

Footprints

The Newsletter of the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association

www.GCHBA.org

P.O. Box 11986 Prescott, AZ 86304

Issue 13

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Grand Canyon Fossils



From the President
By Doug Nering

A Maturing GCHBA

This is an important transition period for the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association – the transition from the start of an idea to a vital and recognized organization – and I believe that we are making this transition very well.

A little over a year ago we decided to simplify our membership process and have a single enrollment period rather than renewals throughout the year. The simple reality is that none of us would be able to invest the time every month and still keep up with our jobs, families, and plans for our next hiking trip. I really hope that members will agree with this concept and remember that the board members and others who keep the group moving are all on a volunteer basis. To be extra fair to all we decided to extend existing memberships until July 2005 which provided a membership bonus for almost everyone of a half-year or more.

It seems quite natural that our members may be interested in what we have been doing that would inspire them to sign up again. No one has put this

question to me directly, but I am glad to provide an answer.

Yahoo: Grand_Canyon_Hikers

Nearly all GCHBA members are either active participants or closely monitoring the Yahoo Grand Canyon Hikers website --

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/grand_canyon_hikers

and the most involved people on the group list are our supporting members or those working to make GCHBA a success. The Internet is what got GCHBA started in the first place. The group list has had many successes advising newbie hikers, overseas tourists, and others about hiking opportunities, resources, permits, water sources, preparations, and equipment. The web-group operates as an open community to share information, views, ideas, observations and opinions. Sometimes there can be some controversial exchanges but this is normal when freedom of expression connects people who care passionately about Grand Canyon. There is no special status for GCHBA members on the group list, but there is definitely a relationship between this communication forum and what we can achieve as GCHBA. We appreciate the support from the web-group and we always welcome participation in our meetings and discussions from the entire hiking community regardless of individual membership status.

GCHBA Service Projects

Information and reports about our service projects are also posted to the group list and these projects have been an important success in giving direct assistance keeping hiking and camping facilities in good shape for hikers and the rangers. No other group that I am aware assists the Park with improving camping areas. I have been on several of these projects and it has always been with a good group of people and made for a wonderful time in the Canyon on a more casual basis than a hiking trip. Every project has a ranger sponsor, so project workers also have a chance to get to know some of the Park staff and learn some of the administrative and logistical aspects of Park

operations. These projects have given GCHBA a good reputation with NPS as news travels through the close-knit community of people who live and work at Grand Canyon.

Hiker Issues and Concerns

The policy and position statements we have thus far adopted are a good start giving a voice to the interests of hikers in future management policy at Grand Canyon. The main items of concern up to now have been the permit procedures, wilderness designation, and aircraft overflights. Establishing our position on these and other matters is a gradual process – we hope to do our best to represent all of the hiking community, which is rather diverse group, and not just our membership or the most outspoken. There is no doubt that we have an opportunity to play an important role in shaping the future Backcountry Management Plan, which is now very long overdue for revision – this delay mostly as a consequence of the halt and restart of the river use plan – the Colorado River Management Plan, or CRMP. The CRMP process is nearly complete and we should start to hear something soon about what comes next.

But, GCHBA really has already achieved an important milestone in policy development through participation in the Grand Canyon Overflights Working Group.

Overflights Working Group

We were invited to participate because it appeared that recreational interests would be under-represented without us. This gives us two important items to note about GCHBA. The first point is that many people are aware of who we are and what our purpose is, and the impression we give is positive. The second point is that the hiking community is recognized as an important segment that should be involved in deciding resource and recreation issues. Information about the formation and activities of the Working Group can be seen on the web at <http://overflights.faa.gov>.

The Working Group is an alternative dispute resolution process, jointly sponsored by the National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with 19 seats representing the aircraft operators, government agencies, recreational users, conservation, and indigenous peoples. I'm the delegate for the GCHBA seat and Tom Martin is our alternate. The ultimate objective is to implement flight rules that substantially restore natural quiet by early 2008, a process first started – it's hard to believe but true – in 1987. The intent of the original legislation has been clarified that flights at higher altitude were not the object of concern then, but court rulings since have stated that all aircraft noise sources must be considered. It is, indeed, a complex issue.

