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FOOTPRINTS

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It's 2003 Already

Cliff Beck, Editor

GCHBA began just a short while ago, in April 2000, and here it is 2003 already. If you are like me, you have been spending the winter getting prepared for the upcoming hikes that good weather will bring. (There are some who will say the good weather never left.) But many of us will squeeze our hikes into the months from March to November. Partners and plans must be firm, permits must be obtained, and legs and heart tuned for the long haul.

My first hike will come a little early this year. I timed it so that I could attend the spring meeting of the GCHBA that will be held on Sunday, April 27th at 10:00 am at the Albright Recreation Center. I urge all of you to attend at least one meeting a year. There are two each year, the third Sunday (or thereabouts) of April and October, and so far they have been at 10:00 at the Rec Center.

It is a good chance for you to keep abreast of what your organization is up to, meet some of the interesting folks that make up the membership and the board of directors, and to make your voice heard regarding GCHBA policy, positions, and activities. Another bonus to attending the meeting is that a service project is typically associated with the meeting. This spring we will open the North Rim early and head down to Cottonwood Campground for some camp maintenance.

Since the October 2002 meeting the Board has been very active in coming to terms with some issues that get to the founding purpose of our organization. In general the Board has assessed the degree to which GCHBA is intended to be a social organization, and to what degree it should be activist in attempting to resolve some of its most onerous problems. It needed to reach consensus in order to take a position on issues that impact the experience of every hiker and backpacker visiting the Grand Canyon.

It appears that at this time the Board sees both roles embedded in its mission, a view that apparently is shared by many of the founding fathers in the months that led up to the April 2000 denouement. Reread some of those early posts from the beginning of the Yahoo (E-groups) website and you will see that the board has stayed true to their mission.

For the first time, GCHBA has taken an official position on a subject that addresses the fundamentals of access to the Grand Canyon and the Nation's national parks in general – the fee demonstration program. I point you to a reprint of the letter recently sent by President Mary Simpson to Arizona's elected leaders on behalf of the board and our membership.

More generally, the Board of Directors have prepared a position paper that establishes principles that should be considered in implementing and operating a backcountry permit system. The paper examines the existing Grand Canyon permit system, and suggests areas for improvement. Look for it in the next issue of Footprints.

Did I mention service projects? As usual Mike Coltrin gives us an update on the service program and what he has in store for the upcoming year. We are gaining a foothold in the corridor, it appears, as we are getting solid reputations at Indian Garden, Phantom Ranch, and Cottonwood campgrounds.

Also, I have been desperate for some good trail talk to share with you. Thankfully, Mike came through with reports on some recent canyon hikes. I urge you to pass on your stories, short or long, serious or funny, and share them here with your fellow hikers. Send them to me at cheyava@aol.com and I will try to get them into future issues.

Speaking of future issues, I will be trying to heed the mandate of the Board and get more information to you more frequently, at least six times a year. We will see how I do.

By the Numbers

If you pay attention to attendance figures at the Grand Canyon, you may recall that years ago they were predicting 5 million visitors a year and more. They have come close, but the poor international economy and the events of September 11, 2001 have had a dramatic impact on visitation. Many of the canyon's visitors come to the park as a group, by bus, and generally as a side trip to a Las Vegas vacation package. Apparently this group dropped off considerably since September 11. Look at the numbers of the recent past:

2002	4,339,139
2001	4,400,823
2000	4,816,559
1999	<u>4,937,625</u>
1998	4,578,089
1997	4,851,931
1996	4,730,682
1995	4,908,073
1994	4,704,070
1993	4,928,509

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Membership form on back, send check to:

Grand Canyon Hikers & Backpackers Association

P.O. Box 11986

Prescott, AZ 86304

www.GCHBA.org

Powell Plateau Circumambulation

OCTOBER 2002

by Mike Coltrin

SATURDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2002

Jacek Macias and I arrived at the Swamp Point trailhead at midnight.

SUNDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2002

We ate breakfast while we packed and were on our way to Muav Saddle at 7:50 am. The trail to the saddle was in good shape. We stopped at Teddy's Cabin at 8:10 am. There was no register at the cabin.

Ten minutes later we were on our way down Saddle Canyon. Through the Hermit and upper Supai the route was easy. We mostly followed the dry streambed, dodging brush here and there. We did not check out Powell Spring. There was no water in the streambed below it.

Our first bypass in the Supai was to the left and was simple to do. The next two were on the right, the second a little tougher than the first. We reached the major Supai bypass at 10:00am. This bypass was to the left. It is well cairned where we left the streambed. The route took us up to a flattened ridge. We followed the ridge to its point then dropped down a cairned route to the left. We reached the bottom of a side canyon a couple hundred feet above its confluence with Saddle Canyon.

There was one more Supai bypass below this one. It was also on the left and wasn't as well marked as the earlier one. Jacek remembered it from a previous hike and said he had used the bypass on his way down but had climbed the obstacles in the canyon on his return.

The first Redwall bypass was on the left as well but was fairly easy. Below that was an obstacle with two pools. I waded the pools

and Jacek lowered our packs then used the rope for a handline to descend. We had lunch here at 11:30am.

The Redwall narrows continued for quite a while with no major obstacles until the "Slick Slide". We weren't sure at first if this was the slide Steck wrote about so we tried to bypass it using a ledge on the left side. It soon cliffed out. The slide was basically a three-parter. The first slide ends in a dirty pool. The water was shallow along the left wall but the rocky



bottom was slippery. We stemmed this pool with our hands on the right wall and feet close to the left. The second slide happily ended in a very shallow pool. Trying our best to hold traction we both lost control before we reached the bottom. The third slide was more user-friendly and had a nice landing ledge at the

bottom on the right. The pool at the foot of this slide looked hopeless but by sounding with our hiking sticks we were able to get across safely. We wore our packs on our backs and were able to keep everything dry.

Just a few minutes below the "Slick Slide" was the last Redwall obstacle – the Big Drop. There was a well cairned traverse on the left side followed by a nasty talus descent. At the foot of the talus slope was Stina Canyon. There was no water running out of Stina but there was good water a short way upstream. We reached this point at 3:15pm.

Our intended camp was at Crazy Jug Canyon but there was no water there so we continued down the main canyon now properly named Tapeats Creek. The going was good. It took us two hours to reach a good spring at the base of the Tapeats formation. We camped.

MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2002

The first quarter mile from camp was nasty with many huge boulders to get by. The going then became easier and we reached the wet arm of Tapeats Creek in a half-hour. We spent the next 1 1/4 hours wading the narrows. The first couple of hundred yards was right down the gut then we usually were able to cross to land on one side or the other until we came to Thunder River.

We followed the trail downstream to where the trail to Stone Creek takes off and had lunch. The hiking was pretty easy the rest of the day. We reached the river overlook of Tapeats Creek delta at 12:45pm and the Stone Creek waterfall at 2:30pm. We didn't bother trying the fancy descent into Stone Creek, we contoured in above the waterfall. We camped near the river.

TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2002

Tuesday's hiking began at 7:45am. There was a well-marked trail to a little upstream of Galloway Canyon. It was easy walking along the river for the next half-mile or so then it became necessary to climb 50 or 60 feet to avoid being cliffed out along the river. Even so it wasn't all that bad at first.

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VIDEO

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by Ken McNamara and Rob Kleine
Produced by ConMara Publishing, Inc.

www.grandcanyonhiker.com

This 63 minute video combines on the trail footage and computer generated animations that will assist a hiker in orienting to the Canyon before arriving.

It's also a great way to show friends and relatives the Canyon from a hiker's point of view.

