

Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

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November, 2016

Sky Harbor !!!

We are being welcomed to Sky Harbor for our November meeting, so let's take advantage of this opportunity to meet with airport officials as they discuss updates and address ongoing issues with our presence there as we facilitate arrivals for our DMC's. This meeting will be interesting and informative....DON'T MISS THIS MEETING!!

~ AGA November Meeting ~

When: Tuesday, November 22, 2016

**Where: Sky Harbor Airport ~ Terminal 2, 2nd Floor ~ Aviation Advisory Boardroom
Parking will be validated for parking at Terminal 2.**

Time: 5:30 – 9:00 P.M. ~ Sandwiches, chips and drinks will be provided. Guest Speaker is Sarah Brown from the Phoenix Aviation Department

RSVP to Dee Hunt at jazzhunt37@cox.net or call her at 480.628.0352

Dear AGA Friends,

SO glad the weather has cooled! Now it may start feeling like Fall.

Please view and visit the new Arizona Guides Association website. We are very excited to present it to you! Some of you may need to refresh your browsers. If you encounter any situations, have questions, suggestions, or comments, please let me know at: jinglebelljfb@gmail.com.

Cindy Desmond our webmaster is a magician at the computer. I thank her for the outstanding work she accomplished.

Please make sure you rsvp for our November 15th Airport meeting to: Dee Hunt at jazzhunt37@cox.net.

You won't want to miss this meeting. There will be lots of information on, "What's happening at Sky Harbor International Airport: Current and Future."

If you weren't able to attend the September meeting, I set a challenge before our membership. I challenged each of our members to be the very best you can be by smiling, being positive, being warm and sincerely friendly and welcoming to our guests and each other. It's the LEAST we can do to represent the AGA and the LEAST we can do for our Destination Management Companies and Associate members. JANICE DUNNAHOO received the 1st appreciation gift at the September meeting. Janice, thank you for being so kind, supportive and helpful to all!

I truly appreciate each of you and your unique and special skills.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!
Janette

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

Scottsdale Museum of the Westis now the home of what is considered one of the largest collections of posters from film Westerns. Museum officials said that the 5,000 posters and lobby cards dating back to the early 1900s were acquired through a joint partnership with Arizona State University. The posters were amassed by Rennard Strickland, a law professor at the University of Oklahoma who specializes in Native American law.

Among the items is one of few original posters of the classic John Ford-directed movie "Stagecoach." Other posters include "Nanook of the North," "The Searchers" and "Dances with Wolves." Visit this link for more on movies made in Arizona.

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/movies/2014/09/28/movies-made-arizona/16393461/>

A new luxury resort proposed near Scottsdale's Troon North Golf Club — perennially ranked among Arizona's best golf courses — would feature 64 villas, a swimming pool, and meeting space just a few hundred feet from the clubhouse, according to development plans recently filed with the city. MBA Development Partners wants to build a two-story resort complex on about 2.5 vacant acres near Dynamite Boulevard and 103rd Place in north Scottsdale, according to plans filed Oct. 21.

The project would cater to travelers who frequently visit Scottsdale for golf trips or family vacations, and visitors would have access to membership benefits offered at the golf course, according to the developer. Troon North Villas would have three sections — two rows of villas with 32 units each and a 2,000-square-foot amenity building with a pool, fitness center and community room, records show. Development plans suggest the complex could operate more closely to a condo or timeshare complex than a traditional hotel. Site plans show no space for a lobby or on-site restaurant. AGA Developer Mike Anderson declined to provide more information on the project, which he said is "still in the design/concept stage." While zoning for the project already is in place, the company is seeking Scottsdale Development Review Board approval of architecture and site plans.

The Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North is the nearest full-service resort to the golf course, about 2 miles away. The Four Seasons is one of only five AAA "five-diamond" hotels in Arizona. Room rates hover around \$500 per night in the winter. Troon North draws regular accolades from national golf publications, including a No. 1 ranking among Phoenix-area public courses and a No. 25 ranking in Golf.com's "[Top 100 courses you can play](#)." Winter green fees range from around \$115 to more than \$200 per round.

Troon North Villas is one of several Scottsdale development projects proposed in October. Here are a few others:

Desert homes near Preserve: Toll Brothers proposes building 52 single-family homes at Jomax Road and 118th Street on a vacant 80-acre parcel next to Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The homebuilder is asking the City Council to approve greater density on the site, paving the way for more houses. Houses are expected to sell for \$2 million to \$2.5 million.

