

The Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 21, Issue 3

January, 2008

'Safety First'

AGA Meeting ~ January 7, 2008

When: Monday, January 7, 2008

Where: Encore Senior Village ~ 16621 N. 38th Street, Phoenix (map attached)

Time: 6:00 P.M. Hospitality

7:00 P.M. Jennifer Velitchkov, Safety Consultant Manager from the Grand Canyon Chapter American Red Cross. She works with community, organizations and business toward effective, easily communicated Safety Protocols. Jennifer's position includes community education, safety training, keeping up on OSHA Guidelines and Recommendations, and mostly working with individuals toward preparedness and safety.

8:00 P.M. AGA Business Meeting

Please RSVP to Marcia Fisher: marciajean@aol.com or 480.998.2472.

AGA President Notes.....

First and foremost, I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season!

Our next AGA general meeting on January 7th is about health issues and CPR updates. Many large non-profit organizations have a full-time paid leadership. They can spend a lot of time on programs and fund-raising. However, AGA is a part-time voluntary organization with a limited budget and personal time, therefore our programs have limits. I wanted to explore hospitality insurance responsibilities, Arizona hospitals and emergency room procedures, CPR certification, and other health and emergency issues related to our tourism and conference business. This could, at the very least, become a full day seminar, but we will have an abbreviated version.

Now, to follow-up on the November meeting: Within a couple of days after our Airport Intensive, Michael Martinez and Shawna Holton-Burm (Ground Transportation Manager) responded to me with positive e-mails. They went to their supervisors and then walked the terminals, utilizing the information we presented at our general meeting. Shawna wrote: "The questions that were brought up at the recent Arizona Guides meeting were very valuable and we would like to receive them continuously rather than once a year.

Please share the attached comment cards with your association so they know they can provide their comments to us immediately. These comment cards can also be found at all of our airport information counters as well. In addition, our management is interested in the types of comments that come from our stakeholders (internal and external customers). Therefore, submitting suggestions in writing or via e-mail is very beneficial.”

Subsequently, on November 21st, I did a walk through with Carol Davis (Aviation Signage Coordinator, Design and Construction Services) and) Michael. I presented them with photos of old and new signage proposals. We covered a lot of territory. It takes time going through the government entities of policy, design, budget, etc. to result in installation, but I urged them to show some results ASAP. All new signage for the carousels in T4 is in production at this time.

*A prosperous, healthy New Year and best wishes, always,
Howard Christensen*

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

Native American businesses go beyond gaming As a Native American woman who had never thought of owning her own business, Margaret Rodriguez, a member and resident of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, needed a lot of help when she set out to start a construction company 15 years ago. She was allowed to use a tiny "incubator" office at the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development in Mesa for two years while she learned how to get permits and insurance, prepare a business plan, and learn how to market and all the other details it takes to be an entrepreneur. Today, she works out of a 10,000-square-foot building that her company, Au' Authum Ki, built in Chandler six years ago, and her business is worth more than \$20 million. For almost four decades, the center has been working to promote economic development and business ownership among Native Americans. It started in Los Angeles in 1969 as the Urban Indian Development Association, and after several name changes and moves, ended up in its own building in Mesa about 20 years ago. It has helped more than 25,000 companies land more than \$4.5 billion in contracts and now has 11 centers around the country. When it started it received about two-thirds of its funds from the federal government and now only depends on federal funds for half. It has about 1,400 clients representing 80 percent of the tribes in the country. The center has an annual golf tournament and awards banquet but its biggest event is the annual Reservation Economic Summit convention and trade show, which attracts more than 2,500 delegates and families and has outgrown every hotel in Las Vegas. Kenneth Robbins, chief executive officer and president of the center, is from the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.

The center's mission is to be at the forefront of developing Indian economies throughout the United States. Robbins has been with the group 17 years and has seen what a dramatic difference casinos have made to some communities, especially those close to urban areas like the Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. He says that gaming revenues have given integrity back to Indians by making them less dependent on the federal government, and that gaming has been really good for Indian country as far as generating capital, but has always been the biggest stumbling block for economic development. He believes that no nation can survive without the use of its own tax base, and a healthy Indian economy is a lot better neighbor than a stagnant, depleted one.

