properties as

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commercial venues for dinners, luncheons, weddings, auctions, sales, or similar events. It is not designed to discourage residents from working at home, but to address residents' complaints about traffic, on-street parking, noise, and other issues.

Scottsdale CVB Tourism Updates....

Meeting Planners Choose Best of the Best..... The January issue of Meetings West magazine includes a list of the best of the best. Annually, the publication asks its readers to provide their input on the industry's premier facilities, service elements and activity options, and presents the results as part of the Planners' Best Bets awards. The 2006 winners included two Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau members – AZA Events won for Best DMC (***Congratulations to our Associate Member!***), Agave The Arizona Spa at The Westin Kierland Resort won for Best Spa. According to the magazine, "Nestled in the heart of the desert, Scottsdale, Ariz.-based AZA Events aims to entertain groups from the beginning of a meeting to the end. From themed events and tours of local attractions such as the Grand Canyon and Sedona to a plethora of team-building options, AZA Events helps to make sure groups ranging in size from 14 to 1,200 people have a great time in the Southwest." Meetings West is a monthly magazine with a circulation of 19,860. It is designed as the national meeting planner's guide to the western United States and coverage includes hospitality and meeting planning news, conference, incentive, and trade show news.

Scottsdale Stadium Renovation Update..... Players and fans returning to Scottsdale Stadium in 2006 will notice some big differences and added amenities. Phase one of the Giants renovation project totaling approximately \$13 million dollars includes a new novelty team store, Giants weight training and treatment building, centerfield entrance next to the court building with a ticket office, novelty store and concession stand, pedestrian bridge between the right and left field berm, Charro pavilion in right field, expanded batting tunnel, full-size practice field and infield to the east of the stadium, more restrooms, better seating in the outfield stands, and improvements to Fields at Indian School Park. Additional maintenance projects and upgrades at the stadium also have included new field lighting, the replacement of 1,300 stadium seats between the dugouts, painting, and improvements to the press box offices and suites. For photos and more information, visit <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/projects/giants/ConstructionPhotos.asp>.

Spring Training Brings \$16 Million to Scottsdale Each Year..... More than 147,000 people attended a spring training game in Scottsdale last year, contributing nearly \$16 million in economic impact to the city. During March of last year, Scottsdale's occupancy was at its highest at 90 percent capacity and an average room rate of \$193. To further promote spring training in Scottsdale, the Scottsdale CVB layers marketing, public relations and sales activities in San Francisco and other spring training team markets. The CVB participated in the Cactus League insert, which promotes spring training throughout Arizona. This section was distributed to 1 million people through major daily newspapers in 11 markets, including Seattle, Oakland, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Diego, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Dallas and Denver. In partnership with other Valley CVBs, the Scottsdale CVB will attend a media mission in San Francisco at the end of this month to meet with key Bay area media. The CVB also sent a spring training e-mail, which typically produces 10 to 15 leads from each market, to 950 meeting and incentive planners in San Francisco and Chicago. Lastly, the CVB will host 10 top travel agents from Southern California, San Francisco, Chicago and Denver to a spring training familiarization tour in March.

Free Horse Drawn Carriage Rides Available in Downtown Scottsdale..... As the tourism season moves into high gear, visitors have a new option for a quick tour of a portion of downtown Scottsdale. Free horse-drawn carriage rides are being offered on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 until 4 p.m. through March. Carriage drivers will pick riders up and drop them off on the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Craftsman Court in downtown Scottsdale. Visitors and residents who take advantage of the free rides can expect a 20-minute ride that takes them through the Fifth Avenue area of downtown. KC's Classic Carriage Co. is providing the service.

Resort Trolley Connects 10 Resorts with Shopping Destinations..... The Scottsdale Resort Trolley is back in service for the second year through April 15, 2006. Trolley service is available Mondays through Saturdays and connects guests from 10 Scottsdale resorts to Scottsdale Fashion Square. From Scottsdale Fashion Square, guests also can hop aboard the Scottsdale Trolley to explore downtown Scottsdale, including a stop at the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau's visitor center at the Galleria Corporate Centre.