Salad and Go: The healthy fast-foot concept that launched in Gilbert in 2013 is planning its first location in Scottsdale at 2323 N. Scottsdale Road, between McDowell and Thomas roads. The restaurant would feature a drive-thru and patio-dining area. Salad and Go serves a mix of salads, wraps, smoothies and breakfast items.

Three-story offices near Old Town: LGE Design Build filed plans for a three-story office building at 69th Street and First Avenue, near Hotel Valley Ho. The first floor would include space for retail shops and a parking garage, while the upper floors would include office space for Adante Law Group, according to development plans.

Airport News.....

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is expected to be among the 10 busiest airports in the nation this Thanksgiving, when as many as 27.3 million people are expected to board a U.S. airline for their holiday travel. The total number of travelers is up by about 55,000 passengers per day for the 12-day travel period from last year's holiday, when 26.6 million passengers traveled on those airlines according to projections Wednesday from [Airlines for America](#), a trade group for U.S. carriers.

Airlines for America Vice President John Heimlich attributed the surge to affordable airfares and said airlines have prepared for more holiday travelers by offering 74,000 more seats per day than they did last year.

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Sky Harbor was not in the top 10 last year, according to an Airlines for America spokeswoman, but an official at the airport said they are working now in anticipation of the busy holiday surge. “Our staff works closely together to ensure that we have staffing to meet our travelers’ demands,” Sky Harbor spokesman Greg Roybal said in an emailed statement. “We also have a volunteer navigator program that has nearly 400 volunteers who serve as the first faces travelers see when they arrive at the airport,” Roybal said. “They are easily recognized by their purple shirts and jackets and provide directions and answer questions for travelers.”

Heimlich said U.S. airlines are expected to carry an average of 2.27 million passengers per day over the holiday travel period that spans Nov. 18 to Nov. 29. He said Thanksgiving Day is expected to be the lightest travel day in that period while Nov. 27 - the Sunday after Thanksgiving - is expected to be the busiest.

Roybal said the recent construction at Sky Harbor will not interfere with holiday travel because tenants and contractors work together to ensure construction impacts are minimized. “Our construction projects, such as our Terminal 3 modernization project, are conducted in phases in order to minimize impacts to our customers,” he said.

The [Airlines for America](#) report said the volume of travelers, and the time it takes to funnel them through security checkpoints, are not as concerning as the possibility of bad weather delaying flights. Weather cannot be controlled, but security procedures can, and Heimlich said gains in that area should help this Thanksgiving. “We are pleased to report that the government’s numbers show that in just a year’s time, the numbers of folks that have access to expedited screening (through Transportation Security Administration checkpoints) has doubled,” Heimlich said. “One wild card, of course, for any travel period is the weather, especially on holidays.”

Heimlich said the nine airlines in the association that have reported third-quarter results, have been spending a combined \$3.6 billion per month on their workforce and continued adding staff in 2016. The extra staffing, along with new technology, should help keep fliers moving.

“Customers, employees, investors and communities all are benefiting from a healthy airline industry,” Heimlich said. “Carriers are in a much better position to improve their products, invest in their employees, provide a return to shareholders and enhance the overall travel experience for the 2.2 million people who fly every day.”

The 10 airports that are expected to see the most Thanksgiving travelers, according to Airlines for America: ATL, LAX, ORD, DFW, JFK, DEN, SFO, LAS, CLT, and PHX.

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

Arizona hotels and resorts had a strong showing in the latest Conde Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards announced this week. Seven Arizona resorts are among the 10 best resorts in Texas and the American Southwest, while five Arizona hotels ranked in the top 12 hotels in the American Southwest. The travel publication revealed this week its 29th annual Readers' Choice Awards featuring the [10 best resorts in Texas and the Southwest](#) and the [top hotels in the American Southwest](#).

Tanque Verde Ranch in Tucson topped the resort list, followed by the Miraval Resort & Spa, also in Tucson. That list also included properties in Scottsdale and Sedona. Three resorts in Texas filled out the ranking with two properties in Austin and one in San Antonio.

The list of top hotels in the Southwest features L’Auberge de Sedona in Sedona, the Hermosa Inn in Paradise Valley and the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix as well as properties in New Mexico. Tucson’s Tanque Verde Ranch also ranked in [the top 10 best resorts in the U.S.](#) “We’re thrilled to be recognized as not only the best resort in the Southwest, but also among the top 10 vacation destinations in the country,” said resort General Manager Rita Coe. “Here at Tanque Verde Ranch, guests return year-after-year for an authentic western experience that allows them to disconnect from their devices and reconnect with themselves and the great outdoors. Miles away from the stresses of city life, our visitors can spend their time bonding with horses on the trail and exploring the unique landscape on horse, bike or foot; all while learning new skills and making new friends.”