Update on Scottsdale Fashion Square Demolition machines have torn down the walls and parking structure facing Scottsdale Road to create space for Arizona's first Barneys New York and as many as 30 more retailers and restaurants. The 65,000-square-foot, two-level remodeling and construction of Barneys will cost \$130 million. That's not including space just north of the Barneys New York for a future anchor store and redevelopment of the 2.5 acres occupied by the aging Days Inn motel. In addition to Barneys, plans are underway to remodel the mall's entire 270,000-square-foot east wing, one of the largest redevelopment projects by Westcor, which manages many of the Valley's largest shopping centers. Shoppers can expect a Main Street style with more retail in the mall's east wing facing Camelback Road. For example, space for two restaurants near the soon-to-open Grand Lux restaurant will feature outdoor seating. Already, drivers along Scottsdale Road can see development of a wider pedestrian-friendly walkway, which soon will be dotted with public art. Esthetic touch ups are planned elsewhere throughout the mall. Shoppers may see new stone flooring in the west wing that matches new flooring in the east wing. Scottsdale Fashion Square is Westcor's largest mall in the Phoenix metropolitan area, attracting about 12 million visitors annually. The 2 million-

square-foot mall is the 20th largest in the nation. For years, Scottsdale Fashion Square has been one of the city's largest sources of sales tax revenues. The mall averages \$8 million a year in sales taxes, according to

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Scottsdale. That revenue is expected to increase with the addition of more new stores and restaurants. The mall is poised to serve a growing number of residents moving into new multi-million-dollar, high-rise condominiums in downtown Scottsdale.

\$47 Million 'green' regional bus facility opensThe \$46.8 million center in Tempe, which is owned and operated by Tempe and Scottsdale along with the regional transit agency Valley Metro, opened in October. Buses that serve Tempe, Scottsdale and parts of Phoenix will be parked, serviced, gassed and washed at the 24-acre facility on Rio Salado Parkway west of Priest Drive. Federal funds covered 50 percent of the costs for the new site. The other half came from the Proposition 400 Public Transit Fund, as well as from Tempe and Scottsdale. The new site includes drought-resistant native landscaping, fabric shade canopies, a separator to filter storm water run-off, alternate fuels for buses, evaporative cooling, double-pane/low-emissive glazing glass, decomposed granite parking lot surfaces and recycled content in all carpet, tile, millwork and ceiling finishes. In the center, an example can be seen for homebuilders, businesses and government to follow. Hallman said the site was part of ongoing efforts "to make Tempe environmentally sustainable. The huge bus maintenance bays - there is 74,400 square feet of maintenance space - are well lit during the day even when the lights are off because of skylights that allow natural light into the building. While buses are washed every other day, they are washed with reclaimed water so that even counting evaporation and drip run-off, 80% of the water is recaptured and used again. There are 150 vehicles stored and serviced at the site now, but eventually 250 will be housed there. Vehicles are stored under canopies so they remain cooler and less energy is used to cool them off at the beginning of the day. Evaporative cooling is used throughout the facility to save energy and money, and an under-floor air distribution system reduces energy usage by up to 47 percent. The buses are fueled by liquefied natural gas and compressed natural gas. On some days the emissions coming out of the buses using these fuels will be cleaner than the air outside.

