



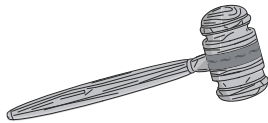
# Saguaro News

Newsletter of the SKP Saguaro Co-op  
Benson, Arizona



Volume XVI Number 2

February 2006



## FROM THE BOARD

☞ As the current Board comes to the end of this year, we will take this opportunity to report on projects that have been accomplished or are in the works.

☞ After a lot of work by **Terry Kriesel**, an employee personnel policy book has been developed. In addition, many hours were spent reviewing past Board minutes since 1990 in order to ascertain policy statements to incorporate into a Board policy book. Many thanks go to **Jock Bliss** for taking all this information and putting it into a useable format.

☞ We have had two town hall meetings on the By-laws changes which are to be voted on by the Leaseholders. The results of this vote will be announced at the Annual Meeting on February 9th.

☞ The Election Committee's standing rules have been modified to insure that new leaseholders are able to exercise their vote up to 72 hours before the Annual Meeting.

☞ The expansion of the vehicle storage area is nearly complete. Many new spaces have been added. This was accomplished through the hard work of the Facilities Committee and the Parking Committee. Canoe and kayak storage has also been added.

☞ Our M& O for 2006 has been set \$836.00. Much of this increase is caused by anticipated increases in water and sewage rates by the City of Benson as well as the lawsuit expenses.

☞ **Boyd Kraemer**, Benson City Manager, was invited to speak at our Chat with the Board on Friday, January 13th. He brought us up to date on the status of Wal-Mart's new store with a planned opening date early in the fall of 06. He also gave us a comprehensive view of the water situation and that all studies assure us of 100 years of pure water. Many opportunities for volunteers were mentioned, including the TV station being established and needing help in that area. We appreciate his relationship with this Park and everyone certainly chuckled when he was asked what our standing was with the City and he gave us a B- grade. Needless to say, we will be working hard to raise that grade!

Gene Jones  
Board Secretary

### Mary Cleveland

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### Roger Kurtz

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Facilities Manager

### "Saguaro News" Editor

**Chuck Flanagan**

Lot 36

Please send submissions to:  
**SaguaroNews@Escapees.Com**

Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## THE OFFICE MANAGER'S CORNER:

*Mary Cleveland, Office Manager*

Haven't we had beautiful weather this winter so far? The warmer than usual day time temperatures are very acceptable and being enjoyed by all. You can tell all the northern visitors at a glance. They are the ones out there walking and jogging in their "shorts" while the rest of us more native types have our coats on.

The M & O Bills went out the 10th of January with due dates listed as Feb.15<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, however, we are able to make it 4 installments, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact the office. Also included in the M & O bills were Weed Control letters & forms to sign up for Option 1 (the application of the pre-emergence) or Option 2 (not to have it applied to your lot). If you have not done so please return these forms to the office.

The statements for the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment on the \$110.00 assessment will go out on February 17<sup>th</sup> and are due April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Great news (for some). Thanks to **Bob & Eleanor**, Lot 114, for information which was forwarded to our CPA for his opinion. His response after checking into it is that 1099's will not need to be issued to joint Leaseholders. However, individual Leaseholders who have exceeded \$600.00 in rental pool credit will receive one.

We sure hope the group that left here the middle of January for their trip down into Mexico are having a great time but we miss them all. While watching them get ready to go it was hard not to get caught up in their enthusiasm and wish we could go too.

As most of you know thanks to some very nice and caring leaseholders we have an enclosed Pet Area on the other side of our Storage Area, the office explains to our guests that they can take their pets off of their leash and let them run free. The guests are all so very enthusiastic about it and we get so many thanks for having such a wonderful place to let their pups run. In January we had guests (**Bob & Carol Tellefson**,

SKP# 62571) who were so thrilled about it that when they left they made a \$10.00 donation to use for up keep, treats, dog food or whatever was wanted or needed for the area. This donation was passed on to **Pat and Ted Horat** who are responsible for the area and are the ones who work so hard to keep it so nice, clean and enjoyable for all who go there. Once again it is one of our wonderful guests who are thanking us and making us feel so good about the truly great place we have to live and play here in the Southeastern Arizona desert.



