

The Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 20, Issue 5

May 7, 2007

~ AGA Annual Meeting~

We've almost made it through another season! That means it's time for our Annual May Meeting! That also means elections for the 2007-08 year, reports from the current year's officers and committees, the adoption of a budget for the following year, as well as any other necessary business. The slate of officers for next year was announced at the March general meeting, as required by the AGA by-laws. Also, per the AGA by-laws, ballots are to be cast by Regular (Active) Members only, and no proxy ballots are accepted. This means you must be present to vote OR, you may request an absentee ballot from the nominating committee.

Contact Nominating Committee Chairperson, Joan Moran, for an absentee ballot at 480.538.7999, or at d Moran101@cox.net. ***Ballots must be received by the May 8 meeting to be counted that evening by the nominating committee, when the results of the election will be tallied and announced.***

~~~~~ EXERCISE YOUR VOTING RIGHTS AS AN AGA MEMBER!!!! ~~~~~

AGA Annual Meeting and Dinner ~ Monday, May 21, 2007

When: Monday, May 21, 2007

Where: The Boulder House ~ 32227 North 74th Way, Scottsdale

Directions: Maps are attached to your e-mail or mailed with your newsletter.

Suggestion: Please Carpool from the Target Parking lot on Scottsdale Road at Ashler Hills. There is VERY limited parking at the Boulder House. Call Bob Waldie on his cell @ 602.478.6105 if you arrive at Target and need a ride to the house.

Time: 6:00 P.M. Reception / Registration /Casting of Ballots for the Annual Election/
Tours and Hospitality.
7:00 P.M. Dinner catered by El Paso (The AGA will provide the beverages: beer, wine, ice
tea, coffee, and bottled water.)
8:00 P.M. Voting Results and Business Meeting.

Cost: \$30.00 per person.

Please RSVP to Dee Hunt: jazzhunt37@cox.net or 480-429-1747.

~ The Boulder House ~

The Boulder House has been featured on the cover of Architectural Digest Magazine, February 1983 and was listed in "Courvoisier" 1986 Book of the Best, as the most original house in America. The site on which this unique home was built has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places as the "Empie Petroglyph Site". The guide will show you evidence of a prehistoric peoples' presence,

pointing out the petroglyphs and stone carved solstice calendars they left behind. This is a truly significant home with its extraordinary architecture and the prehistoric experience.

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President's Notes.....

Ahhhhhhhh....Seems like just yesterday I was writing my first letter as president and now I'm writing the last one. I've enjoyed my tenure as president of the Arizona Guides Association. I've always been one to jump in with both feet when I get involved in something. I believe that anytime you commit as a member of a group you commit to taking some responsibility to keep the organization viable. President or peon, you have a job to do.

I was very fortunate to have reliable and conscientious people on the board and on the committees. Good things were accomplished over the last few months:

- We acquired liability insurance
- We had our meetings at some new venues
- Interesting programs and speakers
- The website is up and running
- Two fabulous educational trips

The mission statement of the AGA states that it is "an organization dedicated to promoting high standards of integrity, proficiency, and knowledge through continuing education and certification." It means that our members have a strong desire to know and to impart accurate information about our city and state. I would urge any of you who are serious about doing commentary and tours to take the time to study for the proficiency exam and add "Certified" to your name in the directory. It gives YOU more credence and preserves the integrity of the Arizona Guides Association.

Incoming president, Howard Christensen has his agenda set for meetings and education and I hope you will consider getting involved in some way.

Take time. Give back a little. Commit!