\$ 14.95 plus shipping & handling
(\$5.00 donated to GCHBA for each video purchased by our members)

A promotional graphic for "Cool Hiker". The text "COOL HIKER" is written in a large, stylized, black font at the top. Below it, in a smaller, white font, is "Portable Fan with Spray Bottle". At the bottom, it says "Hike Smart! Be a Cool Hiker" and provides the website "www.coolhiker.com". The background is a blurred image of a hiker in a canyon.

continued . . .
At about river mile 131 the route went higher and become more difficult. Getting past a ravine across from a beach on river left was a real bear. Once past it the route returned to river level and easy walking. (Jacek descended the ravine. I went down on the upstream side of it.)

The route benches up and goes into Bedrock Canyon. The descent is a couple hundred feet from the river. No water was flowing in Bedrock. We went to the river and checked out the fluted rocks on the upstream side of the creek before continuing on. The route out of Bedrock Canyon was right at the mouth, up to the same bench that was on the downstream side. The bench was much higher here. Once the bench was reached the walking was easy the half-mile to Switch-Level Canyon. (Here the route switched levels from below the Tapeats to above it.) There was nice water in the bed so we had an enjoyable lunch.

From Switch-Level the route climbed to the Tonto and contoured all the way to 128 Mile Canyon. Most of the walking was easy but there were a couple of rough spots passing ravines. We arrived at the descent ravine to 128 Mile Canyon at 1:30pm. It was in the first side canyon about 1/2 mile from the river. As Steck said, the upper talus slope leads to a seemingly hopeless pouroff but it really was sweet. We camped where we reached the canyon bottom. There was flowing water but not too many spaces for sleeping.

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2002

Expecting another short easy day, we took our time early on. The route back to the Tonto was straight up a chute right at our camp. On the Tonto there often were burro trails to follow and the going was easy. We experienced one delay trying to repair my torn shorts but still made it to 127 Mile Canyon in 2 1/2 hours.

We walked in shade most of the morning and took an early lunch break before heading out into the sun. The route dropped off the Tonto just downstream from Fossil Rapid. The walking was super easy for 1/2 mile spoiling us into thinking we really did have a short day in store. Then the Traverine happened. This was one half of a mile of torture; slowly picking our way across the razor-sharp rocks. It was hot too. Doubly so with the sun reflecting off the river. At 4:00pm we camped on a sandy beach downstream from Forster Rapid. The river had been running muddy for over a month but cleared for us just when we needed it.

THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2002

Our time in the penalty box over, we had fine walking on this day. 2 1/2 hours was spent getting to Blacktail Canyon but 1/2 hour of that was at a prolonged rest stop. The route was mostly Tapeats benches and the few side canyons were small.

As Steck wrote, the route into Blacktail was right down the nose. It was cool and shady so we spent 2 hours just relaxing. A little after noon we pressed on. The climb back to the Tonto was about 200 feet upriver from the mouth of Blacktail.

Once again the walking was easy. The route was on burro trails instead of ledges. At 119 Mile Canyon we found shade, rainpocket water and a roasting pit. After

about 45 minutes we continued on to the next canyon, 118.5, and found more rainpocket water so stopped for an early camp. Not far away we retrieved a beverage stash that was left for us 4 years ago by a friend on a river trip.

FRIDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2002

The first mile or two was reasonably easy. A burro trail exists along most of the Tonto. If your eyes and feet are sharp enough you can stay on it with nice results. There was rainpocket water in the ravine just upstream of mile 118. As the route neared the eastward bend of Explorers Monument the going got rougher. We got used to the razor-sharp limestone blocks. They were with us all the way around the Monument to mile 115.

Due to our early start we walked in shade most of the morning then got a double dose of rough ground and sunshine the rest of the way to the Explorers Monument fold. We took three hours to get to this gully then enjoyed a three-hour lunch break. I napped while Jacek found his way to the river. When he returned he brought a ton of water with him. This was to come in quite handy later on.

