



The Springs Chat



A Newsletter for and by the residents of the Springs at Santa Rita

The Springs at Santa Rita, 951 West Via Rio Fuerte, Green Valley, AZ 85614

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The Springs Chat is your newsletter. Communication and sharing information can contribute to the vitality and the culture of our community. The Newsletter Committee invites your contributions - information you would like to share with the community. The committee also wants your ideas and suggestions- just email them to: springschat@gmail.com or contact a member of the newsletter committee: Eileen Owen, Juanita Kauffman, Jeannie McGaughey, Sandie Stone, Pat Strnad, Rebecca Keenan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 3 Meet 'n Greet, Fiesta Deck, 3-5

Nov 10 Board Meeting, Anza Rm, 1:00

Nov 23 Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00

November Potluck program: Personal Safety and Security

The program will be presented through three disciplines - Fire Department, Police Department and Executive Protection.

Presenters include: Green Valley Fire Chief Chuck Wunder, Sahuarita Police Sgt. Alex Droban, and Patrick Shely retired Alaska law enforcement - executive protection for Exxonmobil.

Questions will be encouraged throughout the presentation.

A reminder to have your "Favorite Photo" ready for the January Potluck.

Board Meeting Summary

(Oct 13, 2015)

Thank you to Jim and Kathy Rusk for managing the HOA office for two weeks this summer while our secretary and president were out of the area.

The HOA will have three Board positions open for the coming year. Contact Howard Bryan, vice president, at 716-499-9838 for a nomination form or any board member. Nominations must be in by 11/30/2015.

The information bulletin board at the front gate has been replaced. It is locked now. If you want to have a notice posted, please put the information in the HOA box on the side of the gate house and Jeannie will post it. Notices stay up for 90 days and then are removed. Also when the Chat is published, some printed copies will be put in the box on the front of the board.

A big thanks to Harold Moberly for replacing the old worn out board with this beautiful new one.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who kept the grounds looking great during the summer. The monsoon rains made everything grow abundantly which means more volunteers will be needed this winter to keep the growth under control.

Please see our website, www.thespringshoa.org, for the full report from each committee.

A memorial bench will be put near the dog run in our nature park in honor of Sam Coggins and his beloved dog Bella. Sam spent years of volunteering to help keep the Springs looking great. Barb wishes to thank everyone in the Springs for the shower of 60th anniversary cards they received in August.

The yellow lights above your house numbers are monitored for outages by the block volunteers. They replace the bulbs as necessary. If you have any questions please leave your name and phone number with the HOA office and someone will call you.

The Board and Springs residents are grateful to Harold and Georgia Moberly and their volunteers for filling in the cracks on the nature trail. According to Harold, the work is about 40% completed.

The Meet and Greet for the rest of 2015 are scheduled on Nov 3 and Dec 1 on the deck or if bad weather in the Anza or Fiesta room.

The HOA potlucks for the rest of 2015 are on Nov 21 and Dec 19.

The 2016 schedule is as follows:

Annual Mtg: Sat., Jan 23, 3:00 p.m., Anza Room

Board Mtgs: 2nd Mon, 9:00 a.m., Fiesta Rm

Potlucks: 3rd Thurs, 5:00 p.m., Anza Room

Meet 'n Greets: 1st Mon, 3:00 p.m., Fiesta Deck

Fun Golf

Are you a Springs couple interested in playing 9 holes of non competitive golf at a local course and meet for drinks and food after? If so, contact Eileen Owen (jimeileenowen@aol.com) with your name, address, and phone number and you will be added to the list. We meet twice a month (2nd and 4th Fridays). Snowbirds welcome.

Feeding Wildlife is Illegal

Arizona Game and Fish officials are reminding residents of Pima and Pinal County that feeding wild animals is illegal. The exception to this law is birds and tree squirrels.

Javelina are common in urban areas, often near a wash or other natural desert landscape. It is not uncommon to see them here in the Springs. Watch wildlife from a safe distance, but javelina should never be fed by humans. Javelina occasionally bite people, and such incidents are almost always associated with people providing them with food. They can inflict a serious wound.