Leslie Ullstrup, AGA President

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

La Casa Vieja land sold Michael Monti, whose family has owned one of the Valley's oldest restaurants, has sold the 2.5 acres of prime downtown Tempe land on the southwest corner of Rio Salado Parkway and Mill Avenue. The restaurant will stay, according to the business deal with Phoenix developer Tony Wall and his 3W Companies. So will the original portion of the historic building. The hacienda housed Tempe's original Anglo family. The 13-room Mexican "row house" style building was created by Charles Trumbull Hayden in 1871, according to the Tempe Historical Museum. He's the same Hayden who ran the a ferry service across the continuously flowing Salt River and the Hayden Flour Mill, which served as the economic engine for the burgeoning city. The mill, and the family who kept it open, helped foster the beginnings of what Tempe is today. The Hayden family used the building as their home until 1889, when it became a boarding house and a general store. The house deteriorated during those years, so by the time Hayden's daughters Sallie and Mary reclaimed it in 1920 it needed restoration, according to historians. The Hayden sisters had it refurbished and started the building's restaurant theme. They opened a tea house called "La Casa Vieja" or "The Old House." The family sold the building in the 1930s. In the years that followed, the building changed hands several times, until 1954 when Leonard Monti purchased the place. He opened what's now Monti's La Casa Vieja two years later. Much like recently approved plans to preserve - but still develop - the Hayden Flour Mill, 3W Companies intends to create a mixed-used building that incorporates the historic part of the restaurant - the original house at the north end of the building.

Happy 170th Birthday If Winfield Scott were to visit his namesake city today, he would find some surprises, voiced some speakers at the Scottsdale founder's 170th birthday celebration. "He would probably be a little shocked at all the bar scene," said state historian Marshall Trimble, chuckling. "But he would have to look at it with some pride, because Scottsdale is a nice city." About 85 people attended the celebration of the birth of Scottsdale's founder, who died in 1910. Bill Phillips, professor emeritus of history at Arizona State University, described the loose connections between Scott and Arizona's Goldwater family. Morris Goldwater claimed the land now known as Scottsdale in April 1885. But, a few months later, he canceled his claim for

unknown reasons. Three years later, Scott claimed those 520 acres at 50 cents an acre, Phillips said. Scott, a Civil War hero who became a preacher and a farmer, ultimately bought 640 acres at \$2.50 an acre. His brother, George Washington Scott, became the town's first resident. The town became Scottsdale in 1894 after being changed from Orangedale. It would not incorporate as a city until 1951, when it reached a population of 2,000. A bronze memorial will be dedicated to Scott and his wife May 5 in a ceremony outside

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the Scottsdale Historical Museum. "He's a person anybody would be proud of to have as their founder because he was a man of honor," Trimble said. "He was a man of integrity. He was just a man respected universally."

Bird watching helps Arizona tourism fly More than 350,000 people come to Arizona every year to spot birds. They bring in an estimated \$1 billion, making bird watching Arizona's most lucrative tourist activity, according to Joe Yarkin, watchable wildlife manager for Arizona Department of Game and Fish. Economically, it ranks above golf and the other big boys of tourism. From scrublands near Yuma to the Mogollon Rim to areas near Sierra Vista where people flock to see hummingbirds, birding hotspots abound in Arizona. Of the more than 18 million bird watchers who travel each year, many consider Arizona a must-see. Arizona is on just about every birders top five places to go see, according to Richard Payne, president of the American Birding Association, who adds that Arizona is renowned for birds that fly from Mexico and those that migrate during colder months. Arizona is also home to 30 of the nation's most important bird habitats, as determined by the National Audubon Society. The organization recently selected Sonoita Creek State Natural Area and Patagonia Lake State Park in southern Arizona as "Important Birding Areas." The number of bird watchers nationwide has more than doubled to 46 million in the past 20 years, ranking it behind only gardening as a hobby, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In many Arizona communities, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, shops and tour operators benefit from birds. Sierra Vista Mayor Bob Strain said bird watchers are an economic engine for his city, which is known as the hummingbird capital of the United States. To guide visiting birders, the Arizona Department of Tourism developed a list called the "Birding Trail," which includes the state's best spots to spot birds. Arizona has one of the highest bird counts in the United States with more than 530 species, according to the Game and Fish Department. Cochise County has 226 species, giving it the third-highest bird population among counties nationally. Arizona usually also hosts around 10 birding festivals every year. These birding marathons include tours to places around the state. More info:

- American Birding Association: www.americanbirding.org
- Audubon Arizona: az.audubon.org
- Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory: www.sabo.org

Urban growth may push Arizona farmers to Mexico Urban growth into Arizona's farmland will push farmers to take part of the state's \$6.3 billion-a-year agriculture industry into Mexico, the state's agriculture director said. Butler said he doesn't see a balance developing between agriculture and the population influx that has made Arizona the fastest-growing state in the nation, and that's because the land is more valuable to a developer than to the farmer. Arizona lost 37 percent of its farmland between 1950 and 2000 to either residential, industrial or business uses, according to a 2003 report from Northern Arizona University's Center for Sustainable Environments. Butler said he remembers when Arizona had 500,000 to 600,000 acres of cotton. Last year, it was around 220,000 acres, and he said he has heard it's now around 180,000 acres. The state is the nation's second-largest producer of head and leaf lettuce, spinach, cantaloupes, honeydew melons, broccoli and cauliflower. Butler said the move of farms out of the country could make it more difficult to keep food safe. He also pointed out that any food-borne illness outbreak would be more difficult to trace in imported food. He says they can do things in Mexico that we can't do here in pesticides and in other areas. Produce distributors are working with Mexican growers to establish safety measures for their crops. Corporations such as Wal-Mart are demanding a specific level of safety in the food that they purchase. Butler said Sonora is the most advanced state in Mexico in terms of livestock and crops. However, the 1,500 trucks passing through the port of Nogales each day carry produce from as far away as Guatemala and Chile. While agriculture inspectors monitor what enters Arizona, it's impossible to inspect every truck and every cargo container. Agriculture contributes about \$36 billion annually to the Yuma economy, and the area produces more than 90 percent of all the winter vegetables - such as lettuce, broccoli, and cauliflower - sold in the U.S.

Developer plans Ritz at PV site On hotelier Bill Marriott's 75th birthday, developers of the Ritz-Carlton Paradise Valley formally unveiled plans for a hacienda-style luxury resort and residential project they say will continue the standard of excellence. Marriott, chairman and chief executive officer of Marriott International, could not attend the Paradise Valley Planning Commission study session. But his love for Paradise Valley - Marriott celebrated his birthday with family at Marriott's Camelback Inn Resort, Golf Club & Spa - will be

imprinted on the new Ritz-Carlton, officials said. Ritz-Carlton is an independently operated division of Marriott International, which purchased the property northwest of Lincoln Drive and Scottsdale Road in 2005 for \$74 million from the Sinclair Oil Corp. The 225-room resort hotel would be the Valley's second Ritz-Carlton. The

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Ritz-Carlton site is on 123 acres, 105 acres in the town and 18 acres in Scottsdale. The parcel is bordered by Lincoln Drive on the south, Indian Bend Road on the north, Mockingbird Lane on the west and Scottsdale Road on the east. The Scottsdale portion will be developed with condos and resort retail. The resort's main entrance will be on Lincoln, with secondary entrances on Indian Bend and Scottsdale roads. The 225-room resort will be in the center of the property on 25 acres. It will be laid out in a sprawling design, set back hundreds of feet from any right of way, and feature separate one- and two-story resort casitas. Amenities will include a spa, pools, fitness center, tennis courts, a kids club, resort retail, ballrooms, meeting rooms, restaurants and a club for the residences. The resort's residential component includes 1-acre custom home lots along Mockingbird and portions of Lincoln and Indian Bend and one- and two-story luxury detached residences on 10,000-square-foot lots along the Lincoln entrance. There also will be one- and two-story resort patio homes (two to a building) bordering the easternmost section of Indian Bend, across from the existing Scottsdale Plaza Resort, and winding around the resort. Buildings along Lincoln and Indian Bend will be one-story. A 332-space parking lot is proposed for the eastern side of the property, next to office buildings in Scottsdale. The goal is to open the resort on Dec. 31, 2009, just in time for the New Year.

Bill Gates, Saudi pay \$3.8 bil for hotels Four Seasons Hotels Inc. has agreed to be taken private by Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates and Saudi Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal for \$3.8 billion, including debt. Talal, Four Seasons' biggest shareholder, with 7.57 million shares, is bidding through Kingdom Hotels International, which is owned by a trust he created. Gates, whose Gates Foundation owns 1.98 million shares, is buying his stake through Cascade Investment LLC. Four Seasons owns and operates 74 luxury hotels in 31 countries, including the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North. General Manager Tom Kelly said the purchase would have little impact on the Scottsdale resort, and that the standards will be the same and all of our policies will remain the same.

