

Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

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Meet 'n' Greet

It's September and that means it's time for our annual Meet 'n' Greet. Yes, it FINALLY feels like Fall is on the way, and our temps are cooling down! Don't miss this chance to visit with our Associate Members and be sure they know you're ready and available for this new season in our tourism industry.

~ AGA September Meeting ~

When: Tuesday, September 27, 2016

***Where: The Hotel Palomar ~ 2 East Jefferson ~ Downtown Phoenix
(Third Floor Calavera Junior Ballroom. Two hours of free parking will be available in the hotel's parking garage.***

Time: 6:30 P.M ~ Celebrate the beginning of another season of Arizona tourism with your fellow guides and our Associates.

There will be a special Guest Speaker from the Arizona Office of Tourism.

Dear Fellow AGA and Associate Members,

You can feel the change in the air: The excitement for the upcoming busy season for our industry. Also that little chill in the air brings about an excitement of its very own, right? Out with that hot desert weather and in with the beautiful weather people flock to in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Lots of exciting progress for AGA...we'll be getting a "new look" for our website soon. **Cindy Desmond** has been busy creating and updating this much needed improvement for us. The Board is very much looking forward to this progressive step for AGA.

Betsy Todd, and her fabulous committee is working on new and exciting methods of instruction for our certification students. There is so much to learn about this great state of ours. It goes without saying, that **Brenda Curry** has been a busy person working on our upcoming AGA programs as well as a very interesting Spring educational tour. **Kimberly Donnell** has been working hand in hand with Howard, to bring us a wonderful Fall educational day that will be filled with beneficial information and fun for us all! You'll get the scoop at Tuesday's meeting.

Rusty and his tireless helper, **Jeannie** have been putting in ENDLESS hours and effort on the current directory, which you'll receive at Tuesday's meeting...yahoo! Thanks tons you two! **Michael Waldman**, with very smart **Sue** by his side, is our new AGA treasurer, they have been updating our accounting procedures and "wowing" me with their accounting knowledge! **CS**, thank you for taking on the newsletter AGAIN!

I'm sure you are all aware that **Jana Powell**, has been an invaluable part of the on-going negotiations with Sky Harbor Airport. A large amount of changes have occurred at the airport. This on-going "SITUATION" is being reviewed. We will keep you updated as we learn of changes and improvement for our industry! Good Luck Jana and thank you for your tenacity and efforts! We're here to support and help in any way we can.

I CANNOT/WILL NOT leave out our "very special, wonderful, intelligent, fun and kind **Karen Steckler**. She is a GODSEND to us all and especially to me!

The Arizona Guides Association is so fortunate to have as members, our important and respected **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**. We thank you for your support and expertise in the field! We are excited to welcome many new Associates as well...WOOHOO! I so look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meeting on September 27th at the Hotel Palomar. Please contact me with any questions!
Warmest Regards to all,

Janette Bell
2016/2017 Arizona Guides Association President

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

OdySea Aquarium..... near Scottsdale celebrated its grand opening Sept. 3, 2016. The 2 million-gallon aquarium is one of the largest in the country. There's a little bit of Jurassic Park inside the new 2 million-gallon OdySea Aquarium.

Along with the aquarium's 50 exhibits and 30,000 marine animals, officials unveiled an attraction kept secret until the grand opening — a 20-minute carousel ride that rotates through several marine-life habitats. OdySea's Living Sea Carousel, with its five 114-seat moving auditoriums, conjures memories of a similar rotating ride featured in the 1993 blockbuster movie "Jurassic Park," where visitors first learn about dinosaur DNA. Walt Disney World's Carousel of Progress ride also follows a similar format. Carousel riders at OdySea first encounter three sea turtles, including one that was rescued off the Texas coast and lost two limbs while tangled in a fishing line. Other stops feature sea lions, a seal and several species of sharks.

The aquarium spans about 200,000 square feet inside the OdySea in the Desert entertainment complex near Loop 101 and Via de Ventura on the Salt River Reservation. The complex is also home to Butterfly Wonderland, and a separately-owned swim-with-the-dolphins attraction is also to open this month. About 30 shops and restaurants are eventually expected to open at OdySea in the Desert, including El Encanto, Four Peaks Mining Co., Frozen Penguin Ice Cream and the Kakery.