A technical model (Integrated Noise Model – INM version 6.2) for evaluating noise has been established which factors the topography, ambient (natural) noise, vegetation zones, and aircraft characteristics. Sound is 'audible' (the minimum threshold for noise) when measurements determine the sound to be above a specified threshold when compared with the ambient (natural) soundscape.

The definition of substantial restoration of natural quiet is "50 percent of the park is experiencing natural quiet 75 to 100 percent of the day, each and every day." This definition has gone through some legal challenges and is now supported by court decision and is clearly defined as the objective for the Working Group, but this includes the continuation of regulated air tours, which means that elimination of aircraft over Grand Canyon is not within the possible outcome from this process. Yes, it has been pointed out that the definition allows that half of Grand Canyon could be noisy all the time, but it certainly does not require or suggest that.

The really big question for hikers, I think, is whether the best solution is to concentrate most air tours in one place, or to have some flights in different places. Is it better for just a few places to be noisy all the time, or for different places to be noisy at different times? This is a difficult question, but it does seem that the non-hikers favor concentration of tour flights if for no other reason than it's easier to measure and easier to write the rules.

We have agreed that participants must reach consensus for a final recommendation which means there will not be a successful result if any single party finds the outcome to be unacceptable. In this case, the determination of the final rule most likely will be made by the NPS and FAA based on the Working Group discussions, but not decided by the Working Group. This gives all parties a good reason to work to reach a joint decision together.

Several meetings of the Working Group will occur each year in various settings to move the process along toward agreement and a formal recommendation. It seems entirely possible that one of these meetings could include a helicopter trip to some remote part of Grand Canyon – I could have very mixed feelings about doing that. I can't see that I would learn anything from such a trip that I don't already know other than what it feels like to see the world's best view from a noisy seat. Maybe I just won't go.





Welcome Back, Doctor Myers

By Cliff Beck

Word has it that one of Grand Canyon's favorite citizens will be returning to the neighborhood. With the advent of the new health services contract to run the walk-in clinic, Dr. Tom Myers will return to help administer health services to the South Rim community. Dr. Myers will return to GC after several years in private practice in the nearby town of Williams.

Best known to the hiking crowd as co-author of the fascinating book, *Over the Edge, Death in Grand Canyon*, Dr. Myers long has shown an interest in the world of GC hiking. I had the pleasure to meet Dr. Myers at previous GCHBA board of directors meetings. On behalf of GCHBA, I hope that he quickly immerses himself, not just in our common hiking interests, but more importantly in the health services that residents and visitors deserve. Welcome back Tom!



In Trouble in Grand Canyon

by Don Mattox

With many hundreds of days of hiking in the Grand Canyon, I can remember only two incidents where I really thought I was in trouble.

The first was in the mid-1960s when the plan was to hike down the Tilted Mesa trail, cross the river in a small raft, and hike out the Little Colorado. We took one raft and a long rope and the idea was to cross the river trailing the rope and then the next person would pull the raft back. Cross the river and so on.

In those days, the Tilted Mesa trail was poorly defined and we lost the route down and went directly downhill. One person fell and injured their ankle and we had to spend the night on the slope of Tilted Mesa. It was there that I learned that "A fool and his water are soon parted." I left my pack with the group taking care of the injured person and left to find a route down to Nankoweap Creek. By the time I got back they had used my water to make soup and I was out of water until noon the next day when we reached the creek.

When we finally got to the river we hitched a raft ride across the river to the mouth of the Little Colorado. Since we hadn't used the raft we decided to find out if the technique that we had envisioned would really work. The first person to try crossing the river didn't make it and swung back to shore. I then tried it and

barely made it to the other side. I quickly tied the rope off to a bush. Then the problem became evident. The rope was nylon, became waterlogged, and sank into the river -- the current then made the rope too tight to loosen the knot. I took a short piece of rope and tied the front of the raft to the tight line with a prussic knot. I then cut the tight rope at the tree with a pocketknife. Luckily the sudden jerk on the raft did not tear the raft and I swung back across the river. If the raft had deflated I probably could have made it to shore but I would have been on the opposite shore from my pack.