Stone age art Add a little history to your hike at 4 petroglyph parks. Hike around the Valley and sooner or later you'll come across petroglyphs, tantalizing evidence of the prehistoric cultures that once thrived in the region. Those enigmatic symbols come in a variety of forms - stick-figure humanoids (anthropomorphs), animal figures, spirals, zigzags - pecked into boulders and cliff faces all across the Southwest. Maybe they were maps to water sources or particularly good hunting sites. Perhaps they memorialized important events or played a role in religious rituals. No one knows for sure. The Hohokam and other ancient peoples made petroglyphs by using rocks as hammer and chisel to peck designs into desert varnish, a dark patina of iron and manganese oxides that often coats the surfaces of rocks in arid environments. Archaeologists say it's safe to assume that petroglyphs, because of the time and energy required to create them, are far more than simple prehistoric graffiti. Petroglyphs are information they deemed important, a record for future generations, a repository of human cultural expression. But it's important to treat petroglyphs the way you would any other work of art - look but don't touch, as oils from your hands can darken petroglyphs prematurely. There are lots of local places to find petroglyphs. Following, are four of the best known and most accessible.

Deer Valley Rock Art Center

This 47-acre park is home to more than 1,500 petroglyphs on hundreds of boulders. Archaeologists say the petroglyphs were created over the course of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. The most recent ones, they say, were made around 1450. The Center holds one of the largest galleries of petroglyphs in Arizona. Most are about 600 to 1,300 years old, and were made by people of the Archaic, Patayan and Hohokam cultures.

When: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays; noon-5 p.m. Sundays. Closed Mondays. Guided tours 10 a.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. Sundays.

Where: 3711 W. Deer Valley Road. From central Phoenix: Take Interstate 17 north to Exit 215B, then drive west on Deer Valley Road. Bear right about 1.7 miles from I-17 and continue another 0.8 mile to the center.

Trail length: One-quarter mile one way. Difficulty: Easy. The trail is accessible to wheelchairs, walkers or strollers.

Admission: \$5, \$3 for students and age 62 and older, \$2 for ages 6-12.

Details: www.asu.edu/clas/shesc/dvrac or (623) 582-8007.

South Mountain Park

With more than 50 miles of multiuse trails crisscrossing more than 16,000 acres of rugged desert

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beauty, South Mountain Park is one of the great recreational resources of the Valley. And it's chock-full of petroglyphs, with more than 8,000 cataloged. There are more than 8,000 petroglyphs in South Mountain Park. Rangers there say some probably are describing things they actually saw, like tortoises. Others may have been created for ceremonies or for telling the story of an event that happened there. Some may show something seen in a dream. People can enjoy the rock art and make up their own stories as to what they mean.

When: The park is open daily 5 a.m.-10 p.m.

Where: Holbert Trail. From central Phoenix, drive south on Central Avenue. About half a mile beyond Dobbins Road, the road curves west into the park entrance. Shortly beyond the entrance, turn left and drive about half a mile past the South Mountain Environmental Education Center to a large picnic and parking area. The trail heads east.

Trail length: 2 miles one way to Dobbins Lookout. Difficulty: Easy at first, strenuous if you go all the way to the lookout. But nearly all the petroglyphs are within half a mile of the trailhead.

Admission: Free. Details: phoenix.gov/parks/hikesoth.html or (602) 495-0222.

Hieroglyphic Canyon

Native Americans farmed and hunted in the Superstition Mountains for centuries, leaving dozens of scattered village sites, countless potsherds, and, in a few places, petroglyphs. A fairly short hike on the southwestern flanks of the mountains leads to Hieroglyphic Canyon, where you'll find several impressive panels of rock art.

When: Fall, winter and spring are the best times to hike.

Where: Superstition Wilderness. From central Phoenix, go east on U.S. 60 past Apache Junction. Turn north on Kings Ranch Road, between mile markers 202 and 203. Proceed 2.8 miles, then turn east on Baseline Road. Go 0.2 mile and turn north on Mohican Road. Drive 0.3 mile, turn west on Valley View Drive and follow it 0.5 mile northwest; its name changes to Whitetail Road. At Cloudview Avenue, turn east and go 0.5 mile to the parking area. The trek begins just outside the wilderness area, on the northeastern side of the Kings Ranch subdivision. From the small parking area at the end of a dirt road, a spur trail leads east a few yards to the well-defined main trail.

Trail length: 1.4 miles one way. Difficulty: Mostly easy, although the trail gets rougher and a bit spotty as it nears the petroglyphs.

