



Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 27 Issue 12

April Adams, Editor

May 2016

Dear AGA Members,

I hope you and yours are healthy, happy and that you have been successful in your careers as Arizona Guides this year!

We sure have been rocking and rolling these past few months! Our Arizona Guides Association 2015/2016 year is coming to a quick close at the end of May. This tour guide/ greeter year, true to life, has "flown by".

Please consider this question, "What makes an Association's year successful?" Is it because the destination companies want to employ AGA members, is it because the members, (the guides and greeters) are happy to be busy and working because the Destination companies who want to hire AGA members? Is it because an association has funds in its treasury? Is it because meetings were well attended?

This is what I believe...it's because of the hardworking and loving manner in which the Board and Committee members give of their time and efforts to make the Association interesting, fun and educational. It's an Association where everybody feels welcome, where a member wants to spend their time attending the functions, the member wants to learn more about our special state. I believe a successful Association is one in which the members feel they get something in return for their time and money. Are we that kind of Association?

It is that time of year when we are asking for your support. Please step up and give of your time by either serving on a committee, chairing a committee or submitting your name to serve on the AGA Board. We need help and we do want new faces, new ideas. We WANT to give someone else a chance. Please contact wonderful Mary Sands at 602 703-6786 or email her at marysandsphx@cox.net.

The last meeting of the year will be held on Monday, May 23rd at the LVN Winery Wine Gallery in Old Town Scottsdale located at 6951 E. First St., Scottsdale. 480 664-4822 The meeting Agenda is as follows: 6:00 - 7:00 - Social time and Wine tasting education 7:00 - 7:30 - Business meeting 7:30 - 8:30 - Social time Please note, if you will not be at the meeting by 6:00PM, please send in your absentee ballot prior to the meeting. The ballots will be available in the near future.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 23rd!

Janette

Janette Bell,
President, Arizona Guide Association

The Arizona Heroes Education Trip - March 23, 2016

If you are an AGA member and you have never gone on one of our Educational Trips you are really missing an opportunity to see places that you may have never even known existed but you also miss getting to know your fellow members! This trip was amazing. We began by meeting the motor coach at Tempe Market Place where Howard Christensen and his committee (Janette Bell, Susan Harden & Margaret DeMente) had coffee and donuts all set out for us with a red, white and blue theme! We are off to our first location, Wesley Bolin Plaza and our first photo op!



AGA Educational Trip Continued: Our next stops were at the Wells Fargo History Museum and The Phoenix Police Museum. We had guide commentary along our ride from Sharon Waldie, Susan Harden, Janette Belle, Karen Steckler, Gabriele Laudenschlager, Mary Christmas, Brenda Curry, Van Newville and Howard. These wonderful stories add mental pictures to our visual experience.

On to the Arizona Military Museum where we had a delicious lunch from Firehouse Subs. We toured the Museum and then we headed to the Mesa Air Museum. What an informative and fun day!!!! Thank you Howard and your little band of angels that put this all together and make us all feel so very special.

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ALERT * ALERT * ALERT – PLEASE NOTE: IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT SOME GUIDES/GREETERS ARE PUTTING THEIR PERSONAL ITEMS BEHIND THE INFORMATION DESKS IN THE AIRPORT TERMINALS. THIS IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE PER THE CITY OF PHOENIX AND AIRPORT PERSONNEL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER. (This is from Sky Harbor Airport). Please be aware of your belongings when you are working.

Resort Renovation

Scottsdale boasts more than 70 major hotels and resorts, which equates to nearly 10,000 rooms. Here are a few of the new changes you might want to go and see.

1. Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch. Over last summer it underwent a massive 9 million in renovations. It introduced a new restaurant and bar, transformed the main pool and added more meeting and event space, and enhanced the guest rooms
2. Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas. It focused on both the main resort property as well as its Villa property spending over \$5 million. Glass doors that encompass the lobby, bar and restaurant spaces were installed replacing the basic window coverings. The pool area was spared no expense from fabrics to cabanas to fire pits.
3. Fairmont Scottsdale Princess. It has completed a five year \$60 million renovations, notably the Palomino Conference Center, an addition of more than 52,000 square feet of indoor meeting space. It has a new Toro Latin Restaurant and Rum Bar. It will be adding more than 100 new guest rooms, a Western town event venue and a new pool.

What to do When You Get Cancelled from Work—by Lisa Gannon

Oh, the joys of a busy work season! Our calendar gets booked for various job assignments, we get to see our colleagues and friends on the job, and we collect paychecks that will, hopefully, cover us through the season and into the less-busy season(s). We look forward to having time to ourselves since we're so busy. And then



the cancellation of 3 days of work comes. What am I going to do with myself?!! I say, “Honey, let’s go camping!”

We didn’t want to go too far, yet we know this is prime-time season for snowbirds who fill our regional campgrounds with “McMansion” motorhomes and the like. Would any of the campgrounds be available for 3 nights of camping? Are we going to be picky about which campground? Do we even NEED to be in a campground or is dry camping good enough? How much “stuff” do we want to lug with us (namely, the Suzuki RV dirt motorcycle)? So many questions for a quick trip. I started the search with the closest regional campground to where we live (Usery Mountain), and no availability. Then McDowell Mountain, same situation. Unfortunately, the website (www.maricopacountyparks.org) doesn’t allow one to put in dates and have what’s available pop up... you have to go into each campground individually. There’s Cave Creek, McDowell Mountain, Usery Mountain, Estrella Mountain, Lake Pleasant and lastly White Tank. Finally, we found availability at White Tank Mountain for 3 nights. The site was spot #3, which is at the entrance and across from the hosts. Not necessarily the spot we had hoped for, but we’re not going to be picky at this point in time. I made the reservation confidently knowing we will have a good time.