The second incident was on a George Steck trip. George had gotten a hiking permit to go down from Kibbey Butte into Nankoweap, across from the middle valley over to Kwagunt, along the river and out the North Kaibab trail. Going down from Kibbey Butte and down Nankoweap was slower than anticipated and we didn't get to cross over to Kwagunt until about noon when it was really hot. George wanted to stay on schedule so we began the climb out of Nankoweap. By the time we had gotten to the ridge I was very low on water and we had all separated. I then made the bad decision to take a couple of salt tablets. I didn't have enough water and soon I was writhing on the ground in great agony.

After a while the cramps passed and I was able to go on, but I was very weak and started to become a little delirious. I will always remember Gary Ladd climbing back up and I asked him if I could "please have a drink." Of course he was coming to my rescue. At that time the temperature at Phantom Ranch was about 125°F. I was in the early stages of heat prostration and the next day when the sun hit me while hiking I became completely exhausted. Later I had to leave the group and hitch a ride down to Phantom on a raft. I then hiked slowly out the North Kaibab.

The message here is caution should trump keeping on schedule while hiking in the Canyon.



Grand Canyon Fauna



Rim to Rim to Rim in the Summertime

By Gene Fowler

Vice President, Webmaster and Ice Cream Man

The great British explorer George Mallory, who was to die on Mount Everest, was asked why he wanted to climb it. He said "Because it is there". That is part of the reason for doing Rim to Rim hikes (R2Rs). But seriously, in the past few years I would get in great shape in the spring, relax in the summer and have to get in shape again for fall hiking. I wasn't going to let that happen this year. I also wanted to prove to myself that a 50 mile R2R2R hike in the July heat can be safe and enjoyable.

Preparation

The preparation hikes included about 250 miles on the Bright Angel, North Kaibab, South Kaibab, River, Tonto and Tanner trails over a 2 month period. I preferred the Tanner because even though it is considered one of the more difficult named trails, I can hike it about 30% faster than the BA. The BA is similar in distance and elevation change to the Tanner but the faster speed is because of better trail conditions, less people and no mules. The drawback of the Tanner was the heat -- as the weather became hotter I thought this trail was becoming a little too risky.

In the 3 weeks leading up to the first R2R I intentionally timed my hikes so that I would be hiking in the hottest part of the day and experiencing 112 - 118F shade temperatures to condition my body to the heat. Note that sun temperatures, which are what your body is really feeling, can be 15 - 20F higher than shade temperatures. On one hike I intentionally rationed my water and became slightly dehydrated so that I could experience the effects and recovery process.

My final preparation hike for the R2R2R was a south to north R2R on the BA and NK trails. Before I made this trip I was still not confident enough to do a full R2R2R. Mike Coltrin was to meet me at the NK trailhead and give me a ride to the Grand Canyon Historical Society (GCHS) outing at Jacob Lake. I was to meet him at 10AM Saturday, July 16th. If I was not there by 10:30 he was to assume I had canceled and was to leave without me. That was a big incentive to be there on time. I left the BA trailhead at 10:30AM Friday, July 15. This was not to be any kind of record breaking time. My goal was to do the hike safely and still be in good enough shape to do a R2R2R the following day. The hike took place without any problems and I arrived at the trailhead early at 8:30AM.

Many people who do a R2R do not get permits as they do not need one if the hike is not overnight. The permits are called "Backcountry Use Permits" and a permit "is required for all overnight backcountry use." I had a permit for Cottonwood Campground even though my intent was to spend only a short time there taking a nap.