Most people who intentionally feed wildlife are initially under the impression that they are doing something positive for wildlife. However, habituating wildlife to a human food source inevitably leads to conflicts with people and can result in serious harm in some cases. Furthermore, feeding wildlife can cause problems such as obesity and malnutrition, and promote the spread of disease. One of our residents came upon an entire watermelon (which had been scooped out with a melon baller) and placed at the entrance to the nature trail. Obviously someone thought it would be

enjoyed by the wildlife. Please do not put food in the common areas any where in the Springs.

Pet Owners, Be A Good Neighbor

Those Springs residents who walk their dogs on trash pick-up days (Monday and Thursday), PLEASE don't drop your doggie's waste bag in the nearest garbage can. Here lies the problem: the garbage pick-up men grab the big plastic bag in the can and the little pet waste bag slips to the bottom and is not dumped. The homeowner ends up with a smelly can until the next pick-up day. Sooo.... please do like you do every day that is not a trash pick-up day and carry that little bag home and place it in **your** container. Thanks for your cooperation.

Pet Profile Articles Needed

The newsletter committee needs someone to fill in for Pat Strnad to write the Pet Profile articles for two months. Pat is a snowbird and will return in January. Send to springschat@gmail.com

Favorite Recipe from Chat Member

Pat Strnad

Loaded Baked Potato Salad

3# red potatoes
1/2 C mayo
1/2 C sour cream
1/2 C cheddar cheese (shredded)
1/4 C bacon
2 chopped green onions
2 T ranch seasoning
1 dash salt
1 dash pepper
olive oil

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Wash potatoes (do NOT peel) and cut into bite-sized squares. Toss with olive oil and bake on cookie sheet 30-40 minutes.
- Fry about 5 slices diced bacon & cool.
- Put mayo, sour cream, ranch seasoning, green onions, and S & P in salad bowl.
- Fold in cheese & bacon and chill in fridge.
- Cool potatoes after baking and add to salad. Mix and enjoy.

Cook's Note: When short on time, I have boiled the potatoes until just done (instead of baking) proceeding to follow recipe, as above. I still thought the salad was very good.

Where Have You Been??

(by Carol Bender)

Bob and I enjoyed a wonderful trip to Alaska with John Hall. It is the same company Barb Wolf went with last year. Our trip was a little shorter, but incredibly wonderful.

We met the group in Anchorage. The first day of the land tour we took a ride on the Alaska train to Whittier. We passed beautiful mountains and



saw some sheep and other wildlife. After a delicious lunch, we boarded a boat and enjoyed a fantastic 100 mile trip across Prince William Sound.

The scenery was spectacular!!! We saw lots of seals. Some were resting on the large boulders on the shore and some were even on icebergs. We got quite close to our first glacier. The captain maneuvered around the floating pieces of ice. The glacial ice is such a beautiful blue. Another highlight of the day was seeing 5 orcas happily playing and jumping. We spent the night in Valdez.



The second day we went to Fairbanks on the coach. It was a long ride, but we had an opportunity to see some of the inland areas. The population is very sparse. We learned about the permafrost and trees and life of some of the people. In Fairbanks we went on a river cruise and saw some pretty homes, passed Susan Butcher's dog kennels, visited a cultural center and learned about native life. Then we went to the kennels and met Susan's daughter and a musher. While there we held the puppies and saw some of their dogs. In the afternoon we visited a cultural center, enjoyed a salmon bake, and were thoroughly entertained at a play.



On day four we got our first glimpse of Mt McKinley. Then we took a Denali park bus to a back country lodge which is 95 miles into the park. At first there were a few clouds around the mountain. But they lifted and we were treated to a beautiful and clear view



of it. We spent two nights at the lodge. Bob and I took a hike and learned about some of the plant life and soaked in views of the mountain and Wonder Lake. I also rode a bike near the lake and marveled at the incredible beauty of the mountain. The sky was blue and the clouds did not hide our view of the mountain. While riding the bus back to the park entrance we saw lots of animals – moose, caribou, and bears.

