



PIMA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

*Protecting and preserving
Pima County's trails*

Winter 2019, Vol. 32, Issue 1

Pima Trails Association 2018 Annual Meeting

PTA's annual meeting and board elections convened on November 7, 2018 at a new location, the Tucson Racquet and Fitness Club. Our annual meeting speaker, George Economidis, a Tucson native with 26 years as a Pima County Sheriff's officer, discussed desert outdoors safety. He illustrated some concepts with riveting stories of accidents and rescues that drove home the message.

The dinner concluded with the traditional brownie dessert. Newly printed t-shirts made of soft, heathered fabric in up-to-date colors were going fast. And, as in years before, many attendees walked away with some awesome raffle gifts!

2019 Board Election Results: President, Sue Clark; Vice President, Terri Gay; Treasurer, Chuck Cook Secretary, Bev Showalter Board Members: Daphne Madison, Mike Studer, Jim Terlep and Sharon Urban.



New Pima Trails t-shirts earned ooohs and ahhs at the annual membership meeting. There are some still available!

President's Message

With the start of 2019, the time has come to renew your support for Pima Trails by renewing your membership. We depend on members like you to help us with our mission of trail access for non-motorized users.

Most of what we do is behind the scenes but if you are on a trail, we probably had a hand in protecting, saving or creating it.

In this newsletter, you can read about what we did last year and what we are working on for 2019. Pima Trails is a recognized leader in working with different departments in local government making decisions about trails. We are often called upon for our knowledge in forging relationships between user groups and decision makers when trails and trailheads are being designed.

Organizations and groups ask us to come to their meetings to give talks about what we do and how we do it as well as the current status of trails. Answering the many questions that are asked helps everyone understand our purpose. If you would like us to give a talk or have a question, please contact us. We are here for you.

Thanks so much for your support last year and I'm looking forward to your support again this year

Sue Clark, President

PTA Statement of Purpose

Pima Trails Association is a nonprofit, 501(c)3, all-volunteer trails advocacy organization of hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers working together to protect and preserve trails in Pima County.

PTA Goals

- Establish an integrated multi-use public trails system
- Assure permanent access to trails on public lands.
- Promote cooperation with land owners and developers to preserve access to traditional-use trails on private lands.
- Foster cooperation and communication among all trail user-groups.
- Communicate and cooperate with government agencies on trail matters.
- Keep the community informed about trail issues and opportunities.
- Facilitate the safe and harmonious multi-use of trails through trail education, community programs and fund-raising activities.
- Encourage the development of new recreational and historic trails.
- Expand the effectiveness and influence of Pima Trails Association.

Welcome New Members!

Judy Meyers
Karl Flessa & Mari Jensen
Dede Havens
David Wrench
Mary Ann Hedges
Melanie Schaffner
Corinne Cramer
Andrew Broan
Mark Wamken
Bobbie Schmidt
Marianne Birenbaum
Betty Cowell
Carolle St. Jean
Kathleen White

Thank You, Business Members!

Arizona Trail Association
Epic Rides
Saddlebrook Hiking Club
SDMB
Southern Arizona Hiking Club

Accomplishments for 2018

Each year Pima Trails strives to better our trails community. That means attending endless meetings and working with other advocacy groups, homeowners and local governments to reach that goal. Below are a few of this past year's activities.

- At the request of the County Administrator, Pima Trails is serving on the Loop Advisory Committee which discusses user issues and how to improve the Loop.
- The dedication for the completion of the Loop last March at Brandi Fenton Park was very well attended and many people stopped by our booth to ask questions and buy t-shirts.
- We were invited by County Line Riders, Tucson Saddle Club and others to give trails talks.
- PTA wrote yet another letter asking for the Hope Camp Trail connection through Rocking K property to Saguaro National Park East.
- We participated in plans for Tucson Mountain Park trail improvements and Marana's Focus Group for their 2040 plan.
- Meetings with the City of Tucson Department of Transportation to discuss the plans for the El Paso Greenway from Simpson to 22nd St. resulted in widening the path from three feet to five feet.
- We approved a \$500 grant to Pima County for new trail signs at the Painted Hills section of Tucson Mountain Park.
- President Sue Clark spoke at the dedication for the new McKenzie Ranch Trails Park for bikes near Marsh Station Road.