The Hikes

After the GCHS outing Mike drove me around to the South Rim Village where I got another permit for Cottonwood and left on the R2R2R hike. The only low point was when I was passing through Cottonwood in the north to south direction, I was feeling a little rundown for lack of calories. I had been going on a 3,500 calorie per day plan and it was catching up to me. It was not possible for me to consume the 6,000 to 8,000 calories per day that a R2R requires. All I had left were some pretzels, 3 Clif bars and a pack of ramen noodles. I decided to consume most of my remaining food and my energy was lifted. I would not have enough food to complete the trip but I knew I could buy snack foods at Phantom Ranch. It was my good luck that there was one seat left for the Phantom Ranch steak dinner. My worries were over.

The major challenge to the trip was the heat, which I avoided somewhat by hiking in the mornings, evenings and at night. The highest daytime shade temperature I encountered in any of my R2R hikes was 112F in the Box, north of Phantom Ranch. The evening temperatures in mid July can be in the 95 to 100F range. The big secret to comfort and survival is to keep your shirt wet. I cannot emphasize this enough. It can mean the difference between comfort and torture, life and death. I measured temperatures 15 to 20 degrees cooler in my chest area from the evaporative effect. A wet shirt has multiple benefits. It keeps you comfortable, but more important, reduces your need for drinking water and electrolytes.



Grand Canyon Fauna

Along the BA and NK trails it is almost always possible to keep wet either from the piped water or from the streams. In the cases when there was not water nearby, I used water that I was carrying. I also wiped myself down with a microfiber towel that I kept wet in a Ziploc bag.

Since the initial 3 R2R crossings I have done 6 more for a total of 9 in a 7 week period. I was never in a hurry and my best R2R2R time was 29 hours. That is far from spectacular but my primary consideration was safety and having a good time. Napping, chatting with other hikers and rangers and handing out popsicles to kids takes time. On one crossing a man, probably around 60 years old, zipped by me in the middle of the NK Supai. He passed me again on his way down just a little above Supai Tunnel. He had done SK-NK in about 6 hours and was on his way back to the SK. The record going north to south on the NK and SK trails is a phenomenal 3:06:47 set in 1981 by 44 year-old Allyn Cureton, who also holds the roundtrip record of 7:51:23.

On the south side I always took the Bright Angel except for once when I took the Old South BA-Old Devils Corkscrew trails. The BA is longer than the SK but has water and more shade. On the north side it was the NK except for once when I did the NK - Ken Patrick - Old North BA loop. That adds about 5 more miles and a little more difficulty.

After my hike last fall from North Bass to Phantom with Doug Nering and Bob Hostetler, I resolved to cut down on equipment weight. On that trip (see *Footprints* Issue 12) I was carrying too much weight and was having difficulty keeping up with the others. To make matters worse, on the second day I injured my knee and re-injured it 3 days later. That made it even more difficult to keep up. I attribute the injury to the heavy weight I was carrying.

Here is the list of equipment, clothing and food I carried for a typical 2 day R2R2R. Use this list as a guideline. Individual tastes and needs can vary a lot, but after several iterations, this is what worked for me. Be careful of trying new equipment or foods on a R2R2R. You don't want to be 5 miles into the 50 mile hike and find out that your new cool-looking backpack you just bought is uncomfortable. Many of these items were packed in Ziploc bags to provide additional waterproofing.

Equipment

- Backpack – Dana Design Salish – total weight 16 lbs. including food, extra clothing and equipment, plus 2-3 lbs. water. Waterproofed with Kiwi Camp Dry Heavy Duty Water Repellent
- Sleeping bag – Wynnster Superlite 600

- Tarp - ground cloth – Space Brand All Weather Thermal Blanket
- Sleeping pad – RidgeRest 6'
- Hydration bladder – MSR Dromedary – 4L
- Water purification - Polar Pure
- Shower adapter for hydration bladder
- Duct tape
- Microfiber towel in Ziploc bag
- Wrist watch
- Thermometer
- Head lamps – Princeton Tech Corona (primary), Petzl Zipka (backup)
- Toiletries – toilet tissue, deodorant, toothbrush and paste, mouthwash, body lotion, liquid soap, mosquito repellent, ChapStick with sunscreen, Purell Instant Hand Sanitizing Wipes (8), nail clippers
- Medications – aspirin, pseudoephedrine, multi-vitamin, calcium/magnesium/zinc/ vitamin C, D, glucosamine/chondroitin/msm
- Backcountry permit
- Hiking stick – Leki Sierra
- Knife – Swiss Army Classic
- Chopsticks