One bear was wandering around quite close to us. It was so much fun to watch him. We took another train ride to Talkeetna where we spent the night. It is a pretty little fishing town. We stayed in a lovely lodge and enjoyed more views of Denali. We rode back to Anchorage, visited a terrific cultural museum, did laundry, and relaxed. This was the end of the land tour.



The next morning we flew to Sitka and started our cruise. We were on a small ship – 36 passengers plus crew. What a fabulous way to see the inland waterway. While visiting Glacier Bay we were on a national park tour. The Ranger talked about Alaska and glaciers. A Native talked about tribal life and some of their history and customs. The glacier is as fantastic



as everyone says. We were able to get close. It was fun to see and hear the pieces fall off and drop into the sea. Pictures help us share what we saw and help us remember all the awesome beauty, but they can't capture the feel and

magnitude of the glacier and surroundings. After our day on the park boat, we had time to take a hike in the park. While there we saw a moose with her calf. She was just across a pond and was not bothered by us, so we had lots of time to watch them eating.



The next day we toured Juneau. The city is only accessible by plane or boat. The Mendenhall Glacier is there. It is the most beautiful one we saw. We arrived early, before all the large cruise ships, so there were not many other people. We



hiked down to the glacier. There is a lake and a huge waterfall right there. Afterwards, we had time to visit the National Park Visitor Center.

After this amazing time, we went to a nursery and took a tour of his gardens. During a storm a large number of trees fell, so he planted the trunks upside down. He has filled the roots with flowers. The gardens are gorgeous! Time to explore Juno and a lovely salmon bake at lodge on an island completed the day.



The next few days we cruised and visited little towns on some of the islands. At each stop, a local person took us on a tour of the village and talked about their lives. One had Norwegian heritage, so some of their children showed us their dancing. Another was Tlingit. We were greeted by an elder and her brother. She weaves and he carves totem poles. It was really fun to listen to how they do their work. Some people in her village showed us native dancing. The little 3 and 4 year olds were adorable!

One day we had a chance to kayak, visit a glacier in a pontoon boat and hike. Seeing the icebergs so close was fantastic. The color is so



beautiful! A few of us took a polar bear plunge into the bay. It was a bit on the brisk side, but not as bad as I thought it would be.

While cruising, we were fortunate to see a lot of humpback whales. They are enormous. We saw them coming up for air and then diving down. It was especially fun to see their tails go up. We saw a young whale practicing his dives. His tail would go up and then flap back and forth. We also saw bears, sea lions, eagles, and much more.



Our trip ended in Sitka. It used to be the Russian capital. We saw some Russian dancers, visited the Bishop's house, took some walks in town, and looked around the shops. We also visited a center that helps raptors recover from injuries. We came home with wonderful memories, a little extra weight from all the delicious meals, and oodles of pictures to sort through. Needless to say, we had a fabulous trip!

If there is some place you have visited and you want to share your experience or recommend it to others in the Springs, please contact the Chat at www.springschat@gmail.com

HOME SALES

(since the last newsletter)

3781 S. Avenida De Encino – David Chernik, Hawthorne, CA

3733 S. Avenida De Los Solmos – Joseph Rudnicki, Rio Vista, CA

3816 S. Camino Comica - Christine Dvall/Doug Riesberg, Amado, AZ

997 W. Via de la Fonda - Catalina Sanchez, Benson, AZ

3981 S. Via De Cristal - Elizabeth Milosevich, Tucson, AZ

3824 S. Calle Rambles - Federal National Mortgage, Dallas, TX

3900 S. Calle Viva - Johnathan Platz, Tucson, AZ

1011 W. Blue Fox - John & Susan Frederickson, Sandstone, MN

Where are the FOR SALE signs?

