



McDOWELL Messenger

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA ♦ NOVEMBER 2007

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE McDOWELL PARK ASSOCIATION & FRIENDS OF THE McDOWELL AREA

McDowell Park Association's
ANNUAL MEETING
November 28, 2007 — 7:00 p.m.
Rio Verde Community Center

Bomber crashed near McDowell Mountain Park!



*That got your
attention, didn't
it? Read on...*

At our Annual Meeting November 28, Bob Mason, well-known local author, will tell us of a WWII B-24 Bomber that crashed near McDowell Mountain Park during a training mission. Then, as he puts it, "I'll tell you about the 'one-in-a-million'" follow up story that took place after the story was published in the *Fountain Hills Times*.

Come out to the meeting and hear this great story!



Bob Mason has written five books, three of them on local history: "Verde Valey Lore," "More Verde Valley Lore" and "The Burning." He also writes for the *Fountain Hills Times*, *Let's Go* and *The Peak* magazine. His books will be on sale at the meeting and \$5 from each sale will be donated to the Park Association.

MESSENGER *Briefs*

New Interpretive Ranger at park

No doubt by the time this issue is published, there will be a new Interpretive Ranger at McDowell Mountain Park.

Crash Marusich left the position last year and earlier this Spring the position was filled. However, shortly thereafter the person filling the post left.

Park Superintendent Rand Hubbell said the new Ranger is Emily Habinck. She has a degree in Botany and has been the Interpretive Ranger at Reedy Creek Nature Center in North Carolina. Rand expects her to be aboard in November.

Crash Marusich moves from state

Former Ranger Crash Marusich has left the state. After leaving McDowell Mountain Park he took the position of Superintendent at Estrella Park. However, he has moved to Boise, Idaho where he is the Public Educator for the Ada County Department of Emergency Management.

Mule at work

Last year the Park Association donated a Kawasaki Mule to the park for both emergency and everyday use on the park trails.

Aside from its everyday use on the trails, Superintendent Hubbell reports that in the past year it has rescued 14 people and he said that it has been a tremendous help to the park.



President's MESSAGE

Jim Urban

Update on Northeast park access

Many of you know that MPA members have long sought an entry point into McDowell Park from the northeast area. Park Superintendent Rand Hubbell has been an advocate for access here, but he, and we, have been unable to get approval from the Maricopa County Parks Commission. The current Park 5 – year plan will allow this, after the construction of a new north fence, inside the park and parallel to the present fence. This will provide a corridor leading to an entry point. However, this planned new fence is several years in the future.

We now have an interim solution for hikers and mountain bikers, who are MPA members, to legally enter the park in this area. The privately owned land west of Tonto Verde has a primitive road along its south boundary (adjacent to the Park north fence). We approached Rio Verde Services, the general partner of the ownership of this land, asking if they would grant us a temporary easement to use this road. Rand Hubbell indicated (this past summer) that the Park would put in an Iron Ranger access similar to that for the Dixie Mine Trail, if we could obtain the easement. We have answered the developer's concerns about their liability by purchasing a liability policy, to cover both MPA and them. Access is now available to MPA members, through a gate located at the Southeast corner of this property (the southwest corner of Tonto Verde). There are several locks on the chained gate, in sequence, and now including ours. It is a combination lock, with the code "4MPA". Line this up with the word "Master" on the lock.

I have expressed our appreciation to Rio Verde Services, and especially to Dave Ritchie, for working with us to obtain this temporary access across their property. Please respect this private property by re-locking the gate and remaining on the road, not on the property north of it. The iron ranger will be at the west end, near 176th street, about three-quarters of a mile west of the entry point. This requires walking/riding over a fairly steep hill near the west end. Think of it as part of your hike/ride!

Board elections at meeting

At the Annual Meeting of the MPA there will be an election for three positions on the Board of Directors. Margaret Scott will be leaving the Board. Three candidates have expressed interest in serving on the Board and they are:

DAVID GILLMAN has been a resident of Fountain Hills for four years and before that,



lived in Rio Verde for 12 years. He was an employee of the Pillsbury Company in Minneapolis for 34 years before his retirement.