Clothing and footwear

- Nike Dri-Fit T shirt
- Columbia hiking shorts
- Umbro soccer shorts
- Terramar EC2 boxer briefs (2)
- SmartWool RBX Ultralight socks (2) (used as a liner)
- Bridgedale CoolMax Light Hiking socks (2)
- Dorfman Pacific trail hat
- Gloves – Plainsman Premium Caberetta leather - Waterproofed with Kiwi Camp Dry Heavy Duty Water Repellent
- Sierra Designs DT Adventure rain jacket
- Teva Impulse trail shoes - Waterproofed with Kiwi Camp Dry Heavy Duty Water Repellent
- Teva Mush flip-flops

Food

The food was all no-cook snacks. I had tried some things such as bagels, fresh fruits, sandwiches but this is what I finally ended up with. I would eat a high protein, high carbohydrate, and low fat meal an hour before starting. I would have high protein food in my vehicle to eat at the end. Below is a typical list for a 2 day R2R2R. It is about 6,130 calories with 444 grams of protein. The total weight with packaging is about 67 oz.

- Jerky – Jack Link Tender Cuts - 8oz.
- Pretzels - 7oz.
- Clif Bars - 8 bars
- Luna Bars - 2 bars

- Powerbar Protein Plus - 3 bars
- Ramen - Indo Mie, Mi Goreng - 2 packs
- Pringles – 5.75 oz. can

Conclusion

In the past 4 months I have lost 16 pounds and my body fat has dropped by 6% (from 23% to 17%). I should start a Canyon outfitter company called the R2R2R Phat Pharm™. My goal is 12% body fat. I should be able to reach this by doing about 2 or 3 more R2R2Rs. I realize I will never get back to the 8% body fat and 6-pack abs that I had 20 years ago, but this will do.

The Canyon is supposed to be fun, not dangerous. Proper planning, conditioning, equipment, clothing and food can make it safe and enjoyable while still being a little challenging.

Note: Brand names and trademarks used in this article are the property of their respective owners.



Did You Know?
From the NPS website

Editor's note: I found this list of Grand Canyon trail trivia on the website. Please note that the historical tidbit for each trail is just that – historical – and does not reference the prehistoric origins of many of these trails. Question for all GC historians – is the Rust Trail (old Kaibab) listed below another name for what we know as the Old Bright Angel Trail on the North side? Enjoy!

- Bright Angel - Originally built in 1890-91 for prospecting and pioneer tourism
- South Kaibab - First trail built by the NPS, in 1924-25, for tourism
- North Kaibab - Built by David Rust for tourism, 1906-07; rebuilt by NPS in 1922-28
- Hermit - Built in 1912 by the Santa Fe Railroad; a model for subsequent trails
- Grandview - Pete Berry's trail to his Horseshoe Mesa mines, 1892-93
- South Bass - Havasupai trail improved by Bill Bass for prospecting & tourism, 1885
- Boucher - Developed by Louis Boucher in the 1890s for prospecting & tourism

Tanner - Built by miners Seth Tanner and Franklin French in the 1880s and 1890s

New Hance - Originally a toll trail built by 1890s prospectors, including John Hance

Rust (old Kaibab) - Original northern leg of the central corridor, David Rust, 1906

Dripping Springs - Developed by the "hermit," Louis Boucher, in the 1890s for tourism

Deer Creek - Built by prospectors during the great 1872 Kanab Creek Gold Rush

Nankoweap - Built by John Wesley Powell in 1882 to study inner-canyon geology

Old Hance - Oldest South Rim tourism trail, ca. 1883, abandoned by 1900



Current Board of Directors

- Doug Nering, President
- Gene Fowler, Vice President
- Hank Schnieder, Treasurer
- Cindy George, Secretary
- John Azar
- Mike Coltrin
- Pat Davis
- Tom Martin
- Cliff Beck

GCHBA Board Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2005
by Cindy George, GCHBA Secretary

Board Members Present: (6 of 9: A quorum was present)

- Tom Martin
- Doug Nering
- Hank Schnieder
- Cindy George
- Gene Fowler
- Pat Davis

Hommer Davis was also present.

