

From: TRACKS White Mountains info@trackswitemountains.org
Subject: TRACKS OCT-NOV-DEC 2025 NEWS & EVENTS
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To: tracks.denisem@gmail.com

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Steve Dobbs, President



The US Forest Service (USFS) is streamlining its operations and has instructed TRACKS regarding a revised chain of command. If TRACKS has concerns with or comments for the USFS, they will initial-ly flow through me as TRACKS President, and then I will collaborate with Stephanie Rainey at the Lakeside Ranger District Office. Oftentimes the TRACKS Board discusses issues that need to be ad-dressed, and I follow-up with the presentation to the USFS.

REMEMBERING ARLENE NELSON

It's with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our dear friend and fellow TRACKS member, Arlene Nelson. She suffered a stroke in June, and we thought she would rally again, but it wasn't the case. She passed in the overnight hours of Sept 7th, under a full moon guiding her way.



A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. If you would like to send a card to the family, please contact Cathy Purvis at cpurvis25@gmail.com.

TOUR OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

Nate Kear, Coordinator



It's here! Tour of the White Mountains is THIS Saturday at Pinetop Lakes Activity Center & Sta-bles, 5475 Buck Springs Road in Pinetop. Stop by and check it out.

Thank you to all the volunteers!! This event doesn't happen without them!

PINEWOOD SHOWDOWN MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE - SEP 13th





On September 13, Zia Rides conducted the 2nd Annual Pinewood Showdown gravel mountain bike race. For those not familiar with the term “gravel race”, it involves a certain type of bicycle with narrow tires, no suspension and very light in weight. Nevertheless, there were several people that rode their mountain bikes (e.g., heavier bike with a little wider tire). Rider registration numbered 206 riders ranging in age from 13 - 70+ years of age. What a great success!

TRACKS volunteers – 35 of them - supported two aid stations. Thanks go to Suzanne Milligan for co-ordinating the volunteers as well as Kelly Milligan who assisted with an aid station.

Zia Rides will return for the 3rd Annual Pinewood Showdown in September 2026.

MBAA ENDURO RACE SUNRISE

On Sunday, Sep 28, the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona (MBAA) and others sponsored the MBAA Enduro Sunrise at Sunrise Ski Resort. This downhill event is about determining how fast a rider can go down the mountain and is conducted in 4 segments. It's quite a unique event, particularly for those folks interested in going down a mountain on two wheels!



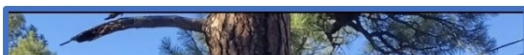
TRACKS provided a handful of volunteers; in return we received a \$500 donation! TRACKS also assisted in this event a few years prior.

BIG SPRINGS WORKDAY - SEP 20th

Cathy Purvis, Coordinator



A big THANK YOU to all the TRACKS members who came out to support Save Our Park (SOP)'s Big Springs Workday on a recent Saturday morning. We were joined by USFS, AZ Game & Fish, Pi-netop-Lakeside Public Works, Nature Center, Blue Ridge School District and other community volunteers. New gravel was spread in the parking lot, the trails along Big Springs and the Amphitheater cleaned-up, bushes trimmed, wood directional signs repaired and painted and even the picnic table got a fresh coat of paint! It's amazing what can be accomplished in a few hours with our awesome volunteers.





Thank you, thank you ALL!

FALL ARTISAN FESTIVAL

The Fall Artisan Festival was held September 26-28th in Pinetop-Lakeside at The Orchard at Charlie Clark's. The weather was not our friend on Friday, but Saturday and Sunday were better days! We talked with a number of folks about TRACKS, the Nature Center and the Audubon Society as well as handing out maps and Leave No Trace cards in addition to receiving donations for the new Take a Hike book.



As we shared in emails, the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside cancelled this year's Fall Festival Parade due to the loss of the two firefighters in a tragic vehicular accident on September 14th. May they rest in peace.

TRAIL CREW



Jerry Good, Coordinator

Trail Crew 2025! Another successful season. More work was done by various crew members mid-week than in any other recent year. An awesome accomplishment. Jerry has left the mountain, but the crew will continue through Oct, and longer if the weather holds up.

Sept 15th was Jerry's last day this year, and the Trail Crew surprised him with a huge celebration. He couldn't thank everyone enough for such a wonderful send off!