At 1:30pm we continued our journey. Happy hiking began when we made the northward bend. In the minor canyon south of Garnet we found rainpocket water, some Indian ruins and two roasters. Key Spring, at mile 114, was dry. This put us in a minor fix since we were planning to camp there. We felt we had enough water with us to dry camp and still make it to Hakatai Canyon the next day but it would be nice to have some safety. The options, as we saw them, were to do a dry camp and tough it out tomorrow, go back a half-mile to the known rainpocket and return with more water or continue on and hope for more water. Since it was only three thirty we decided to continue hiking. We were going to have to hike this stretch eventually and it was relatively cool and shady now but would be sunny in the morning.

A mile farther we found water in the northern arm of 113 Mile Canyon. We camped there. Nearby were more Indian ruins and two roasting pits.

SATURDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2002

From reading other reports we expected Waltenberg Canyon to be deep and it was. As others have said we didn't think we would ever get to the end of it. The hike took three hours from last night's camp. The trail came and went and the limestone obstacles were mean. It wasn't near as bad as the river stretch between Fossil and Forster but it was still nasty. Happily, the east side was more user friendly. Jacek took a trail that hugged the canyon rim on the edge of the Tapeats while I followed a higher trail. Both worked fine. As always, he beat me to Hakatai. The route to the bottom was an old trail that began on a ramp just downstream from the mouth of the canyon. It swung into Hakatai and stayed just below the Tapeats cliffs for a couple hundred yards until it passed through a notch. From there the rest of the trail was visible. It followed a ramp down to the creek at Bass' Asbestos mines. The exit raving was directly across the canyon.

Jacek went to the river for water while I held down the fort.

SUNDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2002

In the morning we went different ways. Jacek took the direct drainage to the Tonto, left his pack where I could find it and climbed Fan Island. I hiked upstream in Hakatai in hopes of finding Bass' old trail. I found it after a long walk. (Can you say "Waltenberg?") The trail worked its way up the north side of the drainage coming off the low point of the ridge between Fan Island and Masonic Temple. After crossing a pouroff it switched to the south side and climbed to the Tonto.

I was able to follow the trail here and there on the Tonto until I came to the major drainage that Jacek used that morning. The drainage looked dangerous to me so I climbed about 300 feet to get above the higher of two brown cliffs. Here I found the trail and continued on my way.

As I came to the south face of Fan Island I 'hooted' and Jacek 'hooted' back. He was up there somewhere but I couldn't see him. I did find his pack, though, and had lunch there. As I was packing to leave I heard him again and saw him skylighted just below the summit. A few minutes later he was on top.

I remembered what the descent into Burro Canyon was like from a trip a few years earlier. I tried a different route than I used then. I found a gully east of Fan Island and descended in it. It was easier, and not as slippery my other route, but still took a while to accomplish.

From the bottom of Burro Canyon (above the waterfall) I took the ramp up and descended into Shinumo Creek in the first likely looking gully. We had agreed to meet at Bass camp and would probably camp there. Jacek was only an hour behind me and camp we did. Some nice boatmen from OARS visited with us and took our accumulated trash off our hands.

MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2002

Jacek hiked the lower portion of the North Bass Trail on the Tonto level between Shinumo Creek and White Creek. I walked the more traditional creek route. Jacek didn't think very highly of the Tonto stretch. We met up for lunch then carried water to a dry camp at the top of the Redwall.

TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2002

Jacek was interested in doing a dayhike to Masonic Temple. I just wanted out! The North Bass Trail was easy enough to follow. Through the Supai the route mostly stayed in the streambed. At forks in the bed cairns were always present. The climb up the Hermit slope was a grunt but, in my opinion, was easier to up than down. I visited Muav Spring and Teddy's Cabin and was to the rim in time for lunch. Jacek arrived four hours later. We camped near Swamp Point.

The following day Jacek did a long dayhike on the Powell Plateau. I rested my tired feet.

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GCHBA Service Projects for 2002

GCHBA Service Projects Update

by Mike Coltrin, Service Projects Coordinator

GCHBA members participated in yet another Service Project at Grand Canyon last October. This time the volunteers worked with Emily and Ramesh of the Canyon Revegetation Team at Indian Garden. The purpose of the project was to help the team get a 'handle' on the Blackberry bushes.