Having just returned to Green Valley, and walking around the Springs neighborhood, I was surprised at how few houses are for sale. Thinking that must be good news for sellers (less inventory, higher prices), I went on line to see what was happening here. Here is the surprising results I found:

The median sales price for homes in Green Valley AZ for Jul 15 to Sep 15, 2015 was \$128,000. This represents an increase of 0.4%, or \$500, compared to the prior quarter. It was a decrease of 11.7% compared to the prior year.

Sales prices have depreciated 15.2% over the last 5 years in Green Valley. The average listing price for Green Valley homes for sale on Trulia was \$181,382 for the week ending Sep 30. Average price per square foot for Green Valley AZ was \$94, a decrease of 1.1% compared to the same period last year.

Our Man Steve

For those of you who missed the article in the GV News in early October, about our Springs resident, Steve Chaffee, here is a summary of that article.

At age 62, Steve started his 800 mile journey on the Arizona Trail. Four years later (now age 66) he completed the last passage of that journey. He hiked the entire trail in increments—spending 2 days to a week at a time, and always hiked solo.

The 800 mile Arizona Trail runs from the Arizona border with Mexico to the state's Utah border. There are 43 passages of varying lengths. Actually he covered more than 800 miles—more like 1462 miles because he hiked most of the passages in both directions, making a round trip back to where he parked his truck.

The Arizona Trail varies in climate and topography. South of Payson is desert, and up on the Kaibab Plateau (over 9,000 feet in elevation) there are alpine forests and huge meadows. The Mazatzal Divide was one of the toughest passages for Steve, along with the Superstition Wilderness passage. He dealt with those difficult hikes with thorough planning and packing plenty of water.

Getting lost is not really a concern for him since he carries graphic maps and a GPS that shows where he is on the trail, but becoming dehydrated is a worry. In your pack, you prepare for your greatest fears—running out of water says Steve. That meant he carried up to 3 gallons of water along with his tent, sleeping gear, and pack stove. To lighten his load, he often left gallons of water along the way to retrieve on the return trip to his truck.

He had no serious mishaps along the way, but came close one morning at the beginning of the Gila River Canyons Passage. Before the sun came out, his lantern unexpectedly went out and while he felt his way around in the dark, he tripped over the camp stove and fell onto his truck, hitting his head. On his hands and knees, he worried he might be seriously injured, but then slowly he found he could get up and move around.

One of the reasons Steve took as long as he did is because while hiking, he was working on a collection of poetry. He found that writing poetry was one of the most rewarding aspect of his journey. Presently, he is working with block-print artist, Norma Galinda who is creating prints inspired by photos he took of the places described in his poetry. "It's not a journey unless you share it with somebody," he said. He hopes to publish his works sometime next year.

At the end of this amazing journey, he found himself asking—NOW WHAT? "This is something I looked forward to for years. It's kind of a bitter-sweet end, but there is always other big trails to hike."

Steve is a 10 year resident of the Springs. He grew up in Washington State and has been hiking since he was 5. Before his retirement, Steve was a national park ranger.



Picture by Regina Ford,
GV News

CLASSIFIED SECTION

Services Offered

Travel Agent I specialize in River Cruises, but I can handle most of your travel needs. I am a licensed travel agent working through By the Sea Travel, LLC (Susan Beck-Brown, Travel Consultant, 970-759-3421, sbeckbrown@yahoo.com)

Household services I do high quality interior painting, bathroom remodeling & miscellaneous household services. Contact: Craig Trego, 955 W via de la Fonda, 206-734-5426 h2o.homme@yahoo.com

Want to advertise in the Chat??? Here's the deal--if you are a resident of The Springs and you have a property you want to rent or sell, or a household item you want to sell, or a service you provide such as house sitting, pet sitting, window washing, or an item you are looking for, etc., you may place an ad. There are three sections: FOR SALE, WANTED, and SERVICES OFFERED. You must live in the springs to place an ad. Email your ad with your name, address, photo (optional), and phone number to: Springschat@gmail.com