Pima Trails Newsletter

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McKenzie Ranch Trails Park Opens

On November 3, 2018, PTA attended the opening ceremony for Pima County's first competitive mountain biking loop course at McKenzie Ranch. Our president, Sue Clark, spoke about the new course as a safe venue for mountain bikers to ride for speed and technique and the importance of multi-use trails for bicyclists and hikers. PTA supported the County's years-long efforts to make this park a reality along with the extraordinary efforts of the Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists (SDMB). SDMB donated money and many hours of hands-on trail work under the supervision of county trail project manager, Mark Flint.



Ribbon Cutting at McKenzie Ranch Bike Park. From left, Sue Clark, Steve Anderson, Lucretia Free, Neil Stitzer, Mark Flint and Evan Pilling.

Steve Anderson, planning division manager for Pima County, Evan Pilling from SDMB and Lucretia Free representing supervisor Steve Christy of District 4, all spoke of the importance of this new park for outdoor recreation. Following the prepared comments, a group of enthused mountain bikers took off for the first ride on the 10 mile competitive course.

The McKenzie Ranch Trails Park is located at 12725 S. Red Hills Ranch Road. As always, please be courteous to other trail users and to drivers on the road. Do not speed on Red Hill Ranch Road, and be respectful of private property in the area.

County Line Riders of Catalina: 25 Year Anniversary in 2019!

County Line Riders of Catalina (CLRC) formed in 1994, the same year as the Arizona Trail Association. Our mission was for trails and access advocacy. This meant working toward preserving access to trails, formation of new trails and trailheads and gaining new access to public lands.

Right off the bat, we worked with Game & Fish to secure a legal easement that sanctioned the Charouleau Gap road as access to the upper reaches of the Santa Catalinas on the west side. We also joined the Game & Fish "adopt a ranch" program by adopting the Palo Verde Ranch to help the rancher with gathering or moving cattle, fixing fence, pulling a well, sorting and branding. Now we are closer to home on the Willow Springs ranch.

CLRC has partnered with the Coronado National Forest on many projects including rebuilding corrals and well work at the Half Moon Ranch in the Dragoons and rebuilding Coronado Camp, a rancher's line camp cabin built many years ago at the top of Charouleau Gap along the CDO wash way up the mountain. We worked with the Forest to rebuild Hirayabashi Camp, installing horse corrals and cleaning up campsites.

To list all of our accomplishments would take many pages!

CLRC cherishes the partnership we have with Pima Trails Association which has been for many years in the forefront of access and trails issues.

--Bev Showalter

Empirita Ranch

The 366 acre Empirita Ranch at the bottom of Cienega Creek Natural Preserve is owned by Pima County and is a working cattle ranch leased to a rancher.

It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. Pima Trails, with the help of County Line Riders and Tucson Saddle Club, is currently working with Pima County to make this an equestrian location for event, camping, individual and group trail riding. The ranch could also serve as a regional emergency equestrian location.

There are three barns in various states of disrepair, plus outside runs and a dressage arena. One of the two ranch houses is occupied by the rancher

Pima County is entering into a new lease with the rancher while planning for the barns, pasture, arena and runs be available for public equestrian use. This would be the first Pima County owned property dedicated to equestrians. We are excited to bring you this information and will keep you informed as plans progress.

PIMA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 35007
TUCSON, AZ 85740

Support Pima Trails...become a member or renew!

PIMA TRAILS ASSOCIATION is a nonprofit trails advocacy organization of hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers working to protect & preserve trails in Pima County. Yearly membership runs Jan 1-Dec 31. No memberships are prorated. Join online or fill out this form and return to the address below.

1. MEMBERSHIP: ___...NEW ___...RENEWAL

2. Date: _____

3. E-mail: _____

Please be sure e-mail address is current! You'll receive your newsletter digitally at the e-mail address above. If you need a print copy, please notify PTA. We do not sell or share our membership list.

4. I use trails as: ___ Hiker ___ Mountain Biker
___ Equestrian ___ Other: _____

(Please check all that apply)

Multi-year memberships are available. Save time and effort!

| | 1 YEAR | 3 YEARS | 5 YEARS |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| TrailBooster | ___\$15 | ___\$45 | ___\$75 |
| Trail Booster, family. | ___\$20 | ___\$60 | ___\$100 |
| Trail Advocate* | ___\$50 | ___\$150 | ___\$250 |
| Trail Guardian* | ___\$100 | ___\$300 | ___\$500 |
| Trail Supporter* | ___\$ | _____ | _____ |

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

___*Please list this Trail Advocate/Guardian/Supporter membership as a business/organization membership.

Business/organization name: _____

Website: _____

Join online and pay with PayPal or return this form with check payable to: Pima Trails Association.

Mail to: PTA Membership, PO Box 35007, Tucson, AZ 85740