The only thing I knew about this campground, other than it has restrooms with a shower, is the Waterfall Canyon hike. I did this hike at least 25 years ago, and although there was not a waterfall, the memory was still there! We planned our meals, packed a bag with clothes and toiletries and off we went. From our house in Tempe, it took approximately 45 minutes to get to I10 and the 303 North; from there it’s another 20 minutes to 20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road in Waddell AZ 85355. This is also a hop, skip and a jump to Surprise, AZ for all of the food we forgot to pack! So much for making a list and checking it twice!!! We got to our campsite, set up the pop-top camper and made ourselves at home. Not too bad, even though the campground was full. We had one of only 2 pop-top campers, all the rest being “McMansion” motorhomes as I had thought we’d see. The weather was great, and come nighttime, we had a fabulous view of the city lights. Come to think of it, perhaps this site is better than the rest for this great view!

The next day called for a hike to Waterfall Canyon. It was a Monday morning and boy, was this place busy! Doesn’t anybody work?!! Lots of people from all over the Valley and the world! We could tell who wasn’t from around here...they weren’t carrying any water! The hike is rated easy and is one mile each way. The spectacular petroglyphs along the hike are just amazing. There is a barrier keeping people away from most of them. However, the damage has been done over the years there wasn’t a barrier and visitors put their hands all over them causing damage from the oils in our skin, as well as thieves chipping away at the rocks to bring home a souvenir. Overall, they are still pretty special! At the end of the hike is where the waterfall would be if there was a rainfall. There is natural seepage through the rocks, maybe from an underground spring, that kept the dirt moist. You can only imagine what it looks like after a good monsoon! After taking photos and chatting with others, we turned around and made it back to the camper for a leisurely afternoon. What else does one do while camping besides reading, napping, eating, napping, reading, napping, eating, napping.....? I invited a couple of friends to come out the next day to do the Waterfall hike with me. They had never been out there before, so they were game. This time, it was a Tuesday and not so busy. The desert was so green!! The flowers on the brittle bush and globe mallow were just starting to bloom, and in another week or 2 they would be in full color! How could people visiting from elsewhere think the desert is not green this time of year!?! It’s beautiful! After the hike we returned to the camper for lunch and enjoyed being outdoors. After my friends left, we read, napped, read some more, napped some more until it was cocktail hour!! Oh goodie, another “activity” to add to the list of things to do! After eating dinner, it was time to experience the shower—hot water, good spray, lots of room to change clothes. I like this kind of camping!

The next day was our last day with “check-out” at noon. We took a walk around the campground to see if there were other sites better or as good as the one we had. Not too many could make that claim, especially with the view of the city lights at night. We walked a short trail from the campground, and talked about those who left the petroglyphs. Were they migratory nomads who came to the area for the waterfall in the summer, or perhaps the winter rains? Did they live in this area year ‘round? Did they have a canal system like the Hohokam’s who lived closer to the river bottom? Some of these questions can be answered by going to the Nature Center and library just outside the campground. It’s a beautiful facility with lots to offer.



This was the one time a cancellation actually worked to my advantage! I got to revisit a beautiful location not far from home, spend time with hubby and friends in the great outdoors, and enjoy some of my favorite activities like reading, napping, eating, napping, oh and hiking, too!

DO U HV N AZ PL8? THTZ KUL

According to the Arizona Department of Transportation, last year 389,536 specialty plates were on Arizona vehicles. A portion of the annual fees collected on most of those plates raised more than \$6.5 million for charitable and philanthropic organizations. Most popular? Arizona Cardinals. New specialty plates last year were Arizona Coyotes, U.S. Marine Corps, Midwestern University and Firefighter Safety Training.

Wild Horses by-Saija Lohtonen, Arizona Highways, April 2016

Wild horses roam along 16 miles of the lower Salt River within the Tonto National Forest. . This is where the wild horses go to drink. The lineage of the horses is just one of the sticking points in the angry dialogue between the people who want the horses to stay and those who want them gone. Advocates assert that the horses are descended from a line of noble giants brought to the Americas by Father Kino in the 17th century. To know more about this argument refer to the article noted above.

Arizona Trivia-----History

1. Who was the first European to enter Arizona?
2. Who were the Anasazi?
3. What year did Arizona become a U S territory?
4. Who was the partner of the Earp brothers in the gun fight at the O.K. corral?
5. How many years did Barry Goldwater serve as a US senator?
6. Where was the first permanent white settlement in Arizona in 1752?
7. When was the Grand Canyon lodge built?
8. What US senator from Arizona sought the Republican nomination for President in 2000?
9. Apache leaders Cochise, Geronimo, Nana and Mangas Colorados were all members of what tribe?
10. How many separate tribes of Apaches are there?

Answers: Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, the Native American ancestors of the Pueblo peoples. 1863, Doc holiday, Thirty, Tubac, 1928, John McCain, Chiricahua, six.