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Resorts participating in the trolley service include: Camelback Inn, Chaparral Suites Resort, Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort, Gainey Suites Hotel, Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch, Millennium Resort Scottsdale, The Phoenician, Renaissance Scottsdale Resort, Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain, and Scottsdale Resort & Conference Center. Route schedules can be obtained at any of the participating hotels, at Scottsdale Fashion Square, or from the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Fourth Season of Native Trails Begins..... Scottsdale residents and visitors are invited to come along on a sensory journey to the first nations of Arizona by attending a performance of Native Trails, presented by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and produced by the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. The fourth season of these free festivals celebrates the rich heritage and cultures of Native Americans, showcasing their music, dance, art and traditional foods. Each week, a different tribal nation from Arizona is featured, along with special guests and Saturday culinary and arts demonstrations – such as Cooking with Cactus by Cactus Jack from the Desert Botanical Garden, a Native Hohokam Windtalker presented by David Morris from the Pueblo Grande Museum, and a native ingredients cooking demonstration by Chef Michael Rusconi of Lon's at the Hermosa Inn. The performances will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. on most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays on the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall through April 15. For a complete schedule, including black-out dates and special guests, visit www.CultureQuestScottsdale.com or call 480-421-1004.

The Bigger Picture.....

Ten Trends to Watch in the Year Ahead..... The 2005 year will end on a high note for the travel and tourism industries, according to Yesawich, Pepperdine, Brown & Russell. Travel (both domestic and international), will meet and/or exceed the record levels achieved in 2000. And the outlook for the year ahead remains robust, notwithstanding lingering concerns about the potential impact of terrorism, natural disasters, the escalating cost of fuel, and rising interest rates. Following are trends worth watching as we enter 2006, according to YPB&R:

- Demand for leisure travel services will continue to outpace that for business travel and this gap will grow in 2006.
- More leisure travelers will select cruises and timeshares as alternatives to vacations that include conventional lodging. Activities that promote stress reduction will gain in popularity as one-half of all active leisure travelers now feel they don't have enough vacation time.
- Meetings and conventions will drive the recovery of demand for business travel services.
- Hotels, conference centers, even airline terminals that don't provide high-speed Internet access will rapidly discover the error of their ways as more travelers demand such access, and for free.
- Air travel will remain remarkably affordable due to competition brought about by transparent pricing for undifferentiated brands.
- Lodging rates will continue to escalate as operators capitalize on growing demand. Upscale and luxury operators are likely to be the biggest beneficiaries as consumers indulge once again.
- Travel agents will consolidate and strengthen their position as purveyors of complex and high-risk travel products including cruises, all-inclusive vacations and group tours.
- Although the percentage of travelers who use the Internet to plan some aspect of travel is expected to remain flat, the percentage who makes reservations online will continue to grow.
- Consumers can compare prices for most travel product with just a few clicks. The sale will be determined by the value ascribed to the transaction, which will depend on the clarity of the brands under consideration. (Market Intelligence eNewsletter December 2005)

New Travel Card Planned to Ease Entry Rules..... Bowing to opposition from border communities and from the travel industry, the Bush administration said Jan. 17 that it will not require U.S. citizens who frequently cross between the United States and Canada or Mexico to carry a passport, and will instead issue a more simple "passport card." The compromise was announced as part of a package of revised travel rules. Most of the measures will use new technology to clear some of the travel bottlenecks caused by increased security after Sept. 11. The moves include new video teleconferencing to speed the visa application process,

extending the lengths of foreign-student visas, and establishing a review process for travelers who believe they have been unjustly detained for security screening at border control points. In addition, U.S. citizens who travel over land to and from the United States to Canada and Mexico will not have to carry a passport, a requirement that was set to go into effect by next year. Instead, a less expensive version of the new high-tech passports will be required. As previously announced, the credit card-size People Access Security Service