Minutes and Treasurer Report

The minutes of the October 17, 2004 meeting were approved as published without being read.

The Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$4,753.74, was approved. Hank will include membership numbers on the next report.

Membership

Pat will send letters to all members due for renewal July 1, 2005 and to all members whose membership expired since July 1, 2004. Gene will make labels and a mail-merge letter so that members will only have to confirm or change their information rather than filling it all in. Pat will also mention the opportunity for membership on the E-group.

T-shirts and Hats

New T-shirt design was discussed. Pat informed us that James was working on a new design. She will touch base with him again on that. Also, he is working on a design for baseball caps. It was decided that patches are too expensive and do not sell well. Hank told us that we still have 70 of them left. Baseball caps can be sold on the website along with the T-shirts and patches.

Service Project – Cottonwood May 10-13, 2005

The Project Ranger has been changed from Peggy Kolar to Della, because Peggy has been transferred to Lee's Ferry. Della is normally at Phantom, but will be at Cottonwood for this project. The work at Cottonwood will consist of removing weeds and grass from around buildings. Abundant water this year has caused great growth, and later drying of the vegetation will become a fire hazard. Also, the ditch of one of the power sources for Cottonwood, an alternator with a turbine pump run by water from the pipeline, has become overgrown with vegetation and doesn't drain properly. The work crew will remove vegetation and clear the ditch. There are 12 people signed up for the project. Gene has sent most of the food already, using the mule train.

Future Service Project

The white-painted concrete abutments at the black bridge are aesthetically offensive. The GCHBA could possibly re-paint them in a future project. The project would require some workers to use ropes. There was discussion whether the Park Service would allow volunteers to do this kind of risky work. We can contact Chuck or Eric Keefer to find out about this.

Recognition of Service Project Volunteers

Discussion took place about having a patch, hat, or T-shirt made for the workers on each project. Patches could be made, but it is expensive to have a small number of patches made. We could make a general service project patch, but it would not have specific

project/date on it. Baseball caps are cheaper, but many do not wear them. T-shirts seem to be the most appropriate item. They can be made cheaply even in small numbers, and they could be unique for each project.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to have a limited run of t-shirts made for below-the-rim project workers. These will be made after the project so that the exact number of shirts can be made for the actual participants. These will be mailed to the workers. A shirt for the project Ranger will be made if the Park Service allows this.

Plaque for Past President Mary Simpson

We viewed the plaque for Mary. Gene Fowler will deliver it to Mary in person. The wooden plaque is about 8"x10". It has the GCHBA footprint logo and an inscription which reads:

Thank you for being our President
And for all the hard work you have done
To help others enjoy hiking our mutual love
The Grand Canyon
With much respect, admiration, and gratitude
From the Board of Directors
And Members of the
GRAND CANYON
Hikers and Backpackers Association

501 Status

Hank has worked with John Nanke and turned in the paperwork to make our 501 non-profit status current.

Website and Web Hosting

Gene expressed concern about link exchanges with other sites. It was decided that Gene should use his own judgment about what sites are appropriate to exchange links with.

A direct link to Bob's backcountry form and planner will be placed on the site.

A page on the site will be constructed with GCHBA's position papers on it.

A new web-hosting site is needed, since the current provider is discontinuing its web hosting. Bob Ribokas is looking into whether we can have it hosted where he has his site. Otherwise, we will find an inexpensive host that will allow ASP and SQL. Cindy will research sites.

Overflights, Wilderness, Backcountry use/preservation

Discussion took place about overflights. Some points from the discussion:

Natural quiet is a resource. The park is out of compliance in regard to natural quiet. There is legal wrangling about exactly what "natural quiet" is, and this must be defined.

There may actually be more tour flights if they are quieter. Tom reported that it's possible that planes will be refitted with 4 blade "quiet propellers" to replace 3 blade noisier ones, but this will result in no net noise reduction.