## KNOW YOUR HELPING HANDS

*(continued from January newsletter)*

**VI.- Responsibility:** Provide information about the Livingston CARE Facility. The Care facility has pamphlets, and a video program to educate Escapees about the CARE (Continuing Assistance for Retired Escapees) Facility and Program which is a unique Assisted Living Program available to us. We have members of the Saguaro Co-op who have and are still utilizing this facility in Livingston.

**VII.- Responsibility:** Plan a memorial program when requested by the family of the deceased. When a member dies, the family may request a memorial program be planned in the Co-op. Helping Hands Committee will provide hosting of the program that is planned by the family. Taking care of the Clubhouse arrangements , and providing support help, allows the family to plan the Program itself. We are available to assist as needed.

These are the final of seven Responsibilities of the Helping Hands Committee – your neighbors here at the Saguaro Co –op. We are here to lend a neighborly helping hand in times of need for short-term help following surgery, illness, etc. We welcome your help to our Committee and also recognize that many of you are the same good neighbors, without being attached formally to the Committee. We applaud you and encourage that continuing spirit of sharing and caring.

**Norma Taylor, #39, 586-0114**

## KEEPING FIT

by *Sylvia Burnside*

Everyone who is traveling in an R.V. will tell you that the worst part of it is trying to keep fit while delving into the morning coffee and doughnuts, the afternoon happy hours, and the every-other-day dinners out...and the rest of the time driving down the road. Our bodies spread in all directions; we become what we eat!

Two SKP ladies who haven't let the above scenario interfere with getting on with their lives can be found doing aerobics at 8 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at the Saguaro Co-op Clubhouse. **Bea Stephens** and **Helen Thiebaud** are both 84 years old, but they both think that exercise and good living is the only way to stay healthy.



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Bea was born near Chicago and didn't have formalized physical education at her Catholic school as a child, but during WWII she worked hard as a "Rosie the Riveter," on M4 tanks, preparing the interiors for going to war. She married Lee in 1942 and stayed active raising a family. In 1980 they went on the road and stayed at

many of the state and national parks. They did a lot of strenuous hiking in the mountains of western United States and in Canada.

When they finally settled down here at Saguaro Co-op Park, Bea became active in the aerobics class. She thinks the opportunities here are "great!" She wouldn't change a thing. Asked what her advice would be to people still on the road she says she would tell them to keep away from the coffee and doughnuts, to eat lots of fruits and vegetables, and to have good genes. Bea takes no medicines and thinks she is better off without them.

Helen grew up east of Los Angeles, California. With three brothers, she was always kept active. She has exercised all of her life, first at school, where she had physical education on the rings and bars, and then at the YWCA in Redlands,

California. She and her husband were active fishing, camping and square dancing. When on the road she carried weights to use in the motorhome, and a mat to use for stretches. She is also a walker, once having walked the hilly "Butte to Butte" in Eugene, Oregon, a distance of four and a half miles, in



© Ron Dempsey, 2005

one hour and 18 minutes! Helen thinks the opportunities for keeping fit here are just right for anyone who wants to try. Her advice to SKPs who are still traveling: walk, lift weights (weights are easy to take with you), and get out there!!



## THANK YOU!

Thank you very much for your generosity. Because of your SKP caring, sharing spirit, we were able to grant the Christmas wishes of the 41 Benson foster children. \$1826.53 was donated by leaseholders, guests and visitors. Toys, learning activities, and clothes were purchased, wrapped and delivered to Family Services. Funds (\$54.49) remaining after gift buying were given for purchasing food for the party and dinner for the children, foster parents and their children on Dec. 13. Gifts were delivered to their homes to be opened on Christmas.

Thank you to SKPs who helped me collect the money--**Mary Lou Feldt, Marion Runyan, Elaine Brogden, and Pat Yecny.** Mary Lou, Elaine, **Judy Gray** and I had the fun of shopping for the gifts. An "elf" devoted much time and effort into making a snowman for each child. Another "elf" made and donated a baby quilt. Sixteen "elves" wrapped the mounds of gifts. Santa would have been proud of their loving work.

Thank you again for your support and generosity.

**Carol Rucks lot #42**

**Volunteerism in the Park:**  
*A Personal Perspective*  
*Virginia Taylor, Lot #51*

Volunteerism is an ethic of SKPs, RSVPers\* and other such groups in many communities in our country. My focus in this "personal perspective" is on volunteerism in our Park.