The Blackberries were introduced at Indian Garden about 50 years ago. While they gave good fruit in season they were non-native and were expanding at an alarming rate. The fear was that they would, in time, work their way downstream to the River and spread throughout Grand Canyon from there.

Participants at this project were: Mary Simpson, Pat and Lynn Davis, Dick and Joan Gladson, Gene Fowler, Cliff Beck and Mike Coltrin.

The volunteers put in two solid days of work and were rewarded for their efforts by yet another of Gene's famous ice cream runs.

This spring the GCHBA Service Project will be at Cottonwood Campground from April 28th to May 1st. Ranger Peggy Kolar will direct our efforts.

If you would like to become involved in GCHBA service projects at Grand Canyon, contact me at Coltrin1@cox.net or by telephone (520) 624-1831.

Bill Orman will also be facilitating a National Trails Day event on the North Rim set for June 7th. The Transept Trail, between the campground and the lodge area, will be the focus of this project. This project will only last the one day but the volunteers will have use of the large group site at the campground for three nights.



"Fee Demonstration Project Should Be Discontinued"

GCHBA Announces

The GCHBA Board of Directors letter regarding the fee demo project was sent to the following elected officials in February, 2003.

John McCain (AZ), Jim Kolbe (AZ), John Kyle (AZ), Charles Taylor (NC), member of key committee, Bill Young (FL), member of key committee

Dear Senator or Representative ,

I am writing to ask you NOT to vote for continuation of Section 315 of Title III-Public Law 104-134...which authorized the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program ("fee demo") which is in place presently on all Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and BLM lands.

I am president of the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Assn., the largest outdoors hiking club in the nation devoted solely "to promote, encourage and advocate the interests of the hiking and backpacking community in the regions of the Grand Canyon." There are over 80,000 backpackers from every state in the union who use this "grand" park. Our organization feels very strongly that "fee demo" is a bad program and needs to be ended. Our reasons are:

Our public lands are our heritage and our birthright. We own these lands. They are not a recreational commodity.

We already support the public lands agencies and our public lands through our federal taxes. Furthermore, hunters, fishermen and others pay licensing fees on top of access fees and taxes. This new fee amounts to nothing more than double - or even triple - taxation.

Fee Demo sets a precedent of classism where only those who can afford to recreate will be able to do so. Those who can't afford it will be barred from their own public lands.

The act of paying fundamentally alters the way one relates to the outdoors. People won't feel the responsibility of being on their own land. Rather, they will feel like they are visiting Disneyland where someone else is being paid to clean up after them.

Fee Demo has nothing to do with the stewardship of public lands. It is, in fact, the beginning of an attempt by corporate America to privatize and commercialize our public lands.

Businesses that sell passes are selling-off our freedoms. These vendors make a profit from the loss of one of our basic rights as American citizens: our right to access our public lands.

The Forest Service is basing the success of its fee projects on compliance. The threatened \$100.00 fine is nothing less than extortion! The Forest Service cannot justify sticking the public with a fee or a fine while it continues to lose millions of dollars a year due to its own mismanagement.

Making the public pay a fee to use its own public lands, while at the same time providing federal subsidies for timber, cattle, and mining interests on public lands, is not only illogical, but immoral.

Due to its cumbersome nature, Fee Demo is not generating anywhere near the needed funds for the Forest Service or the National Park Service, nor does it apply much of the funds that are raised to forest or park maintenance. In fact, many of the fee receipts do little more than pay for fee collection and enforcement.

Our priceless, God-given, wild country is being held hostage. Forest Service officials are threatening to close-off large portions of public lands if the fee program fails.

The American people should not have to pay again for wilderness areas where there are no man-made improvements, where they don't want any improvements, and where there shouldn't be any improvements.

People need a place to go - relatively free and un-fettered from society's pressures. Our public lands are the last of these places, and Fee Demo destroys this idea.