Tempe moves upscale with hotel boom Tempe is poised to take a big bite out of the Valley's luxury-hotel industry. The city currently holds a fraction of the Valley's 55,000 hotel rooms; it has 5,369 rooms among 44 hotels. But now there are plans for nine new hotels and the expansion of an existing one, adding a total of 1,750 rooms. Five of those hotels would be upscale properties, with better-than-average amenities like restaurants, bars and spas. The barrage of hotels isn't guaranteed. No construction has started on any of the buildings. The closest one to becoming a reality is Le Meridien, where workers are scheduled to break ground on Tempe Town Lake's southern shore July 9. Hotel builder Constellation Hospitality Group plans a development at the south base of Hayden Butte which will include condos and a never-before-seen boutique hotel named Lumina. The intent is to give condo dwellers hotel-style amenities while maintaining their privacy and give hotel guests an all-Arizona experience by integrating them with locals. After the Tempe debut, Constellation plans to take Lumina nationwide. If the planned hotels become reality, Tempe will surpass the number of hotel rooms that an analyst recommended five years ago that the city add downtown. That city-financed study in 2002 showed that Tempe needed 1,000 to 1,300 more rooms. Three other major hoteliers are also bringing products to Tempe: Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Marriott and Hilton. Tempe hopes the combination of new hotels and light rail will spur a more vibrant Mill Avenue. The city, however, cites concerns about whether enough retail services will be in place in time, and if they'll be the right kind for an upscale hotel clientele. But even more importantly, the new hotels will increase the need for Tempe to address its lack of affordable housing, since the hotels probably will bring an influx of service-industry jobs with low salaries.

Regional trail system getting its start at Spur Cross The first segment of a Maricopa County regional trail system was dedicated this April at the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. This dedication of the first leg of the Maricopa Regional Trail System is also the first step in eventually linking all county's regional parks. The goal is for a county-wide 1,521-mile trail system that would create recreation corridors for hikers, cyclists, runners, inline skaters, horseback riders and other non-motorized users. The first segment in the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area is roughly 3.5 miles, said John Gunn, Spur Cross supervisor. Construction began in mid-December and ended in late March. The new route will create two loop paths using old cowboy trails, and eventually the trail will connect Spur Cross and the Cave Creek Regional Park. In February 2000, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors formed the Maricopa County Trails Commission and unveiled plans to

develop a regional trail system. The goal of the project is three-fold: 1) Provide a shared use, non-motorized trail system to connect the regional parks. 2) Link metropolitan areas, municipal trails, communities and neighborhoods. 3) Provide open space corridors to protect natural and cultural resources from development. The regional trail system will be 1,521 miles, with the Maricopa Trail, and the county's portion of the system is

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320 miles. Many of the trail corridors identified are under the jurisdiction of local, state and federal agencies, not the county. The county is working with those agencies on the project, which will use canals, parks, flood control projects, utility corridors and other existing rights of way, according to a fact sheet. Spur Cross, near Cave Creek and Spur Cross roads in Cave Creek, was bought by the town, the county and Arizona State Parks for \$21 million in 2001 after a 15-year battle to save it from development. Last year, nearly 14,000 people visited the 2,154-acre park.

Tribes to celebrate 1992 casino standoff Fifteen years ago, FBI agents tried to shut down the Fort McDowell Casino, but the tribe stood firm. The tribal members built a barricade and engaged in a standoff with the federal government over the tribe's new gaming operation, eventually winning the right to open a casino. The standoff is celebrated as Sovereignty Day. The annual celebration on May 18th, will feature a four-mile walk from the Fort McDowell Recreation Center to the casino, a lunch and a presentation about why the nation celebrates. After the state refused to negotiate a gaming compact with Arizona tribes, U.S. Attorney Linda Akers ordered raids on tribal casinos in 1992. At that time it was not a casino, and it was referred to as Baja Bingo. The bingo offered poker, keno and bingo machines. In the early dawn of May 12, 1992, Mayflower moving trucks, accompanied by armed FBI agents, came into the parking lot of the Fort McDowell Casino. Some of them were laying down on the roof with their M-16 rifles aimed at tribal members. The tribe's slot machines were taken and loaded into the trucks to be confiscated. The community formed a road block, because there was only one way in and one way out at that time. There was an emergency meeting between the tribal council and the governor's office, and they reached a 10-day cooling off period. The FBI eventually left. After three weeks, then Governor, Fife Symington, signed compacts with Fort McDowell and other Arizona tribes. The Fort McDowell Yavapai, the "People of the Four Peaks," are one of three Yavapai tribes in Arizona. The nation, which has lived in central Arizona for thousands of years, was granted a 24,000-acre reservation, 35 miles northeast of Phoenix, in 1903. For more information go to: www.ftmcdowell.org.