He graduated from Missouri State in Business Administration.

He served on the Community Association Board in Rio Verde and also the Church Board.

Currently he is a volunteer for the Food Bank and enjoys hiking and tennis.

David's wife is Donna and they have three children and seven grandchildren and are looking forward to celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2008.

KIM HINES is a native Arizonian and she now lives in Fountain Hills. She is a graduate from Arizona State University with a double major: Recreational Management and Exercise Physiology.



Currently she works for the fire department in Rio Verde as a paramedic and firefighter. She is also a guide for Arizona Outreach and has her own business, Fitness Ventures.

She enjoys all outside activities including biking, hiking, swimming, camping and running.



PAM GRIFFIN is a Cancer Research Nurse at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale. Prior to that she lived in Boston where she was also a Cancer Research Nurse.

She is the proud owner of four horses which she enjoys riding whenever the opportunity provides. Also in her spare time she enjoys bird watching.

Shown to the right, Pam and Magic.

Membership REPORT

by Merideth Hale

Secretary & Membership Chairman

Membership renewals and recruitment of new members begins in EARNEST now that Fall returns and another season begins. Your membership is important to the strength and voice of this organization. Although no current issues offer a threat to the Park, we all need to remain active and vigilant. The Open Space is vital to all of us.

We are beginning an E-mail listing of our members. If you wish to be contacted about meetings or issues that are important to M.P.A. please include your E-mail address when you renew.

The following is an update since the April Messenger:

Donations: Hikers = to \$49 ■ Trail Blazers = \$50 to \$99 ■ Mountain Climbers = \$100 +

New Members

Frank & Jean Chase

Renewals – Hikers

Dave Calder

Pat Caulkins

Marilynn & Pat Gallagher

Tom & Linda Hefter

Mary Lou Houge

David Komm & Sandra Bahr

Sigrid & James Mueller

Dick and Jackie Oliver

Susie Pringle

Renewals – Trail Blazers

Ralph & Peggy Donnelly

Renewals–Mountain Climbers

Gordon & Joan Griffes

Jane & John Mooty

Renewals

Joe and Nancy Bill

Ginny Dickey

Ned & Judy Dickey

Larry & Roberta Ernst

Sunniva Graves

Ben & Marge Gregg

Frank & Judy Haggard

Dave Hammel

Jane Haynes

Derald Hoffman

Michelle & Gary Holcomb

Kathleen Howard, Ph.D

Dave & Judy Hutchison

Diane Kalis

Bob & Debora Kodl

Marguerite & Dick Lawler

Sue Livingston

Charles & Sandy Miller

Vivian Olsen

William & Sabra Otteson

Lois Ann Shearer

Frank & Marjorie Sweeney

Jane Thune

Thank you all for joining or renewing. All other members will receive a postcard early in the month of your yearly renewal date. Please talk to your friends about the park and the M.P.A. and suggest they should belong!

The McDowell Park Association

OFFICERS:

President: Jim Urban, 471-3818

Vice-President: Dick Oliver, 471-7070

Secretary & Membership Chairman:

Merideth Hale, 471-1003

Treasurer: Ralph Donnelly, 471-0471

Board of Directors:

Bob Bohannan, 471-2222; Keith Clayton, 471-7955;

John McNeil, 837-1306; Mike O'Connor, 837-7074;

Margaret Scott, 473-3777.

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<http://www.mcdowellparkassociation.org/>



McDowell Park Association
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s): Please
 print names of family
 members to be
 included. (List one
 if individual
 membership.)

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Tax deductible donations, in addition to membership, will be most welcome!

ENCLOSED: Individual (\$15) _____
 Family (\$20) _____
 Donation \$ _____
 Total \$ _____


Please send this form with check payable to:
McDowell Park Association. Mail to:

McDowell Park Association
 P. O. Box 18613
 Fountain Hills, AZ 85269

McDOWELL
Messenger

P. O. Box 18613
 Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269

THE McDOWELL PARK ASSOCIATION

 *Inside:*

*Mark
 your
 calendar!*

**MPA's
 Annual Meeting
 November 28—7 p.m.
 Rio Verde Community Center**

***Read about the interesting
 program inside!***