We are very thankful and appreciative for the Rangers and administration of GCNP. We do NOT want them "privatized" and under the direction of some for-profit recreational "disneyland" corporation. Please do the right thing and vote against "fee demo". Please restore the needed General Funds for the NPS, FS, BLM so we don't shortchange our national treasures.

Thank you.

Mary Simpson,
President, GCHBA

Minutes of the GCHBA Annual Meeting – October 20, 2002

GRAND CANYON RECREATION CENTER

Attendees: John Azar, Cliff Beck, Karl Buckendahl, Mike Coltrin, Lynn Davis, Patricia Davis, Rick Della Porta, Gene Fowler, Tom Gunderson, Cindy Kleist, John Nanke, Janece Ohlman, Thomas Ohlman, Jim Ohlman, Hank Schnieder, Mary Simpson, Sally Underwood

President Mary Simpson called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15. The minutes of the last meeting (April, 2002) were not available to be read. Cindy Kleist will record and report on today's proceedings in the absence of Secretary Tom Martin.

OLD BUSINESS

GCHBA Position on the Permit Process

Mary Simpson asked about the status of the committee formed to present a position paper on the permit process. The committee consists of John Nanke, Tom Martin, and Doug Nering. They talked to the Park Service, added their own ideas and wrote a paper with a focus on fairness, and have presented this to the board. It was decided that at this time GCHBA should announce that it is reviewing the process from a backpackers standpoint. The release of the paper will be tabled pending further thought and discussion.

John Nanke briefly outlined his own personal survey of people working with or obtaining permits through the existing system. His experiences are incorporated in the paper.

Additional information will be gathered before concluding this position paper and announcing it, including:

1. Find out what the NPS has done or changed (or not) recently
2. Examine the current year's permit statistics
3. Clarify the objective of the position taken
4. the committee should attend the Park Service meeting in February for commercial operators in the backcountry

When the permit paper is posted it will be done through a link to a file instead of being posted as an e-group message in order not to take up regular message space.

GCHBA MISSION

The permit process discussion sparked another concerning GCHBA's general purpose. John Nanke feels that we should publish something on the issue, or at least a summary, because others, both members and non-members of GCHBA, don't realize that we are more than a social group. He stated that we need to become more aware of issues related to Grand Canyon hiking and make our position known. We also need to make known our involvement with service projects and other good deeds. Others agreed that GCHBA definitely needs to be more visible.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections

Board of Directors: Our board consists of 13 members serving 2 year terms. Each year the membership must elect a slate to fill about half of the board seats. GCHBA voters in 2002 were to fill 6 seats from a group of 9 candidates.

About 100 ballots were mailed to members with paid dues. 36 of these were returned and

tallied. Members present at the meeting that had not submitted a paper ballot voted by show of hands for each nominee. The hand count was added to the paper ballot tally. The results are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1. John Nanke (incumbent) | 43 votes |
| 2. Mary Simpson (incumbent) | 39 |
| 3. Hank Schnieder (incumbent) | 39 |
| 4. Tom Martin (incumbent) | 37 |
| 5. William Orman | 36 |
| 6. Bob Ribokas (incumbent) | 33 |

Cliff Beck, next in total votes with 32, was designated as a board member alternate. The board thanked Cliff, Dick Gladson, and John Markham for their offers to help guide GCHBA.

Board Officers

President was the only office up for election at this time. The normal two-year terms of the other offices will end in 2003. President is only up for election at this time because Mary Simpson had accepted the position for a one year trial when she took over the duties a year ago.

NOTE: At the time of this meeting, the GCHBA bylaws state: The officers of the Corporation shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as the Board of Directors deems necessary and appropriate. All officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among the Directors. Officers shall take their office immediately following their election. Each officer shall hold office for one (1) year or until earlier resignation, removal or other termination for any reason.

Doug Nering, board member, in a note dated 11/20/02, suggests that the minutes should be amended before approval to note that this is wrong and to state the correct term and procedure.