Arts ranking puts Scottsdale at No. 4 Art-savvy Scottsdale is once again ranked among the best art destinations in the nation, waltzing in at No. 4 for the second year in a row among mid-size cities, according to AmericanStyle magazine. Scottsdale was ranked behind No. 3 Las Vegas, No.2 Albuquerque and No.1 Pittsburgh, which grabbed the top spot for the first time. In its 10th annual ranking, AmericanStyle readers cast a record number of votes for their favorite U.S. art destinations, selecting more than 75 cities and towns divided into three categories. On this year's list, readers selected Scottsdale as the fourth best art destination in the mid-sized city category - those with populations of 100,000 to 499,999. Scottsdale did beat out Tucson, which came in at No. 9 among mid-sized cities. Perhaps surprisingly it was the first time the culturally rich Old Pueblo was ranked. Other Arizona cities and towns that made the list were: Phoenix, which came in at No. 8 in the big city category; and Sedona and Tubac, which were No. 2 and No. 19 respectively in the small city category. New York City was No. 1 for the seventh time in the big city category, while Santa Fe repeated as the No. 1 art destination among the nation's small cities.

Californians lay odds on Phoenix more than Vegas For the first time since Nevada became a magnet for Californians in the 1990s, the Phoenix area has nudged Las Vegas out of No. 1 destination for people fleeing the Golden State and its soaring home prices. Tax returns for 2005, the most recent data, show a net 11,375 households, representing 29,000 people, moved from California to Maricopa County in 2004, while a net 10,657 households with about 23,000 members moved from California to Clark County, Nev. "Housing isn't cheap in Vegas anymore, nor is it in Phoenix, compared to what it was. It's still cheap compared to California," said R.L. Brown, publisher of Phoenix Housing Market Letter. "We're averaging 9,000 Californians a month changing their (driver's) licenses to Arizona. To me, that's a phenomenal number."

Visit Joe, Joseph, Jo Joey Bistro, in Los Abrigados Resort & Spa adjacent to Tlaquepaque, is a tribute to people with the name Joe or a form of that name. Oil paintings, photographs and other representations of such icons as Joe DiMaggio, Jo Stafford, Joe Louis, GI Joe, Joe Bonanno, Joey Heatherton and St. Joseph look down on diners as they enjoy their Italian food. The bistro got its name because it is owned by Joe

Martori, who collected paintings and photographs of nearly 100 famous Joes for his display. Sorry, you don't get a free meal if your name happens to be Joe.

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

AOT Offers Online Chat Tool Have a question about jeeps tours in Sedona? Or maybe you have a question about visiting hours for Kartchner Caverns State Park. Now all your Arizona traveling questions can be answered with AOT's new online chat tool. The tool can be found on the AOT Web site where visitors seeking answers to questions about Arizona will have 24-hour accessibility to travel counselors who can answer travel questions. To access the online chat tool visit, www.arizonaguide.com and click on Chat Live.

Change is in the Cards The little piece of plastic that buys 365 days of access to hundreds of national parks for the bargain price of only \$50 is being replaced this month. Since 2000, thousands of people have handed their National Parks Pass to rangers at park entrances in exchange for a wave, a map and a schedule of nature talks. Beginning this month, the new "America the Beautiful: National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass" will provide access to all participating federal sites where entrance or standard amenity fees are charged. The new pass will cost \$80 annually. It will provide entrance to lands managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and the Forest Service. At least 80 percent of the revenue will help fund facilities and services where the pass was purchased. All previously issued passes will remain valid until their expiration date. (Page 9, National Parks, Winter)

Heart Group Will Visit Only Smoke-Free Cities The American Heart Association said Monday that it will hold all future meetings – including its annual conference, which attracts 30,000 people – only in cities with smoke-free workplace laws. A small but growing number of health-related groups, such as the National Cancer Institute and American Public Health Association, have adopted similar policies. Organizations today have a greater number of smoke-free cities from which to choose. Nearly 2,600 municipalities restrict smoking, including 455 that ban smoking in all workplaces. (Page 9D, USA Today)

Scottsdale CVB Tourism Updates....