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(PASS) card will be about half the \$97 cost of a first-time passport and will be compatible with other trusted-traveler programs. (USA Today; Wall Street Journal; Travel Advance, Jan. 18)

News from the Arizona Office of Tourism **(AZOT)**

Special Promotions on Arizona Visitor Web Site..... The Arizona Office of Tourism is promoting the passionate side of Arizona from Jan. 25 – Feb. 28 on www.ArizonaVacationValues.com. Arizona's fine food and wine, world-class accommodations and rejuvenating spas along with our gorgeous sunsets, lush deserts, verdant mountains and starry skies are at the heart of a perfect romantic vacation. Offers could include romantic accommodations packages, tours to romantic areas or a vacation that rekindles romance. Romance offers post under Swoon Under a Romantic Arizona Moon. (An interesting angle on commentary for Guides!)

Valley Places Sixth in Travel Trends Ranking..... Phoenix/Scottsdale ranked sixth most popular destination in the U.S. in a nationwide survey of Carlson Wagonlit Travel owners, manager and frontline guests, according to the Carlson Wagonlit Travel Associates' 2006 Travel Trends Survey. "With its warm, inviting desert climate, the Phoenix/Scottsdale area remains a perennial favorite among Carlson Wagonlit Travel customers, particularly during the long winter months," said Roger E. Block, executive vice president of the Carlson Wagonlit Travel Associate Division. "For the second year in a row, the Phoenix/Scottsdale area ranks as the sixth-most-booked destination our agents are booking. We know that our customers are attracted to the luxurious resorts and spas, exceptional golfing, outstanding recreational activities, world-class shopping, and, of course, the chance to bask in the sunshine." Sharing the sixth-place ranking was Anchorage, Alaska. For more visit: www.carlsontravel.com.

Fairmont Hotel Chain Sold for \$3.3 Billion..... A group of investors has agreed to buy the luxury hotel chain Fairmont Hotels & Resorts for about \$3.3 billion in cash. Including assumed debt, Fairmont said the value of the deal is about \$3.9 billion. Under the deal, a Canadian company owned by Saudi Prince Alwaleed (bin Talal)'s Kingdom Hotels International and Los Angeles-based real-estate investment fund Colony Capital will acquire all of Fairmont's outstanding shares for \$45 each in cash. The Toronto-based Fairmont chain owns and operates 87 hotels with about 34,000 guest rooms in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Bermuda, Barbados, Britain, Monaco, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates. www.ChicagoTribune.com/Business

Downtown Phoenix Hotel Groundbreaking for the new 1,000-room Sheraton hotel in downtown Phoenix will be held in February, with opening for the 31-story building slated for the fall of 2008. The new hotel, located one block from the expanding Phoenix Convention Center, will boast a 29,000 square-foot ballroom, and another half that size, plus 42 meeting rooms for a total of 80,000 square feet of meeting space. The opening of the hotel will coincide with the debut of the completed expansion of the convention center, which will triple in size to more than 900,000 square feet. (www.HotelOnline.com)

2nd Annual Arizona Tourism Unity Dinner Set for March 8..... The Arizona Tourism Unity Dinner is an opportunity for leaders from the tourism industry, business and government to celebrate tourism and honor the contributions of extraordinary Arizonans for their leadership and support of the tourism industry. The event will be held Wednesday, March 8 at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa. A reception and silent auction will start at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and the program beginning at 7:00 p.m. Honorary co-chairs for the event are U.S. Senator John McCain and Governor Janet Napolitano, as well as the Arizona Tourism Alliance Board of Directors. At the event, Doug Parker, president and CEO of US Airways, will be honored as the 2006 Tourism Advocate of the Year. Visit www.aztourismalliance.org to purchase tickets to the event, donate silent auction items or become a sponsor. Proceeds from the silent auction benefit the Arizona Tourism Alliance and will support their legislative affairs efforts, public policy initiatives and other tourism programs and education projects.