December 'was the season' for volunteering -- for making personal decisions about how we fulfill the expectation to be a Park volunteer. There are 18 committees for 2006, ranging from Architectural to Workshop. After reviewing all the sign-up sheets for Park committees for 2006, I found that people on 147 lots signed up for one or more of these eighteen "designated" committees.

Of the 147 lots:

68 lots signed up for one committee	68
38 lots signed up for two committees	76
20 lots signed up for three committees	60
10 lots signed up for four committees	40
7 lots signed up for five committees	35
4 lots signed up for six committees	24

This yielded a total of 303 committee sign-ups

As of December 19, 2005 approximately 56 leaseholders were not in residence in the park, so they were not signed up for any "designated" committees. (This does not include those leaseholders away for the Christmas/New Year holidays.) Also, as of the same date, 82 lots had not signed up for any committees. (Lots unaccounted for are in transition, or were simply missed in the count.) This does not necessarily mean that the folks on those 82 lots do not volunteer in the Park. There are a number of tasks/groups that require use of volunteers that are not related to the 18 "designated" committees. Names of these volunteers were not sought for the following list. The listed tasks/groups involve from 1 to over 30 people each. Some tasks/groups are "ongoing entities", while some are "impromptu" in nature, such as ad hoc or short-term tasks.

These tasks/groups that use volunteers include the following:

- Newsletter editing and contributed articles
- Office-related volunteers:
  - Registration, public relations, telephone answering, etc.
- Envelope preparation for bills, inserting calendars and newsletters
- Delivery of monthly bills
- Reading of meters
- Saguaro Chorus
- Saguaro Players
- Jam Sessions
- Leadership of exercise sessions (three types) and sponsorship of a food event
- Exercise room maintenance/coaching
- Library maintenance
- Poolroom management, tournaments, trophies and pancake breakfast
- Ad hoc decorators for various clubhouse events
- Karaoke events
- Various scheduled fund raising events-- auctions, Spring Fling, food events, etc.
- New Leaseholders recognition party
- Maintaining the Park History
- Making coffee for mornings and other events
- \* RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Programs)
- Memorial Book maintenance
- Photography of events and activities in the Park
- Aluminum cans collection/management
- Clubroom refrigerator management
- 50th and 25th Wedding Anniversary recognition
- Teaching cards and games
- Lessons for line dancing, ballroom dancing, etc.
- Mile of pennies jar
- Neiman-Marcus Table
- Computer classes
- Writing and genealogy groups
- Sunshine Lady
- Park Board of Directors
- Recording secretaries for the Board and some committees
- Ad hoc typing for the Board and some committees
- Outdoor games management (seasonal)
- Cactus Wrens Board
- Laundry crew, maintenance & collections
- Michigan crew/breakfast
- Game players and card players fund raisers

Tables and chairs team  
 Cookies, food, cooking, serving & clean-up;  
 ice cream servers  
 Kitchen management  
 Bingo management and fund raisers  
 Emergency door-knockers for each row  
 Un-locking the Clubhouse in the morning,  
 locking-up the Clubhouse at night  
 Management of closets in the  
 maintenance buildings  
 Ticket sellers of all types -- e.g.,  
 meals, 50-50's, etc.  
 Christmas gift wrappers  
 for community children in need  
 Floaters: those who show up to help  
 on an ad hoc basis  
 Visitors who volunteer for various tasks  
 Impromptu events not previously listed  
 Others? (Undoubtedly there are some that were  
 missed.)

In summary, it appears that volunteerism in the Park is very much alive. Remaining challenges include: 1) finding leaders for major events and activities, and 2) sometimes getting enough members for some of the more specialized committees (which may also require a longer time commitment than one year). Those who do not volunteer for anything also exist -- due to human nature or situations that prevent them from volunteering. The October 2005 issue of the Saguaro News spelled out how members "shall share knowledge, labor and time towards the betterment of the Co-op". This is a requirement specified in our By-Laws.

It is hoped this information will make the opportunities available for volunteering more widely known. This could help individuals, especially those new to the Park, to volunteer for activities.

*P.S. There are a number of people who volunteer in the community; e.g. hospital and churches, city government, etc. While these are unrelated to the volunteer ethic and expectation for the Park, they do help to build positive community relationships in the Benson area.*

## WELCOME BACK SHIRLEY

by **Mark Guinan**

Shirley's back !! Shirley's back !!! was the word  
 that went around.