There are commercial flight paths over the Canyon, and other flights may divert their route so that passengers may view the Canyon. We do not know if certain flights are required to fly directly over the Canyon, or do so because of the sight-seeing opportunities. Current traffic patterns concentrate the noise, and there are virtually no areas in the Canyon that are without some flight noise. New commercial "Direct Route" rules are in the process of being made, and this may affect the number of flights over Grand Canyon.

Doug reported on his attendance at the overflight workgroup meeting. A committee, formally under the FAA, will be formed. This group will make a recommendation, which will almost certainly be approved by the FAA. He noticed that there is dissatisfaction in conservation groups, but commercial groups seem to be fairly confident about their position. There was little representation by recreational groups such as GCHBA. Doug submitted his name for inclusion on the work group that defines the rules. He feels that we have a good chance of being included.

Trailhead Access Advocate

Doug believes it would be a good idea to compile a list of trailheads and information about them and access to them. This would include common and popular trailheads and exclude those that are little used. We would then communicate with the Park Service, and about what the recommended access method to each would be, especially those with difficult access. Information would be included about parking, special access problems such as tribal permits or difficult roads.

Trailhead access can sometimes be a greater challenge than the hike itself. Sometimes the rules seem to change, and it is not clear exactly how the trailhead should be accessed. There are also complications with Tribal control of access to some of them. The South Bass access was brought up as a case in point. Some hikers want to use the Boundary Road to avoid fees or confrontation with tribal groups. The Boundary Road is closed to vehicle traffic, but vehicles have been seen on this road. Closures do not seem to be well enforced. Access should be equally available to all, whether that means no

vehicles on the road or any vehicles, or mountain bikes on the road.

Once we have a list, we can begin to identify which trailheads have access problems, and how the Wilderness Management Plan may affect them. We can then develop a position on what recommended access should be. We can possibly form relationships with some of the tribal administration, and work together to establish access as well as protect the tribal interests to the satisfaction of both.

We will not necessarily advocate roads or other access methods being opened. We have a unique position in being able to advocate protection of resources, which may include limiting access to sites within the Park to protect the resource.

It was discussed whether to have a single person or committee to accomplish this. Tom said he would be willing to chair a committee of contributors, who would collect the information and submit it to the Board for decisions on what should be included.

It was unanimously decided that a committee will be formed, with Tom Martin as chair. Doug Nering will draft a description of the committee's purpose.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is tentatively set for October 23, 2005. The date will be confirmed at a later date.



Who Uses the Backcountry? A Statistical Review of Grand Canyon Hikers by Cliff Beck

The Guide Training Seminar that is undertaken periodically by the Park Service has provided some of the best data available on the use of Grand Canyon trails and backcountry. I have obtained information provided at these sessions for the years 2003 and 2004, and while this is hardly sufficient data to make statistically meaningful conclusions, this is what I have found:

Quantity

In 2004, 12,487 permits were issued, compared to 13,143 in 2003, a decrease of 656 (5%).

"Special user" permits are a small share (3%) of all permits issued. I have combined 3 groups that are tracked by the Park under my own "special user" moniker. It includes permits for the Boy Scouts of

America, Grand Canyon Field Institute, and Incidental Business Permit (IBP) companies.

From 2003 to 2004, the number of "special user" permits increased 15%.

Timing

A small share of permits (3% in 2004) is issued on the first day of availability, i.e., the earliest possible date (EPD).

The number of permits issued on the earliest possible date (EPD) in 2004 (426 permits) averages to about 50 per month if the non peak winter months are excluded.

I hope to clarify this number, because it doesn't fit the anecdotal evidence. Based on the anecdotal observations from avid backpackers of predawn lines at the backcountry office and the FAX hysteria on that first day of the month, I presume that this statistic reflects the number of requests processed that first day, and not the number received on the first day.

If my presumption is correct, it would account for the large percentage of special users that get their applications processed the first day. Special user permits make up only 3% of the total permits issued in 2004.