Admission: Free. Details: (480) 610-3300.

Petroglyph Plaza

The White Tank Mountains west of Phoenix offers casual hikers a pleasant stroll through the scenic Sonoran Desert, wide-open vistas and lots of petroglyphs. On clear days, you can see downtown Phoenix, about 25 miles to the east, as well as Four Peaks, an additional 45 miles beyond.

When: October through May is best. The park is open 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays and 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Where: Waterfall Trail, White Tank Mountain Regional Park. From central Phoenix, take Interstate 10 west to Loop 101. Go north to Olive Avenue, then go west 13.5 miles to the park entrance. Maps are available at the information center, a mile beyond the entry station. About a mile beyond the information center, turn west on Waterfall Canyon Road and go about half a mile to the parking area.

Trail length: About half a mile one way. Difficulty: Easy. The trail to the plaza is wide, smooth and accessible to wheelchairs, walkers or strollers.

Admission: \$5 per vehicle park entry fee. Details: www.maricopa.gov/parks or (623) 935-2505.

Gila River breaks ground In an open field west of Interstate 10 and south of Ahwatukee, members of the Gila River Indian Community began work in November on a \$200 million casino and hotel they hope will ease their 42 percent unemployment rate and generate revenue for tribal members and lure more visitors to the 600-square-mile community. The new Wild Horse Pass Casino & Hotel is the second new casino the community has begun to build in the Southeast Valley; the other casino being built is a new location for Lone Butte, south of the Santan Freeway near Kyrene Road in Chandler. The new casinos will be at least 1½ miles apart as required by the gaming compact between tribal governments and the state. The project includes a 100,000-square-foot casino plus a 241-room, 10-story hotel with a ballroom, conference facilities, pool, spa/health club, restaurants and covered parking. It is being built on the northwest corner of Wild Horse Pass

Boulevard and I-10, and will be more visible from the freeway than the existing Wild Horse Pass Casino about a mile to the southwest. The existing casino will be closed after the new facility is opened in accordance with

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the gaming pact, which allows the community to operate three casinos. The other casino the community operates is Vee Quiva, near 51 Avenue south of I-10 in the west Valley. The new Wild Horse Pass Casino is expected to employ about 750 workers with hiring preference given first to tribal members and their spouses. The new casino and hotel are expected to open in May 2009. Tribal leaders haven't decided what to do with the existing casino building near 48th Street and Wild Horse Pass Road after it closes. Visitors will have better access to the new casino, especially because the Arizona Department of Transportation plans to widen I-10 south of Wild Horse Pass Boulevard. The new casino is viewed as a boon to nearby businesses such as the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving at Firebird International Raceway.

Magazine honors local golf courses Both of We-Ko-Pa Golf Club's courses were recently honored by Golf Week magazine's 2007 "Top 100 Best Resort Golf Courses" issue. We-Ko-Pa's 1-year-old, Bill Coore- and Ben Crenshaw-designed Saguaro course was ranked 20th in the U.S., and the 6-year-old, Scott Miller-designed Cholla course was ranked 31st in the annual publication. Both Saguaro and Cholla were ranked highest among all Arizona golf courses on the list. Four other Arizona courses also made the "Top 100 Best Resort Golf Courses" list, including: No. 38: Ventana Canyon Golf Club (Mountain), Tucson; No. 74: Wigwam Resort (Gold), Litchfield Park; No. 84: Boulders Golf Club (South), Carefree; No. 85: Ventana Canyon Golf Club (Canyon), Tucson; We-Ko-Pa is owned by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and is operated by EF Golf and OB Sports Golf Management. For information on We-Ko-Pa visit www.wekopa.com.