Visitor Center Kiosk Gives Members Greater Presence The Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau has a new visitor center kiosk available in the Galleria Corporate Centre Visitor Center. The kiosk gives guests an interactive way to find the activities and interests that suit their vacation needs. Using the kiosk, visitors can explore the CVB's Web site, link to members' sites, send e-mail to members requesting additional information, take a Web-cam photo to send to friends and family back home, purchase ShowUp Now passes and print tickets, and print maps and walking tours. By the end of the month, visitors also will be able to insert Web-cam photos into Scottsdale e-postcards, download podcasts to their PDAs, and create videos to send to friends and family. In addition, the CVB will have another kiosk with the same functionality that will travel to the major special events in Scottsdale. To experience the kiosk first-hand, you're invited to the "Show Me Scottsdale" Visitor Center Open House from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2, at the Visitor Center Galleria Corporate Centre, 4343 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 170. You'll meet Scottsdale's destination experts and have a chance to win a three-night stay at The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. Grab light refreshments at the Open House and discover the various resources available to you. For details, stop by the Visitor Center or call the CVB at 480-421-1004.

Greater Phoenix Convention and Visitors Bureau.....

The Boulders Resort is getting a face lift the sprawling 1,300-acre resort essentially will be divided in half for the \$30 million makeover over the next coming months. This will allow the resort to maintain operations without disruption to guests or having construction areas around the property. Renovations will include upgrades to bathrooms and fixtures, the installation of more technology, new paint, flooring and window treatments. A major goal is to expose the interiors to the surrounding desert beauty. The project is expected to start sometime this summer. The resort's new organic garden is open now. With a rock waterfall and a reflecting pond, the garden offers a zenlike experience -- and its produce will complement chef Wendy Little's creations at Latilla, the resort's signature restaurant. The garden's formal public debut will be at the

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Solstice Dinner on June 21. The dinner is part of the resort's "Gastrology Dinner Series" -- events that combine gastronomy and astrology to inspire conversation. Source: www.bizjournal.com

Arrow Stage Lines has changed its name to Coach America Phoenix. The change is the result of the recent acquisition of American Coach Lines by Arrow's parent company, CUSA, L.L.C. of Dallas, TX which took place in July. Coach America Phoenix is the largest provider of motorcoach transportation services in Arizona and is part of a company that serves markets nationwide. Coach America Phoenix operates a fleet of 74 modern, over-the-road motor coaches that are equipped with all-season climate control, reclining seats, restrooms, VCRs and ample storage space. Coach America Phoenix specializes in charter service for local or long-distance trips, anywhere a group wants to go. Coach America Phoenix has also launched a new website, accessible at www.coachamerica.com. Coach America Phoenix operates Gray Line Tours of Phoenix and is part of the nation's largest operator of Gray Line Tours.

Airport News.....

History of Air Traffic Control Towers The first air traffic control tower at Phoenix Sky Harbor was built in 1929. The open air tower was approximately 30 feet high, and part of the airport's first hangar incorporating Pueblo-style architecture. In 1943, the tower was raised to 40 feet high, and enclosed. Airfield visibility was increased, and air traffic controllers had protection from the weather (but still no a/c!). In 1952, a new tower was built on the south side of the runway. It was 107 feet high, making it one of the tallest in the United States. The shaft was constructed of underground fuel tanks welded end to end with a steel plate wrapped around them. The tower was accessed by a 129 step spiral staircase. This tower is now located at Cutter Aviation on the south side of Sky Harbor. Sky Harbor's next control tower, on the west side of Terminal 3, was built in 1979 at the same time Terminal 3 was constructed. It was 181 feet high. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport's newest air traffic control tower opened last month. The tower is 326 feet high; providing controllers with unobstructed views of the entire airfield. The complex includes the Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) facility, which was previously located separate from the tower.