Nominations for President were made and seconded. Nominated were Mary Simpson and John Nanke. Discussion following nominations and before voting included John Nanke volunteering to either be Treasurer or to help Hank Schnieder with some of the sometimes large duties of Treasurer. A vote was taken by show of hands of the 8 board members present, after determining that there were a sufficient number of board members for elections. Mary Simpson was reelected for a second term. Congratulations Mary!!

PRESENTATION BY JIM OHLMAN

Jim Ohlman presented pictures and narration of the 1919 Grand Canyon Cableway Survey, a project to span the canyon with a cable tram from El Tovar to the Battleship to Dana Butte to the Tower of Set and Tiyo Point. Jim had originally made this presentation at the Grand Canyon History Symposium in February 2002. Jim's knowledge of the canyon and his excellent research produced an outstanding presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

The spring meeting will be held on April 27, 2003 at 10:00 AM, at the Grand Canyon Recreation Center.

President Mary Simpson adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Cindy Kleist, GCHBA



The current GCHBA Board of Directors is as follows:

Mary Simpson
President
Arizona

John Nanke
Vice President
Arizona

Hank Schnieder
Treasurer
Arizona

Tom Martin
Secretary
Arizona

Mike Coltrin
Service Coordinator
Arizona

John Azar
Arizona

Cliff Beck
Maryland

Patricia Davis
Texas

James Hayford
New Hampshire

Doug Nering
Arizona

Bob Ribokas
Massachusetts

"Doc" Thomas
Arizona

Sally Underwood
Arizona

Odd and Ends

Bald eagle and condors are being spotted from Phantom Ranch and Bright Angel Campground.

Word is that there are "friendly" condor pairs in the Dana Butte/Plateau Point area that could continue their interest in this locale from last year. Last spring, breeding pairs occupied caves on the Battleship and Dana Butte, but were unsuccessful producing young. View from a distance in awe, but do not approach.

Trivia question: What three main drainages in the canyon were at one time dubbed First, Second, and Third Creeks? Answer later.

This would not be the first time that bald eagles have been spotted in the area. I was hiking into Phantom Canyon from Utah Flats and came across a pair of hikers that had seen a baldie soaring near Cheops Pyramid. The year was 1995. I guess the fishing is good.

I am sad to announce the resignations of two board members, Steve Parkis and newly elected William Orman. Look for Bill to be active with National Trails Day activities at the Canyon. I hope to run into Steve again at the Phantom cantina. We met there a number of years ago. GCHBA thanks them and wishes them Happy Trails.

The Board held a impromptu meeting at the Park's orientation session in February. (A report on the Park's meeting will be in the next issue.) Cliff Beck, alternate, will fill one of the board vacancies until the next election. The board voted to not fill the other vacancy at this time and maintain a board size of 13.

Trivia Answer: First, Second, and Third Creeks were known by early campers and hikers as First, Second, and Third Creeks. Source - The Marketplace, 1998.

GCHBA financial reports will be reviewed at the April meeting and published in the next newsletter.



Post Office Box 11986
Prescott, Arizona 86304



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To join the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association simply fill out this form and mail it, along with your dues for the first year, to the address below. Basic Membership is \$20 per year and you will be notified by e-mail or US mail when your anniversary date approaches. There is a surcharge to cover first class for members who want their newsletter delivered outside the United States.

GCHBA MEMBERSHIP

First name _____

Middle name _____

Last name _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Postal code _____

Country _____

JOIN US ON THE INTERNET AT:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/grandcanyon>
or sign up at: www.GCHBA.org

- KAIBAB Membership 2002 \$ 20
- BRIGHT ANGEL Membership 2002 \$ 50
- GRANDVIEW Membership 2002 \$ 100
- Additional GCHBA patches at \$8/each \$ _____
- Additional GCHBA T-shirts at \$18/each ... \$ _____
- Total enclosed \$ _____

Send Check to address below.