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

AAA Presented 5 Diamond Awards to 100 Properties A record 100 hotels and resorts earned the top five-diamond rating in the 2008 AAA awards. AAA anointed 93 five-diamond lodgings last year. Four U.S. properties are new on the list this year: The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino in Las Vegas; The Canyon Suites at the Phoenician, Scottsdale, Ariz.; St. Regis Resort, Monarch Beach, Dana Point, Calif.; and The Umstead Hotel and Spa near Raleigh, N.C. Two lodgings lost five-diamond status: The Ritz-Carlton Lake Las Vegas in Nevada and the Pan Pacific Vancouver Hotel in British Columbia. Ritz-Carlton, with 24, and Four Seasons, with 22, accounted for nearly half of the list of five-diamond properties. (USA Today)

Arizona Recognized as Number One Golf Destination in North America It's a hole in one for Arizona! The Grand Canyon State has been recognized as the number one golf destination in North America by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO). Barbara Jackson, AOT's Mexico representative accepted the award in a recent ceremony at the International Golf Travel Market Awards Gala on December 6, 2007, in the Gran Melia Hotel in Cancun, Mexico. IAGTO is the global trade organization for the golf tourism industry, comprising more than 1,040 companies in 73 countries, including more than 320 golf tour operators in 45 countries. The IAGTO Awards, in association with Hertz, are the official annual awards for the golf tourism industry. For more information visit www.iagto.com.

Greater Phoenix Convention and Visitors **Bureau.....**

A Reminder to AGA Members To help promote the Valley, the Greater Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau has partnered with other Valley Destination Marketing Organizations to bring a new certification program to the Valley. The Valley Tourism Ambassadors Program strives to inspire and motivate our front-line employees and volunteers to turn every visitor encounter into a positive experience.

The Valley Hotel & Resort Association, as the Accredited Provider, presents the official Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) designation on behalf of the Tourism Ambassador Institute™, the national oversight body for the certification program. To become a CTA, front-line workers must complete pre-class reading, a half-day interactive classroom session and pass an examination. Upon successful completion, a CTA certificate and lapel pin is awarded. An annual renewal of certification process is necessary to maintain certification.

The Valley Tourism Ambassadors Program is open to all hospitality and tourism employees and volunteers who have direct contact with guests and visitors in the Valley. Classes began in September, and will be offered on a regular basis throughout the Valley. The cost is \$25 per person application fee and an annual renewal fee of \$25. The class schedule is posted at www.valleytourismambassadors.com.

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Education

On the Road to Yuma

by Leslie Ullstrup

We did it again!! The AGA fall overnight was a great success, and 20 women kept our AGA President, Howard, on his best behavior. Howard, and our driver Harry, from VIA Adventures, managed to tolerate our noisy group.

Food is always plentiful on AGA trips and this one was no exception. Marilynne Ransom and I, served bagels, muffins, fresh fruit and juice en route while Howard gave an overview of the itinerary. Our first stop in Yuma was the Peanut Patch. Peanuts were at one time a thriving crop in the Yuma area but they are a host to white flies, and white flies are very detrimental to the lettuce crop. As a result, peanuts are no longer raised but we learned about the process of growing peanuts and spent a lot of time in the shop purchasing everything peanut... especially ones covered in chocolate.

With chocolate melting in our hands, we stopped at the Sahati Camel Farm. We got up close and personal enough with the camels to discover that they do not have any upper teeth! And their lower ones areYECH!! Other exotic animals and birds were eager to sample snacks from our hands.

After a lovely lunch at an outdoor café, we toured the historic Yuma Theater which adjoins the spacious new Yuma Art Center. Downtown Yuma is very quiet, and kids can skateboard down the middle of Main Street, but the Art Center brings people out with it's full schedule of events. The La Fuente hosted our cocktail hour before we went to the River City Grill for dinner.

Wednesday started way too early, but we learned a lot from retired military man, Gary Hovatter. We toured the Yuma Proving Ground Heritage Center Museum, had our group picture taken by a WWII tank, and took a hike in the sand at the Yuma wetlands. En route to and from the Proving Ground it was enlightening to see the acres and acres of crops growing. Yuma produces 95% of all the lettuce in the United States, which explains why it's called the Lettuce Bowl of the nation. The day was topped off with lunch at Lutes Casino. Lutes is a MUST if you go to Yuma. It's actually just worth a trip to Yuma to eat there. Their specialty is a cheeseburger with a grilled hot dog on top. It sounds awful, but it's GOOD! Food is cheap and plentiful and goes down easily with a draft beer.