The exhibits begin with freshwater species like Siamese crocodiles, piranhas and Asian small-clawed otters. About two dozen African penguins greet visitors before they descend into a shark tank via an escalator encased in an acrylic tube. Jellyfish, eels, crabs, sea horses and the giant Pacific octopus await at the bottom. After a 3-D movie called "Underwater Giants" about humpback whales and whale sharks, the aquarium experience predictably ends at an expansive gift shop. Single-day admission is \$34.95 for an adult and \$24.95 for a child, according to the company. It is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

When their water doesn't taste right.....many residents living on First Mesa will boil it. Boiling gets rid of the taste of chlorine, which the Hopi Tribe uses to treat its water. But it does nothing about the tasteless, odorless arsenic that could be making tribal members sick. Zora Polingyumtewa, 76, and Anita Polacca, 92, preferred the water in nearby springs, which sustained the community of Sichomovi on the rocky mesa for as long as they could remember. It wasn't until running water came in the 1980s that the water began to taste odd. When Polacca's husband and Polingyumtewa's oldest brother got cancer, their minds jumped immediately to the strange-tasting water.

The Hopi Tribe is working to fix the arsenic problem. But officials are not yet sure just how sick it could be making tribal members. The water Polingyumtewa and Polacca drink is nearing twice the limit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set in 2001 for arsenic in drinking water. A lawsuit filed against the U.S. government reported arsenic levels more than four times the legal limit in the nearby Keams Canyon system. The tribe estimates about three-quarters of the 7,000 people living on Hopi land are drinking the tainted water. "The cancer risk is clearly unacceptable," said Erik Olson, director of health services for the Natural Resources Defense Council and an expert on arsenic in drinking water.

The Hopi Tribe is doing its best to remedy the arsenic problem, tribal Vice Chairman Alfred Lomahquahu Jr. said. Two new, deeper water wells have been drilled on Hopi land. The EPA also has awarded the tribe about \$6 million through a fund set aside for Native American tribes. But according to an EPA spokeswoman, the tribe needs an additional \$18 million to \$20 million to complete the project — the kind of money the tribe doesn't have. "We're trying to do as much as we can with as little as we have," Lomahquahu said.

The tribe's troubles began when the EPA lowered the amount of arsenic it would allow in drinking water, from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. The new standard, which went into effect in 2006, put several systems on Hopi land out of compliance, where they've stayed for years on end. The tribe since has struggled to secure the funding needed to bring safe drinking water to local villages, tribal authorities said.

They have so far avoided any EPA penalties, mainly because the government agency knows the tribe does not have the money to complete the project on its own. "EPA ought to make it their business to help the tribe find the resources," Olson said.

The EPA began working with the Hopis in 2006 to develop two new wells. The wells were drilled in 2013 and reach to 3,000 feet. The hope is that by drilling deeper, the water pumped into Hopi villages will be purer. But fixes to arsenic problems are challenging and expensive. In the West, arsenic naturally occurs in groundwater. And health effects can be difficult to track, partly because health problems are seen over a lifetime, not within a couple of years. The tribe agreed with the EPA recently to a formal order laying out a schedule for fixes to be completed by 2020.

A study exploring the possible link between high cancer rates on the Hopi reservation and arsenic in drinking water was recently launched at the University of Arizona. Lyman Polacca, 81, buys bottled water when he worries about the quality of the drinking water. But he can't do that every day. It was almost better when he didn't know arsenic was in the water, he said. Then, he didn't worry. "Now I guess everything's poison," he said. "I don't know how much we can consume and still survive."

Airport News.....

Have you visited the Phoenix Airport Museum.....Or didn't you know that Phoenix Sky Harbor curates a myriad of exhibits throughout the year in all three terminals? Through January 29, 2017 in Terminal Four is a photographic exhibit 'Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service' titled **Find Your Park in Arizona**. On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill creating the National Park Service (NPS) ensuring that America's most treasured lands, natural wonders and historical locations would be protected, preserved and accessible for future generations. Arizona has been a prime beneficiary of this promise with 22 National Parks, Monuments, Memorials and Historic Sites.....more than any other State!

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport will close its north runway (Runway 8/26) Thursday Oct. 6 Sunday Nov. 6 for several construction and maintenance projects. Arrival and departure delays of up to 30 minutes are possible during peak travel times: 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Passengers who have tight connections should contact their airline if they are concerned about having enough time to transfer between flights. Additionally, passengers and those picking up passengers should check flight status with their airline before coming to the.