What on earth does that mean? I thought as I  
 wore my usual frown.

"Why Shirley teaches us how to dance; gives  
 lessons every week".

"Ha!" I thought "She don't know me, 'cause I  
 got two left feet."

*(A bit of poetic license there.)*

She teaches us new steps every Thursday with  
 diagrams and such.

She doesn't go too fast for she knows we can't  
 absorb too much.

Arthur Murray taught in a hurry, but Shirley has  
 a "Jobian" pace .

Her patience is endless but I struggle with the  
 step. It's such a disgrace.

Other people in the class aren't too much  
 better than I,

But to say that I'm the best of all, would surely  
 be a lie.

We've learned the basic two step, the waltz  
 and cha cha too,

But when she introduced the quick step, I had  
 to find the loo.

The rhythm I hear in my brain does not transmit  
 to my feet.

Despite watching Shirley do the steps, I end up  
 in defeat.

I thought I got the tango—Fwd left, fwd right,  
 fwd left, slide right, But Cheeze!

Back right, back left, back right and slide left; I  
 need a red rose in my teeth.

We had a pair visiting the park, who danced  
 like Fred and Ginger.

They performed the cha cha and tango; the  
 sensuousness still lingers.

They showed how to hold one's elbows up and  
 hold one's partner's hand.

If the wife and I could dance like that I know it  
 would be just grand.

Well Shirley is our Terpsichore, the Goddess  
 of the Dance

I hope she won't give up on me: just give me  
 one more chance.

She is so very graceful as she glides around  
 the room.

But I would be kidding myself if I thought I'd be  
 there soon.



# “BUZZ” AROUND THE PARK

by “Buzz” Tail

Notes and happenings in and around your SKP Saguaro Co-op. Send your entries to “Buzz” at: **SaguaroNews@Escapees.Com**

Be sure to put “Saguaro News” in the subject line (it’ll get you through the Editor’s SPAM filter.)

“Buzz”



Thanks to **Chuck Flanagan** for the terrific job as Newsletter Editor, **Jean Jones** for the jammed-packed monthly Calendar and **Molly Bandy** for the up-to-date clubhouse White Boards & Coming Events entries. Without them, we wouldn’t know where to go or what to do in this busy park of ours!

**Mary Lou & Ralph Feldt**



The San Pedro Yacht Club Marina (a.k.a. the Canoe & Kayak rack) has been completed. Kudos to the fine assistance of Don Boston and Ralph Feldt (who don’t even have boats), Tim Johnson, and the Parking Committee members who dug the holes.

**Chuck Flanagan**



## JANUARY LOT CHANGES

### New Leaseholders:

Vicky Glover – Lot #74  
Stanley & Jane Aarsund-Pauli – 271



### **We’re trying to Drum up A Volunteer...and We Need Your Help!**

We need someone to prepare the monthly Co-Op calendar. Excellent work environment and all training provided.

Contact: Jean Jones; 586-2580

## SAGUARO PLAYERS PRESENT



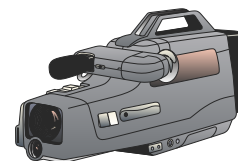
An old fashioned melodrama, "Parted on Her Wedding Morn or More to be Pitied Than Scorned," will be presented on February 18th at 7:00 p.m. Make plans to come and see our heroine, Faith Truehart , and her friends, Bowery Liz and Mother Mahohey, as they encounter the villain, Desmond Dalton and his girlfriend, Opal Buckingham. You'll cheer as the hero, Excelsior Colfax, saves the day.

Tickets for refreshments will go on sale February 1st, with a cut-off date of February 13<sup>th</sup>.



## VIDEO GROUP REPORT

With the purchase of the video camera, tri-pod & DVD/VHS recorder by the Cactus Wrens, a new group has been formed. We plan to document all historical events at the Co-Op/clubhouse i.e. the Chorus; Saguaro Players; Variety/Talent Shows and other special clubhouse events. We will be coordinating efforts with the clubhouse chairperson of upcoming performances. The equipment will be available for use by leaseholders for other events providing they already know, or are willing to learn, its operation. Since we are a very small group, we will not be able to video everything that occurs in our park. We would gladly welcome more volunteers and instruction is available. As yet we have no chairperson but information may be obtained by calling:



**Cathy Stumpf 586-8918/Lot #216**