A brief stop at Desert Sweet Shrimp in Gila Bend gave everyone an opportunity to buy some gourmet shrimp and then it was hit the road back to Phoenix.

Thanks go to Howard Christensen, Marilynne Ransom, and their committee for a fun and educational trip. Remember, part of your AGA dues help fund the educational trips. A lot of time, effort, research and planning go into these trips and they are provided for YOU as members of the Arizona Guides Association.

Airport News.....

Changes for East Valley airport Newly christened 'Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport', the historic airfield is expected to develop as a reliever for up to 1.2 million annual passengers, a burgeoning international cargo hub and a higher education center producing highly skilled employees for nearby aerospace companies. Major companies such as Boeing, Cessna and Embraer are expanding and building there as well. Smaller companies include hangar and office-building developer, Himovitz Properties, Inc; Silver State Helicopters, LLC and International Simulations and Training Systems, which provides simulator research and development. Arizona State University/Polytechnic, which acquired part of the old Air Force base property for a campus, is projecting an enrollment of 10,000 in 2008. In 14 years, the airport has shed its military profile and taken on an updated look of new office buildings, hangars, warehouses and taxiways. The airport's \$3 million 24,000-square-foot terminal, which was completed in 2001 before the events of Sept. 11 turned the commercial aviation industry upside down, opened in April 2006 for the airport's first scheduled airline passengers. Architects soon will begin planning the terminal's expansion. Developers and airport officials say that much of

the 3,000-plus acre airport will continue to be a construction zone over the next decade as private enterprise, including aviation giants Cessna and Embraer, and Arizona State University/Polytechnic and Chandler Gilbert Community College expand and build new facilities. Cessna and Embraer's decisions to build major maintenance facilities at the airport are certainly indicative of how they feel about the Phoenix metro area and the airport as a key component of their future plans. A project developed by Valley business, government and public entities, is under way to establish the airport as a world-class cargo hub. Called

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Arizona Direct, the project also seeks to provide direct rail access and establish regional truck service, aerospace research and development and manufacturing. Investment in infrastructure is expected to be key to future development. The airport's emergence as a reliever to serve smaller cities and secondary airports instead of wooing major carriers like U.S. Airways appears to bode well for Gateway. With forecasts of passenger traffic continuing to climb and congestion delaying flights at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Gateway could grow into its role as a major reliever more rapidly than many expect. Sky Harbor, unfortunately, is pretty compact, and doesn't have a lot of room for growth unless the city starts spending huge amounts of money. So the additional air service the Valley needs could be accommodated at Gateway. Demands for development at the Mesa-based airport have become so large that finding money to build its supporting infrastructure may be daunting. A lot of planning needs to be done up front to make sure finances are there to build that infrastructure. The price tag for those roads, utilities and other municipal services is likely to exceed \$1 billion, according to unofficial estimates. Loop 202, which bends from the north to the west at the airport's northern doorstep, will be the airport's major connection for the next several years. Growing costs are among reasons that Mesa and airport officials would like to accelerate construction of the Williams Gateway Freeway to link the airport area to Pinal County. With the development out there it became critical to seek earlier construction of the freeway and improve Power Road for another better access point into the airport. The widening of Power Road to relieve congestion along the airport's western border began in October and should continue for the next two years. But plans for the freeway project are still on the drawing board with a projected completion date of 2020.

Sedona News from Laura Vandergrift

NEW GRANITE PLAQUES IN UPTOWN Make sure you let your guests know about the granite plaques scattered throughout Uptown Sedona commemorating the movie industry and western films produced here. You will find 12 commemoratives placed at the Cowboy Club at Cowboy Plaza, the Orchards Plaza and in front of the Matterhorn Shoppes. These include Morgan Woodward, Sue Ann Langdon, Dwight Brooks, Clint Walker, Edd Brynes, Randolph Scott, Robert Horton, producer A. C. Lyles, Ben Cooper, James Drury, Tyrone Power and Sedona's own Bob Bradshaw. Four more placques are to be installed over the next few months in front of Canyon Breeze Plaza to honor Dick Jones, Ernest Borgnine, Gloria Henry and Gene Autry.