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

The AOT in affiliation with..... MacGillivray-Freeman Films, Expedia, IMAX® theaters and AMC theaters, we worked throughout August to promote Arizona's unique national parks, monuments, and historic sites through Shawn MacGillivray's film, National Parks Adventure. This was our way of kicking off and celebrating the National Park Service centennial here in Arizona.

Through our partnership, select nationwide IMAX and AMC theaters featured the film that captured the scenic beauty and outdoor adventures of our nation's most iconic national parks, including Arizona's own Grand Canyon National Park, Lake Mead National Recreational Area and Hoover Dam. In addition to the recognition Arizona has received through Shawn MacGillivray's film, we also developed a :90 second movie trailer highlighting our state and national parks. This trailer was shown before each viewing of the film to offer attendees even more knowledge about what they can see and do in Arizona. We've also created a 12-minute movie showcasing just about all of Arizona's state and national parks which will be used at our upcoming media, trade and consumer events.

Along with the showings, AOT held activations at the movie locations to expand our presence in these important markets and meet those coming out to see the film. We held events in Minneapolis, MN at the Science Museum of Minnesota where 2,000 people attended; San Jose, CA at The Tech Museum of Innovation where 1,500 people attended; and in Seattle, WA at The Pacific Science Center where more than 3,000 people attended. And here at home we joined the National Park Service and 1,000 attendees in Flagstaff to officially mark the beginning of the NPS centennial celebrations. This year-long celebration will be part of our marketing efforts as we continue to work with the National Park Service is to encourage everyone to **#FindYourPark** in Arizona and enjoy our great state. For more information about our state and national parks, visit our consumer site VisitArizona.com.

Scottsdale Tourism Updates....

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.® recently announced the opening of Aloft Scottsdale. Owned and managed by Triyar Hospitality, the hotel recently completed a \$4 million conversion to reposition as an Aloft. Located in the heart of downtown Scottsdale's Entertainment District, Aloft Scottsdale features 126 spacious rooms, accessible technologies and a buzzing social scene. To learn more about Aloft Scottsdale

A transformation at the legendary Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain resort is complete, revealing Spa House. The private mountain home enclave offers groups of up to 16 a totally unique spa escape in Scottsdale, Arizona's desert oasis. Ideal for retreats, special occasion getaways and corporate gatherings, Spa House emphasizes the whole mind and body focus of the resort's award-winning Sanctuary Spa.

Created as a private enclave within Sanctuary, the new Spa House retreat features a 3,500 square foot, four-bedroom home plus the option of four newly redesigned casitas. This is a perfect setting for corporate or wellness retreats, girlfriend getaways, family gatherings and more. Distinctive features include a movement studio with fitness equipment, spa treatment room, lawn with fire bowls for special events, a full kitchen and dining room, and living room opening to the private pool and wrap around patio.

The ANDAZ Resort is set to open in November Set within a 23 acre desert oasis with stunning views of Camelback Mountain, this Paradise Valley resort offers 201 guestrooms and suites. Drawing inspiration from the mid-century modern art and architecture movement, and the artists who used the desert as a creative landscape for expression, the resort pays homage to the mid-century artists, architects and designers including Alexander Girard, Frank Lloyd Wright and Paolo Soleri.

The Guestrooms are situated in unique bungalow clusters, each with an outdoor terrace and will provide guests with a unique and intimate desert experience. The Resort also features three pools, one of which is located within the luxurious Palo Verde Spa & Apothecary, offering treatments and services in both indoor and outdoor settings. Unique to the resort is their partnership with the Cattle Track Arts Compound, a nearby community of artists, musicians and craftsman who share their talents and stories with guests.

The resort is within walking distance of many well known Scottsdale/Paradise Valley restaurants and entertainment venues and is two miles north of the historic downtown Scottsdale and Scottsdale Fashion Square shopping destinations. Amenities will include a full service spa and salon with custom blend bar of indigenous oils, herbs and tinctures; 24-hour indoor/outdoor fitness facilities; three swimming pools; complimentary GoPro rentals; refillable water stations.

Westin Kierland Resort & Spa recently announced two new team building options. You and your group can enjoy the Tommy Bahama Relaxation Reef, an exclusive island in the middle of the resort's lazy river. The island features deluxe amenities, a private server, and its own section of the lazy river. For those that prefer the driving range, book Edie's Range House - the perfect space for smaller groups. The building offers a small board meeting room, plus outdoor catering space with contemporary seating and fire pits. For details on meetings at Westin Kierland.