From Betsy Todd Barry Goldwater learned to fly at Sky Harbor when it was little more than an "old lettuce patch" with dusty runways. The days are long gone when pilots in the 50's would pass over downtown Phoenix to let cabdriver know a fare would be available. Today Sky Harbor has become a gateway to international markets. The third runway cost \$175 million; the homes in Tempe that are in the flight pattern have been a part of a "home development plan with thicker walls etc to cut down the noise". The new \$89 million 326 ft Airport Tower is one of the tallest in the world. Sky Harbor is one of the 10 busiest airports in the U.S. Sky Harbor is preparing for a \$2 billion capital improvement program, including a new 33-gate terminal.

Education

Third Saturday each month: Guided Tour of Buffalo Soldier Historical Sites Learn about the accomplishments and history of Fort Huachuca's Buffalo Soldiers from members of the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers. The guided tours will begin at the Fort Huachuca Museum and proceed to various historic sites on the post. 2007 has been designated the Year of the Buffalo Soldier in honor of the brave men, the sacrifices they made and the legacy they left. Tours are at Fort Huachuca Museum, Fort Huachuca. At noon,

and are free. For info call 520. 417.6960. Note: The post is an active military installation. Visitor passes are available to US citizens at the Main Gate with a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance (or rental vehicle agreement). All passengers over 18 must have photo identification.

From Shari Elliott Jo Macek is the Education Curator at the **Arizona Capitol Museum**, replacing Alice Duckworth. Alice is now handling the 'out reach' programs. Currently the museum is open on Saturdays: 11AM - 2PM. Please help spread the word. Jo would really like to keep it open on Saturdays, and needs input from guides and tour operators, etc. Phone: 602-364-0306 or Tour Office 602.542.4581. Website: www.lib.az.us/museum. Email: jmacek@lib.az.us.

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Sedona News

Our Sedona connection, AGA member and Certified Guide, Laura Vandegrift, is busy preparing for a trip to Peru with Karen Monbarren, also an AGA member and Certified Guide. We'll look for all those pictures and tales of your trip when you return! **Bon Voyage, ladies!!**



Old Arizona laws still on the books:

- Hunting camels is prohibited.
- 25 years in prison for cutting down a cactus.
- It is unlawful to refuse a person a glass of water.
- Prescott: No one is permitted to ride a horse up the stairs of the county court house.

CAP Project (Central Arizona Project):

20 million people receive water from the Colorado River...7 states...Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and California which we would all know if we had made the Spring education trip!!!

Light Rail Vehicles:

- 90 feet long, 12 feet high and 8.5 feet wide.
- 98,000 pounds each.
- 66 seats with a capacity of 200 passengers.
- Four wheelchair positions and bike racks in each vehicle.
- Operating speed is the posted speed limit.
- Vehicle lifespan: at least 30 years.

Traffic Issues

A 2-mile stretch of Scottsdale Road, north of Loop 101, will be restricted in various ways for the next five months as crews widen the city's main drag to three lanes in each direction. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction for at least two weeks along Scottsdale Road between Loop 101 and just north of Thompson Peak Parkway as crews begin relocating utility lines. In addition to lane closures, southbound left turns will be prohibited at the intersection of Scottsdale Road and Thompson Peak Parkway. All restrictions will be in affect 24 hours a day. To avoid what could become a traffic nightmare, drivers can instead use Hayden or Pima Road to travel north and south. Southbound motorists should use Grayhawk Drive to avoid the left turn restrictions at Thompson Peak. After this first phase of work, city officials expect one southbound lane of Scottsdale Road will remain closed through Oct. 1 to complete the preparation for the road improvement. The goal of the project is to widen Scottsdale Road to six, from four, lanes - to three in each direction, from two. This will help accommodate traffic as new developments are built, including the One Scottsdale project and its new Dial Corp. national headquarters, northeast of Loop 101 and Scottsdale Road. Officials estimate

that the entire 2-mile road improvement project, which also will include a landscaped median, turn lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, improved curbs and gutters, as well as roadway drainage, will be completed by Dec. 2008.