More than 300,000 readers of the travel publication cast votes for nearly 7,400 hotels across more than 600 cities, according to Conde Nast Traveler.

Around five million people each year see the 1 mile deep (1.6 km) Grand Canyon each year. The canyon is 277 river miles (446km) long, and up to 18 miles (29km) wide. Most visitors (90%) see Grand Canyon from the "South Rim" from overlooks accessed by free park shuttle buses or by their personal vehicles. The South Rim is open all year.

A much smaller number of people (10%) see the canyon from the North Rim of the park, which lies just 10 miles (16 km) across the canyon from the South Rim, (as the California Condor flies) but is a 220 mile/ 354 km drive by car. The North Rim has a short season. Lodging and food services are open between May 15th and October 15th of each year.

For more information about our state and national parks, visit the AZOT consumer site VisitArizona.com. For more information on the Grand Canyon and celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/index.htm>.

Willcox became Arizona's second federally-recognized wine-growing region, formally known as an American Viticultural Area, a designation the area's winemakers hope will increase the credibility of the region among oenophiles. The approval puts Willcox on the same national list of recognized viticultural areas that include Napa Valley, Calif., Paso Robles, Calif., and Willamette Valley, Ore.

"It's a point of pride for the industry," said John McLoughlin, the owner of Cellar 433 who spearheaded the three-year effort to get the recognition. "We're designated. We're doing this seriously." The designation, approved by a bureau within the Department of the Treasury, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, means the area was recognized as a unique region for growing grapes. Arizona's first designated American Viticultural Area, Sonoita, was named in 1985.

The move was published in the Federal Register, the legal newspaper of the federal government. Wineries can start using the AVA name on wine bottles 30 days after that publication date of September 13, 2016. Willcox can only be used on labels for bottles of wine made almost exclusively with grapes grown in the region. McLoughlin said he envisions the name Willcox becoming more visible in the wine world, printed on wine lists at Phoenix-area restaurants and seen on shelves at grocery and wine stores.

Though many of the tasting rooms and tourism industry are in the Verde Valley, most of the state's vineyards are spread through southeastern Arizona, just below the city of Willcox. The area, according to the documents submitted to the Treasury Department, includes 21 vineyards. The bulk of the state's grapes — more than two-thirds, according to the documents — are grown in the Willcox basin. That was why McLoughlin said he started the push for the designation in 2013. "The major growing in the state didn't have an AVA," he said. "It needed to be done." McLoughlin's own Willcox vineyard is the largest in the state, providing grapes for wineries such as Chateau Tumbleweed and Page Springs Cellars, as well as his own labels, Arizona Angel, Fiddlebender and Bitter Creek Winery.

For more information on Arizona wineries and tasting rooms visit:

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/dining/wine/2015/01/30/arizona-wine-tasting-rooms/22572215/>

Scottsdale Tourism Updates....

Travel trends evolve, and so do travelers – which is why the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau has transformed into [Experience Scottsdale](http://ExperienceScottsdale.com). After 18 months of research, development and testing in partnership with creative agency STRUCK, Scottsdale unleashed a new name, brand, logo and advertising campaign.

Along with the new name comes a new look, attitude and story about the destination. Scottsdale isn't just somewhere you visit; it's an experience – one that leaves you effortlessly revitalized at the end of your journey through outdoor adventure, relaxation and much more. This new image caters to today's traveler, showcasing the best of what Scottsdale has to offer through a modern lens.

Visit a totally revamped and vibrant website, www.experiencescottsdale.com, where you'll discover the desert is hot, dangerous and wild – but it's also exactly what you need right now. The Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau opened a brand-new visitors center in August and shut down the visitors center at the Galleria Corporate Centre. The new location is located in Scottsdale Fashion Square in the former box office of the recently shuttered Harkins Theatres, which relocated to the new Camelview multiplex inside the mall. Scottsdale CVB has signed a five-year lease for the new location.

The CVB visitor center, which provides visitors with tourism information about the city, will have two staff members working during its hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. The center will have five full- and part-time concierges on staff who will rotate schedules. The new center will feature visual technologies that provide travel inspiration, expansive signage, and a brochure wall highlighting member businesses. The new Scottsdale Tourist Information Center will be 205 square feet with an additional 50 feet or so of wall space for brochure display.