National Civic Tourism Conference in Prescott..... The March 2006 conference in Prescott will bring together some of the nation's researchers and practitioners who endorse a place-based approach to tourism and economic development. Joaquin Murrieta-Saldivar of the Sonoran Institute will join Jonathan Tourtellot for a session on "Geotourism." Tourtellot is currently the head of the National Geographic Society Sustainable Destinations program and Murrieta-Saldivar is part of the Arizona-Mexico team working on the Geotourism MapGuide project along the border. The conference already includes registrants from across the country, as well as some international participants. Presenters will discuss Sense of Place, Tourism Management, Tourism Trends and Public Voice. For more information, visit www.civictourism.org.

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Airport News.....

Sky Harbor Airport Check-in to be Easier with New Service..... "A new program for business travelers is being piloted in select airports around the country, and Phoenix Sky Harbor is on the short list of future locations. For an \$80 annual fee, customers can get preferred treatment that includes shorter waiting lines, concierge service, and bypassing pat-downs and other security measures. Called Registered Traveler, the program would be geared toward frequent business travelers who fly once or twice a week, especially to close destinations such as Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas and San Francisco. Customers who sign up for the plan must get background checks administered by the Transportation and Security Administration and submit biometric data before being accepted in the program. Biometrics is the scientific measurement of an individual's physical attributes that focuses on either facial features, voice, fingerprints or eyes. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport officials are drafting a proposal to submit to the Phoenix Aviation Board, which will have to sign off on the program before private sector companies can submit proposals to manage the effort. In July, Orlando International Airport became the first in the country to run the program, and officials there say it's been a huge success. . ." For more information, visit www.bizjournals.com/phoenix.

Phoenix Sky Harbor Sets New Passenger Record for Third Year in a Row..... The 2005 year-end travel numbers for Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport are in. The airport served more than 41.2 million passengers in 2005, setting a record for the third year in a row. This is the first time that Sky Harbor has surpassed the 40 million passenger mark. Spring and summer were the busiest seasons, with March (3.8 million passengers) and July (3.7 million passengers) nearly tied as the busiest months. "Sky Harbor is an integral part of a vibrant economy in the growing Phoenix metropolitan area," said Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon. "As we serve record numbers of passengers, it is important that we continue to upgrade our facilities in order to provide world-class customer service well into the future."

Sky Harbor Rental Car Center Opens..... Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport's new Rental Car Center, located at 1919 E. Sky Harbor Circle South, between 16th and 24th streets, south of Buckeye Road, opened in January. The Rental Car Center will house all of Sky Harbor's rental car operations, a total of 13 companies, under one roof. The rental car counters are located inside of a 125,000-square-foot customer service building that sits on top of a three-level parking garage. The garage can store 5,600 rental cars ready for customer pickup. The 141-acre site also features maintenance and fueling facilities. This facility will provide one-stop shopping for rental car customers at Sky Harbor. Arriving passengers now catch a designated Rental Car Center bus for a five-minute ride to the facility. Customers are dropped off at the customer service level of the building, where rental car counters are located side by side. Customers return their rental cars to the same location. The new Rental Car Center eases congestion on the airport roadways and reduces confusion at the curbs. **(AMEN!)**

Airzona's Future.....

Arizona Fifth Youngest State Based Upon New Census Data

Census Bureau data release on Friday, Jan. 6 indicated that Arizona is ranked as the fifth-youngest state based upon estimates of a state's adult and under-18 populations in 2005. Arizona was ranked No. 10 in the 2000 census in this area. The new estimates show that nearly 1.6 million of Arizona's 5.9 million people are minors. Although Arizona is a popular retirement destination, it's also seeing a steady influx of young families with children. Utah ranked first on the national list with 30.1 percent young people, followed by Alaska, Texas, California and Arizona. Maine was ranked last with only 21 percent.