Items of interest.....

It's Arizona State Fair time! What do you know about the Arizona State Fairgrounds? A group of historic preservationists and neighbors joined forces to divert the fairgrounds from what they saw as a path of steady decline. They want the area, near McDowell Road and 19th Avenue in Phoenix, restored to its former glory, recalling a time decades ago when the fairgrounds boasted colorful buildings and green grounds.

The effort to preserve historic buildings at the fair was triggered in 2014 when fair officials attempted to demolish the 1938 WPA Administration Building, a run-down Art Deco structure. Also known as the Civic Building, the structure served as the state headquarters for the Works Progress Administration, the federal agency that President Franklin D. Roosevelt created as part of the New Deal programs to put people to work during the depression.

The Fair Board wanted to demolish the building to pave an asphalt parking space that can be rented to vendors during the fair to generate money for the cash-strapped agency. After a torrent of criticism, the fair board agreed to stop the demolition and give preservationists time to find funding to restore the building.

Arizona state and local entities recently granted more than \$400,000 in funds for some major renovations of the iconic WPA Building at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. The partly state-owned building is also sometimes referred to as the Civic Building, the Floriculture Building, or State Fair Civic Building.

Located near 19th and Grand avenues in the F.Q. Story Historic District, the WPA constructed the 12,210-square-foot building in 1938 as part of the New Deal. Since then it's been office space, a haunted house, a mineral and gem exhibit space, and home base of the Phoenix Roadrunners hockey team. The building has been vacant since 2005, and is easily recognized along McDowell Road – covered in state-fair-themed symbols (including a carousel horse, a fork, a treble clef, and of course, a sun).

Preservationists are now working to document and repair five historic structures at the Fairgrounds. These include: Cattle Barn (built mid 1940's); Gem and Mineral Building (Built 1917); Home Arts Center (built late 1930-40's); Grandstand (built 1936).

So head out to this year's fair, October 7-30 (Wednesdays thru Sundays), and check out these historic buildings. And if you attend a concert during the fair you might also see the mural of a cowgirl on an end wall inside the arena. You may recognize your newsletter editor, since she posed for the artist, Paul Coze who painted the murals inside the venue in the early 1960's. For more on the history of the Coliseum, visit the website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona_Veterans_Memorial_Coliseum.



These laws are on the books in Arizona!

- It is illegal to allow a donkey to sleep in a bathtub in Arizona. It dates back to the 1920's where a merchant's donkey started sleeping in an old bathtub that supplied drinking water. It's still on the books!
- It is prohibited to hunt camels in Arizona, even though they're no longer wild in Arizona. Camels were brought to Arizona in the 1800's.
- In Prescott, no one is permitted to ride their horse up the stairs of the county court house.
- In Maricopa County no more than six girls may live in a house (really?!).
- People can get prison time for cutting down a cactus.
- It is a misdemeanor if you throw organic food on the ground so you can't even share your scraps with the birds.

Education

We're looking forward to what trips/tours the Education Committee has in store for us this year! But you don't have to wait to explore our diverse state on your own, especially now that Fall is arriving in the high country and trees will soon be leafing out in their colorful foliage!

Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Area the second largest canyon in Arizona would be a great place to check out some Fall color. Three national forests – Coconino, Kaibab and Prescott – make up the area, which covers 55,937 acres of wilderness. From its forested rim near Williams to its desert canyon mouth in the Verde Valley, this area is home to black bear and mountain lion as well as Arizona's state mammal, the ringtail cat.

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

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www.arizona-guides.org

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GET OUTSIDE !!

It's finally getting cooler in the Valley and Prescott is even cooler!!!

The Peavine Trail follows the route of the old Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railway and leads through riparian areas to the Granite Dells, above Watson Lake. It's about 10.4 miles round trip and fun for hikers, bike riders and equestrians. The trail begins just south of Watson Lake and deposits you into the sculpted weirdness of the Granite Dells. The level, packed-gravel pathway parallels cottonwood-draped Granite Creek before curving along the eastern shore of the lake and entering the Dells. Weather-gnawed stone knobs and domes jut out of the water and loom beside the trail. The dells once were an outlaw hideout. <http://cityofprescott.net/services/parks/trails/?i>

Websites to visit

And for information on what you can experience while you're outside exploring Arizona visit:
<http://www.azgameandfishfacts.com/>

~ See you at the Meet 'n' Greet !!! ~