The Scottsdale CVB has cited competitors and similar organizations across the country that have gone through name changes such as Visit Phoenix, Travel Portland and Choose Chicago. Destination Marketing Association International recently released research that suggested the CVB name no longer had the same pull that it used to. Scottsdale is one of the state's biggest draws when it comes to tourism — the CVB's main focus — where visitors come for major events such as the Barrett-Jackson auto show, the Waste Management Phoenix Open and Cactus League spring training.

What's in a name? Sometimes, it's a lot. After 17 years as the Chaparral Suites, the hotel at the corner of Scottsdale and Chaparral roads will again carry the Embassy Suites moniker, this time as the [Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale Resort](#). But it's not just the name change that matters – it's what goes along with it. The 15-acre property underwent a \$25 million renovation, including 312 upgraded suites and multi-room executive and VIP suites. The hotel now boasts 60,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, including an 11,200-square-foot conference center.

Items of interest.....

The "Deck Park Tunnel" is not really a tunnel, but a series of 19 underpasses arranged side-by-side. Voters defeated a plan for a raised highway in 1973, but the final plan for the "tunnel" finally passed in 1979 and construction started in 1983. The "Tunnel" is the final leg of the 2,460-mile I-10 that spans from California to Florida that was completed in August 1990.

Rand McNally and Google Maps must love the flat, square precision of our town. Local vernacular is steeped in the north, south, east, west grid. Excluding our local mountain preserves, Phoenix may be one of the flattest cities in the country (thanks to the foresight of Thomas Jefferson). So why does downtown Phoenix have a tunnel? Don't those typically bore through mountains? Yes. But first, let's be clear, the mile-long Interstate-10 "tunnel" that runs both east- and west-bound between North Third Street and North Third Avenue in Phoenix is actually called the Papago Freeway Tunnel, though most of us call it the Deck Park Tunnel because of the park above it - although it's Margaret T. Hance Park above the tunnel and not Deck Park.

"The I-10 Deck Park Tunnel is more than simply a way to get through downtown Phoenix," says Arizona Department of Transportation Director John Halikowski. "It is part of a key commerce corridor that is integral to the state's continued economic growth and development, connecting Arizona to the world."

So why build it at all? Couldn't the highway just bisect the city without the elaborate underpass? That's where the story becomes more interesting. When the highway was first discussed in the 1960s, Phoenix was a fraction of its current size at about 440,000 people, but growing. The need for connecting the East and West Valley was apparent as was the uninterrupted continuation of the interstate highway.

Plans for a raised highway through downtown, one that wouldn't displace current roads or utilities, was struck down by voters in 1973. Another plan two years later called for a series of decks to be built over the highway with a 30-acre park established on top — the current model — but that, too, was defeated by voters. The project faced voters again in 1979 and was overwhelmingly passed three-to-one in favor of building the freeway, underpass and park. Construction of the \$500 million thoroughfare finally began in 1983.

"The Deck Park Tunnel shows the potential for great solutions when the community and government work together," Halikowski says. "The tunnel is a monument to that partnership — a fitting tribute for the final mile of I-10 constructed in the nation."

This editor acknowledges excerpts from AZ Rep "Only in Arizona" columnist Mark Nothaft.



The Papago Freeway Tunnel:

- 2,887 feet long
- 260,000 vehicles use it daily
- 3,000 lightbulbs inside, changed three times each year
- Four ventilation fans inside tunnel in case of an emergency

Education

The Fall Educational trip "Steps to Statehood" is on December 1, 2016, and has had a wonderful response from our membership. If you want to participate and find out if there is availability, you will need to contact Cheryl Schulz cas1210@aol.com.

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

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Sky Harbor !!!

www.arizona-guides.org

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GET OUTSIDE !!

If you can't hike, take a drive!

You drive through juniper covered hills, and suddenly there it is: Salt River Canyon, formed by thousands of years of a river cutting to the geologic core.....kinda like seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time! The Salt River Canyon is one of the most beautiful places in Arizona. It's about 40 miles northeast of Globe on US 60. On the drive, you'll pass the mining towns of Miami, Claypool and Globe. Along the way, explore Besh-Ba-Gowah Archeological Park, once home to more than 300 hunters, gatherers and farmers who flourished in this area for hundreds of years. www.globeaz.gov/visitors/

Websites to visit

It's hunting season: <https://www.azgfd.com/hunting/units/mesa/25m>

In the Globe area to tour on the reservation: www.sancarlosapache.com/attractions

~ See you at the Airport !!!! ~