Congratulations!! to Lynn Merkle on running the Rock and Roll Marathon. She was quoted as saying the day after the race, "I had a good day. Not my best time, but I did manage to finish 400th and something out of all of the women marathoners, and 1600th and something out of all of the marathoners - men, women, Kenyans, Ethiopians, etc. Started running again this morning and felt great!" There were over 34,000 between the marathon and half marathon. The marathon had between 10,000 and 11,000 runners." Lynn has her own computer chip that she attaches to her running shoe after it has been scanned. Then, of course, they scan it after she finishes running to document her time.

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~~~~~ *Are you ready?* ~~~~~

The Guide Certification Test will be given on May 13, 2006. Call Liz Schnackel for info @ 480.641-5457.

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST...**

- Scottsdale is now the first city in the nation to digitally patrol its 7.8 mile stretch of highway from Scottsdale Rd to 90th Street. Cameras now snap photos of cars travelling 11 miles or more over the 65 mile an hour limit. That 3-lane stretch of freeway was averaging one accident a day in 2004. Scottsdale doesn't make a dime. Most of the fee goes to the state. Sensors are built into each lane to record speed. Sensors trigger cameras that flash the front of the car. Then a photo is taken of back of car and second camera takes photo of driver. Tickets arrive about 2 weeks later and average \$157.
- In case you've forgotten what FBR Open stands for, it's an investment company made up of Friedman, Billings and Ramsey.
- Light Rail Transit (LTR) or ValleyMetro Rail....Designed to be a pollution-free public transportation system, the 'LTR' will serve a 20-mile corridor through Phoenix, east to Tempe and Mesa. Construction has already begun in Phoenix and Tempe and the entire route, which will extend to Mesa is expected to be completed sometime in 2008.
- The Cave Creek Town Council activated a federal easement that allows legal access to the 250-acre preserve at the top of the area's landmark mountain, along the alignment of School House Road on the south side of Black Mountain.

**GET OUTDOORS**..... With fine winter weather and hundreds of miles of hiking trails in the Valley, there's no good reason to break your resolution to stay in shape. Here are four less-visited trails. Grills, picnic tables and restrooms are nearby. (John Stanley, Arizona Republic).

Black Rock Trail (Short Loop), White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Waddell. An ideal hike for beginners. It's short and level, and you'll see some petroglyphs. 0.5 mile. \$5 per vehicle park entry fee. (623) 935-2505.

Lousley Hill Trail, McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Fountain Hills. This relatively short loop takes you through a rugged desert landscape as it climbs to a scenic overlook. 1.2 miles. \$5 per vehicle park entry fee. (480) 471-0173.

Go John Trail, Cave Creek Regional Park. An abandoned mine about half a mile from the trailhead adds interest to this wonderfully scenic workout. 4.7-mile loop. \$5 per vehicle park entry fee. (623) 465-0431.

Alta Trail, South Mountain Park. A difficult trail that takes you high across the western end of the park to stunning vistas. 9-mile round trip. Free. (602) 534-6324.

*In Memoriam* .....

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lois Godward and Lynn Merkle on the loss of their husband and father, Bill Godward. Lois and Bob would have celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary this year. Lois was one of the original founders of the Arizona Guides Association, and Lynn has also been a long time guide and association member.*

### ***The Arizona Coach Talker***

*AGA Newsletter*

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**See you at  
Fort McDowell Resort & Casino**

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### ***AROUND ARIZONA.....***

The Bisbee Queen Mine Tour celebrated its 30 year anniversary on Feb. 1st with a ceremony, and a day-long celebration of free tours and re-enactments by students dressed in period costume from the late 19th Century. Bisbee's Queen Mine Tour is one of the state's cultural heritage gems and it's opening in 1976 helped jump start the tourism economy for this community. In March 2005, Bisbee was the first Arizona community to be named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Dozen Distinctive Destinations list. Last year, the City of Bisbee was a recipient of AOT's new Rural Tourism Development grant, which will be used to enhance the changing room of the Queen Mine Tour as well as upgrading the tour area for safety and comfort. In addition, the City of Bisbee was a recipient of TEAM grant funding for FY 06.

***Welcome to our newest member:***

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