In September Sedona honored the movie industry by showing the film, "The Strawberry Roan" which starred Gloria Henry and Gene Autry. Gloria Henry was here in Sedona at the event to give interviews and talk about her movie making career.



- New Funfinder GPS are location-specific hand-held units now available at the Grand Canyon and other parks. Not only do these devices guide you through the intersecting roads and trails, but the venue-based units also keep you apprised of your proximity to the necessities (ie: food, shelter, prickly pear-flavored confections). Funfinder GPS units can be rented for \$12 at the National Geographic I MAX Visitor Center and other locations within the park. For more information call 602-279-3866 or visit the web site, funfindergps.com.
- Drivin' and Spyin' Get to know a city by studying the things it collects. Scottsdale's extensive public art collection is thoughtfully arranged in three manageable touring segments, and turn-by-turn directions are available at scottsdalepublicart.org/tour. Phoenix's public arts programs are chronicled in a drop-down menu with map locators at phoenix.gov/arts.

- When a noise-abatement wall along Goldwater Boulevard in downtown Scottsdale needed a facelift, Arizona artist Kevin Berry and landscape architect David Davis took special note of the street's situation near the Arizona Canal (now the Scottsdale 'Waterfront'). They replaced old gray walls and

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overgrown foliage with an undulating, wave-like wall navigated by steel fish. The biggest finned fellow on "Tributary Wall" is the only rebel in the bunch to swim 'upstream', and at a whopping 18 feet long, he's not likely to be stopped (on Goldwater Boulevard between 5th Ave and Camelback Road).

Congratulations to Newly AGA Certified Guide ~ Kuros Lame'!!

In his own words: In the summer of 1991, I joined my parents and my sister in Arizona from my home state of Bavaria, which is not only famous for BMW, Audi, Siemens, numerous breweries, countless varieties of sausages, 400 kinds of cheese, fairy tale castles, fortresses, abbeys, convents, but also home to rather independent-minded, tradition-conscious people. Bavarians are of Celtic and Roman origin. First and foremost, they consider themselves Bavarians, then Europeans, and then Germans. The first time I ever heard the word cholesterol was when I arrived here. It took some time for all of us to get settled. In 1996, I graduated from ASU with a Bachelor of Arts in History. In August 2004, I finally became a permanent resident, though I have always been here legally. For some time, I have worked as a substitute teacher. In addition to my native German, I speak English, French, and Spanish. Furthermore, I am somewhat fluent in Aussie, Cockney, and Scot.

New AGA Members

Luisa Cox
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Gail Abend gsabend@gmail.com.
New home #: 602.265.8656

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33934 N. 67th St.
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Items of interest.....

Police Museum gets piece of 9-11 history The Police Museum in downtown Phoenix has added a piece of national history to its collection of local police memorabilia. Now on display at the museum is a section of

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an I-beam from one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City that was attacked by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. The 300-pound section was donated by the 911 Memorial Museum through the efforts of the Phoenix Police Department and the New York City Fire Department. The Museum, which is located on the ground floor of Barrister Place at 101 S. Central Ave, also features a variety of memorabilia showing the history of the department as well as old police cars and motorcycles and a jail cell. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, call 602.534.7278.