By contrast, they received 37% of the permits issued on the first day. IBPs would likely be standing in line

on the first day, and the GCFI has their schedule of trips worked out in advance, before the hiking season begins. (For purposes of this review, I include the advance permits provided the GCFI as EPD permits.)

Cancellations

We have all experienced the disappointment of canceling a trip that has taken months to assemble. I anticipated that permits issued on the EPD would be most likely to cancel, since they must be planned so far in advance. The statistics bore me out.

Cancellations for the general population amounted to 9 percent of the total permits issued for both 2003 and 2004. For the EPD population, 13 percent cancelled each of those years, 44 percent more frequent than the general population.

With respect to the special users, despite their organizational skills they tend to exceed cancellation rates of the population as a whole by roughly 50 percent. Those well tuned organizing skills must confront the struggles of holding a group's plan together during the long period between reservation and first steps of the hike.

These are some of my observations using very limited data. Peruse the table of statistics that follows and see what you can find in them.

GRAND CANYON BACKCOUNTRY STATISTICS										
Compiled from data provided at the NPS Guide Training Seminar [negative values in parentheses]										
Total Permits Issued	2003			2004			Change			
	Total #	# Cancelled	% of Total	Total #	# Cancelled	% of Total	Total #	% of Total	# Cancelled	% of Total
TOTAL	13,143	1,169	9%	12,487	1,174	9%	(656)	(5%)	5	< 1%
Special Users	332	42	13%	381	54	14%	49	15%	12	29%
BSA	63	10	16%	78	18	23%	15	24%	8	80%
GCFI	58	9	16%	65	16	25%	7	12%	7	78%
IBP	211	23	11%	238	20	8%	27	13%	(3)	(13%)
% of total	3%	4%		3%	5%		(8%)		240%	
Permits Issued Earliest Possible Date (EPD)										
TOTAL	322	43	13%	426	55	13%	104	32%	12	28%
% of Total Issued	2%	4%		3%	5%		(16%)		240%	
Special Users --	138	34	25%	159	20	13%	21	15%	(14)	(41%)
BSA	15	2	13%	21	1	5%	6	40%	(1)	(50%)
GCFI (pre EPD)	58	9	16%	65	16	25%	7	12%	7	78%
IBP	65	23	35%	73	3	4%	8	12%	(20)	(87%)
% of total EPD	43%	79%		37%	36%		20%		(116%)	



Good to Go

CALL FOR CANYON HIKING PRESENTATIONS

The Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association is pleased to announce the first Grand Canyon Hikers Symposium, to be held Saturday April 8, 2006, at the South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park

The purpose of this symposium is to share hiking and backpacking exploits and explorations in the Grand Canyon, as defined by the geographical region from Lee's Ferry to the Grand Wash Cliffs, rim to rim.

**Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association
P.O. Box 11986
Prescott, AZ 86304**

Membership

We would like you to encourage others to join in preserving the bipedal enjoyment of the Grand Canyon experience. New members should send name, address, phone number, and email address along with a check or money order of \$20 for the first year's dues to:

**Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association
P.O. Box 11986
Prescott, AZ 86304**

We are a tax-deductible non-profit group organized under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The next board meeting will be on October 23, 2005 at 10:00 at the Grand Canyon Recreation Center.

Presentations may include a hike or overnight backpack on the corridor trails and surrounding area, historical trails such as the North and South Bass, Tanner, Grand View, and any number of canyon routes. Only one hike per presentation, please.

Presenters will have 15 minutes to give their presentation, including any question and answer time. Presentations may be with slides and or power point. Presenters may volunteer a written paper to GCHBA for possible posting to the web and or to compile with other papers as a compendium of Grand Canyon hikes.

To submit a request to present, please submit a 200 word maximum description of the hike you would like to present, including the length of the hike, area visited during the hike, and time of year the hike happened, along with your contact information, to both Tom Martin tomhazel@grand-canyon.az.us and Doug Nering doug@glomring.com before November 1, 2005. You will be notified on or before January 15, 2006, if the eight-member presentation selection committee has selected your presentation.