Garth Orkney will be heading up trail crew beginning Sep 22nd and will continue until the weather forces us to quit! Be sure to bring sunscreen and ample water for the morning work. If you need directions to meeting locations, please contact Garth Orkney at orkneyaz@yahoo.com. Thank you again!



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Kelly Milligan, Coordinator

Guides will start from the following locations throughout



Our rides will start from the following locations promptly at 8:30 am. We plan organized TRACKS rides through the end of October...weather dependent. 😊

We have pinned the locations in Google Maps so if you are unsure of where to go, simply click the links for whichever day you wish to ride, get the directions, and off you go!

Tuesday: [Fire Escape Road \(opposite East Lane\) in Pinetop](#)

Thursday: [Junction of Forest Roads 185 & 271](#)

Saturday: [Junction of Forest Roads 182 & 7](#)

Rides will be anywhere from 15-20 miles. A helmet is required. Make sure your bike is in a good, rideable condition. Don't forget ample hydration. Routes will be determined by the group. We will leave promptly at the designated start time. For any questions, please reach out to milligankelly@yahoo.com.

HIKE: TUESDAY TREKKERS

Heather Steiner, Coordinator

Tuesday Trekkers' last 2025 hike was September 30th. We look forward to Spring 2026 to enjoy another great year! Kudos to all who participated this year! Special thanks to Ed Gorney who was our primary Trail Leader. He seems to follow John C. Maxwell's quote:

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, shows the way.

Maxwell is a 78-year, well-known author, coach and orator.

HIKE: UP THE HILL GANG

Kay Alderton, Coordinator

Below are the October hike dates and locations for the Wednesday hikes. October will be the last month of organized TRACKS hikes for Up the Hill Gang. ** Please note the End of Year Potluck will be in honor of Arlene Nelson. **

Oct 1 Escudilla National Recreation Trail Leader: Terry Kilmer

- 6.0 miles / Difficult
- 6:45 am Safeway parking lot in Pinetop
- 7:00 am departure
- Ride share: \$5

Oct 8 Ghost of the Coyote West Leader: Charmi Wecker

- 5.0 miles / Moderate
- 7:45 am parking lot between Safeway and Arby's, Show Low
- 8:00 am departure
- Ride share: \$3

Oct 15 Juniper Ridge Lookout Connector Leader: Kathryn Melsted

- 3.0 miles / Difficult
- 7:45 am parking lot between Safeway and Arby's, Show Low
- 8:00 am departure
- Ride share: \$3

Oct 22 Halls Creek Area Leader: Annette Fox / Phil Donk

- 4.5 miles / Moderate
- 7:45 am Safeway parking lot in Pinetop
- 8:00 am departure
- Ride share: \$5

OCT 29 Los Caballos / End of Year Potluck Leader: Charmi Wecker



IN MEMORY OF ARLENE NELSON

- 5.0 miles / Moderate
- 7:45 am parking lot between Safeway and Arby's, Show Low
- 8:00 am departure
- Ride share: \$2

Following the hike, join in for a potluck at Charmi's Honoring the Memory of Arlene Nelson

- Bring your favorite dish to share.
- Any questions, please contact Kay at 928-367-7003

Please meet the hike leader at the meet location as not all hikes begin at trailheads. If you rideshare, the suggested rideshare donation is listed above. Any questions, please call Kay Alderton at 928-367-7003.

MONTHLY CALENDAR			
TRAIL CREW	8:00 am Monday	Hard hat & tools provided.	*Please wear good boots, gloves, sunscreen and bring ample water.
MOUNTAIN BIKE	8:30 am Tues / Thurs / Sat **Through the end of October - weather permitting **	Rides range from 15 - 25 miles.	*HELMETS REQUIRED* *Bring plenty of fluids
HIKE	Tues: Tuesday Trekkers Wed: Up the Hill Gang	Tues: hikes resume in 2026* Wed: 3-6 mile hikes – through the end of October.	*Please wear appropriate footwear and bring sunscreen and ample water. *Dogs must be on a leash.
BOARD MEETING	Oct 9 th Nov 6 th Dec 11 th	1:00 pm Thursday	Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall 325 W White Mountain Blvd Lakeside
GENERAL MEETING	Oct 11 th Nov 8 th Dec 13 th **	8:00 am Saturday *2 nd Saturday of the month* **Dec 13 th - 11 am meeting and luncheon potluck at Snitzer's Residence	Sal and Teresa's, 455 Woodland Rd Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ **Dec 13 th at Snitzer Residence



Our mailing address is:

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