Built in 1892 the Rosson House was the first home in Phoenix to be made of wood and brick rather than adobe bricks. It's said that the stately structure - which boasted such modern amenities as electric light, hot and cold running water, in-door bathroom and telephone - contributed to the success of original owner Dr. Roland Lee Rosson's bid for Phoenix mayor in 1895. Over the decades, the home fell into disrepair. By the 1960s, its signature brick was obscured by dingy white siding, the second story porch was enclosed and the building was being used as a halfway house. The city acquired the structure in the 1970s and embarked on a six-year restoration. Today, the ornate Eastlake Queen Ann Victorian has been meticulously restored to its turn-of-the-century condition. Occupying its original foundation, it proudly stands as the cornerstone gem of Phoenix's Historic Heritage Square. Location: 113 N. 6th Street; call 602-262-5070; or visit rossonhousemuseum.org. (Highroads, November/December 2007)

Arizona's Name In Clay Thompson's Valley 101 column, he responds to a reader asking if "arid zone" is the origin of Arizona's name: The proper Spanish phrasing for arid zone would be zona arida and not arida zona. Nobody really knows for sure where the state's name came from, but most people think it is a Spanish variation on cilishonak, which was Tohono O'Odham site a few miles south of Nogales. Ali-shonak means "place of small springs." To the Spanish miners who discovered silver there in 1736, it sounded like "Arissona". He double-checked it in Roadside History of Arizona by Marshall Trimble, our state historian. The first official use of the name came when parts of New Mexico seceded from the Union in 1861 and called itself the Confederate Territory of Arizona. When Congress was in the process of creating Arizona Territory, several other names were considered, including Gadsonia, Pimeria, Montezuma, Arizuma . and Arizonia. But in the bill President Lincoln received creating the territory in 1863 it said Arizona. Marshall Trimble wrote Clay to say that he now disagrees with that and agrees with a historian who says arizona is a basque word meaning good oak. This story is put out by the National Park Service: Tumacacori National Historical Park/Arizona/Planchas de Plata goes into the history of the word. The Web site is <http://www.nps.gov/tuma/historyculture/arizona-planchas-de-plata.htm>. Thanks to Jana Powell for the update.

Rose aficionados in Scottsdale are smelling the sweet smell of victory . Plans are under way to relocate a long-standing downtown Scottsdale public rose garden to the city-owned yard at the Scottsdale Artists' School, on the southwest corner of Second Street and Marshall Way. The original garden northwest of Fifth Avenue and Goldwater Boulevard became a casualty of downtown development. That original site on the Arizona Canal remains vacant, but developers have plans to build on it. The Scottsdale council members voted unanimously in the summer to appropriate \$350,000 to the project. Members of the Scottsdale Rose Society will select about 300 varieties of roses for the garden. Part of the garden will feature "patriotic" themed roses with names, such as "honor and pride," designed to pay tribute to U.S. troops abroad.. They will be reaching out to the community to join Scottsdale Rose Society members in planting the roses in February. Those interested in taking part in the planting can call the Downtown Group early next. year at (480) 312-7750. A public dedication is planned for early April.

In Memoriam

I will unfortunately be out of town at the time of the January meeting, but I would like to acknowledge the generous donation that the association made on behalf of my daughter Ashley to the River of Dreams.

kindest regards, Graham Thomson

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

P.O. Box 45302

Phoenix, AZ 85064-5302

See you....January 7th

Happy New Year !!

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Tour Guide Updates

- Bill Gott, Tour Coach Operator, Via Adventures, is retiring this month after many years and miles. He is the gentleman with white hair and a short white beard.
- In the interest of safety for ALL, Corporate Transportation 'n Tours is no longer providing transportation for "24 HOUR TURN AROUNDS".
- AGA member, Melissa Ruffner reports from Prescott, that Yavapai College has opted out of Elder Hostel after 20 years, leaving almost 50 local staff there out of work. Melissa, however, will continue to do her historical tours in Prescott. Melissa received an Arizona Culture Keepers Award in 2004, and a Sharlot Hall Award in 2003.

GET OUTSIDE !!

Check out the Butcher Jones Trail at Saguaro Lake in the Tonto National Forest. High points along this gracefully undulating, ribbon-like trail hover above cattail-laden coves and pebble-strewn beaches with reflections of Four Peaks shimmering in the lake's rich, blue water. For more information: fs.fed.us/r3/tonto or Call 602-225-5200.