Kudos to Lynn Merkle!

I accepted my award in January for top female runner in the Grand Prix. The races consist of everything from a mile to a marathon. The award was a check and plaque. I feel really good about still competing well at 48 years old. I recently placed third in the Lost Dutchman 10K. All of the other top runners were in the 20's or 30's, so none of us are ever too old!

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Treasured Past; Threatened Places

Arizona's historic cemeteries represent a vital link between our present and our past. They exist in every city and town as places of remembrance for departed family members, friends, and other citizens of our communities. No properties more strongly evoke a sense of place than where we have buried those who in life founded and built our communities. Indeed, a historic cemetery is in some instances, the only remaining property of a once vital community.

The State Historic Preservation Office of Arizona State Parks, invites Arizonans to join a special program to identify and protect those places that serve as the final resting place of many of Arizona's pioneers and community founders. Accomplishing this necessary work will require volunteers. You or your organization may join in this Arizona Statehood Centennial Project by contacting the SHPO, 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007 or 602.542.4009. You can also contact the PCA at 602.534.1262 or e-mail them at pioneer cem@yahoo.com.

Visiting our History On a warm Sunday, April 22th, Leslie and I visited the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park (1884-1914) and the Smurthwaite House (1897) located near the State Capitol on Jefferson Street and 14th Avenue. This was a special opportunity hosted by the Pioneer Cemetery Association, to visit this historic site, which is rarely open to the public. We found the graves of many of Arizona's pioneers, such as 'Lord' Duppa, the man credited with naming both Phoenix and Tempe. Other legendary pioneers we found buried there include names such as Waltz, Orme, Tovrea, Hayden, Rosson, Woolsey, Korrick, Osborn....and many others who will evoke memories in those who have lived in Arizona for any length of time, or have become Certified tour guides with the AGA! For more, visit www.azhistcemeteries.org.

Get Outside..... !!

Trailheads in and around the McDowell Sonoran Preserve:

- **Lost Dog Trail Head** - Take Shea Boulevard to 124th Street and turn north. Go past Via Linda and continue straight into the parking lot.
- **128th Street** - Take Via Linda to 128th Street and turn north. Continue to end. Ample pull-off parking is on the left.
- **104th Street and McDowell Mountain Ranch Road** - Take Frank Lloyd Wright to Thompson Peak Parkway and turn north. Turn right at McDowell Mountain Ranch Road, and right again at 104th Street. The lot is on the right.
- **Alma School Road** - Take Pima Road to Dynamite Boulevard and turn east. Turn north at Alma School Road. Continue to end. Ample pull-off parking is on both sides of the road.

• **McDowell Mountain Regional Park** - Take Shea to Fountain Hills Boulevard and turn north. Continue about 7.5 miles to park entrance on the west side of the road. Once past the gate, continue about 3 miles more. Follow signs to Trail Head Staging Area parking lot.

Websites.....

<http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/>; <http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/>; <http://www.scenicpimaroad.com/>

<http://az.gov/webapp/portal/>; <http://www.grandcanyon.org/sojourns.asp>; <http://www.grandcanyon.org/events>

<http://www.nps.gov/grca>; <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/>.

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

P.O. Box 45302

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VOTE !!!!!

May 21 ~ BoulderHouse

Al Corral Jr., 56, manager of Los Olivos Mexican Patio Restaurant in Old Town Scottsdale, died at his Scottsdale home in February. The pioneer Corral family has lived in Scottsdale for 87 years. Alvaro Sr. was brought to Scottsdale from Mexico by his parents when he was only a year old. Al Jr., a graduate of now-closed Scottsdale High School, began working in the Old Town establishment at an early age, greeting customers personally. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia, and two children, Alana and Natalie, as well as both parents; brothers Johnny and Hector; and another sister, Maria "Chispa" Corral-Ramirez. "He was always there for somebody who was homeless," said Corral's sister, Ruby Corral-Peck, eldest of the five children of Alvaro and Elena Corral, who started Los Olivos 60 years ago.

Get Involved!.....Make a commitment! Help preserve and share Arizona's history and become informed about today's Arizona Be part of our future!!