



Ancient Astronomy of the Verde Valley

Dates of Interest:

- Oct 24-Nov 22
President Teddy Roosevelt Exhibit
- Nov 3, Mon, 1-3
Docent/Diplomat meeting
- Nov 13, Thurs, 11:30-4:30
Water Festival 2008
- Nov 19, Wed, 6-9 pm
Historical Society Dinner
"Sunwatchers of the Verde Valley"
- Nov 22, Sat, 1-4 pm
Roosevelt statue dedication
- Nov 24-Dec 24, Mon-Sat,
1-4 pm
Holiday Mart
- Nov 27, Thurs, 9 am
Thanksgiving Day Parade
- Dec 6-7, Sat-Sun, 1-4 pm
Open House and Holiday Tree Drawing
- Jan 2-31, Cactus Casita Exhibit
- Jan 21, Wed, 6-9 pm
Historical Society Dinner
"Movie Making in AZ"
- Jan 23, Fri, 5 pm
Pony Express Dinner @
American Legion Hall

Among his many interests and activities, Ken Zoll is a researcher in ancient astronomy for the Coconino National Forest and the Center for Desert Archaeology in Tucson. He will give us a brief introduction to the study of archaeoastronomy and show how the Sinagua of the Verde Valley tracked the sun's movements 800 years ago for ceremonial and agricultural purposes. Solar seasonal calendars have been identified at Anasazi sites in Arizona and New Mexico, at Hohokam sites in the Phoenix region, and at Northern Sinagua locations near Flagstaff. Ken is currently researching multiple new site discoveries in the Red Rock District of the Coconino National Forest and with the Center for Desert Archaeology at the Casa Malpais Ruins in Springerville, Arizona.



agency. When asked how he got into archaeoastronomy Ken explains that he simply went from the high-tech of the 21st Century to the high-tech of the 11th Century.

Our annual election of Board Members will also take place at this November dinner. Board members seeking election and

re-election are **Niobe Borman, Alan Cruikshank, Jerry Miles, Sandy Myhr, and Dr. Clinton Pattea.**

The public is invited to attend this dinner meeting. Reservations for the dinner and presentation must be made by Sunday, November 16. They can be made by sending an e-mail to reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org, telephoning reservations to (480) 837-2612, or going to the River of Time Museum website: www.riveroftimemuseum.org, click "begin", click Calendar of Events, and "Dinner Reservations". Cost is \$18 for members and \$22 for guests. The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; cocktails are available at 6:00 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive, Fountain Hills. The menu is mixed salad, roast turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy and dessert.

Ken retired to Sedona in 2004 after 35 years of Federal service in Chicago and Washington, D.C. He holds B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from Loyola University of Chicago. He and his wife Nancy reside in the Village of Oak Creek.

Ken's last position was as Chief Information Technology Officer for a Federal

From the President's Desk by **Jerry Miles**

A recent issue of the *New York Times* contained an article about an historical society that I would love to join. It is The Order of E. Clampus Vitus, an organization dating back to the California gold rush, whose purposes seem to be two fold, the copious consumption of alcoholic beverages and the recognition, by the placement of historical plaques, of all things historical. The article states that it is uncertain whether it is an historical drinking society or a drinking historical society. Quoting an officer of the Wells Fargo Bank, and an active member: "No one knows because no one has been in any condition to record the minutes." Nevertheless, it claims thousands of members in 40 chapters across seven Western states.

Among places that have been recognized by the society have been the grave of the unknown prospector, an upside house in Lee Vining, California and the spot where the drink known as Moose Milk originated in the Town of Volcano, California. (*Mix bourbon, rum and heavy cream. Drink. Do not repeat.*) To quote the Times: "The group's handiwork appears on roadsides, lakesides and at the sites of former brothels, breweries and ballrooms. Jails and forts have been plaqued and so have whaling stations."

Their chief executive bears the title "Sublime Nobel Grand Humbug." Their motto is "Credo Quia Absurdum" which translates, more or less, into "Believe because it is absurd." Well known members have included President Ronald Reagan, Film Director John Huston and San Francisco columnist Herb Caen. If I can find an Arizona chapter, I'm signing up.

* * *

The day following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, I deposited that morning's *Los Angeles Times* in the bottom drawer of my desk. I realized that we had just experienced one of the most significant events in the history of our country and I thought that someday my grandchildren would like to read the contemporary report of the event. Several other papers found their way to my desk drawer over the next few days as the fallout from that event took place. That got me started. Over the last 45 years I have tucked away three or four newspapers a year which have chronologized truly important events: the fall of the Berlin Wall, the assassination of Martin Luther King and many others. The day Bobby Kennedy was shot Jackie and I were in Amsterdam, so the issue describing his death is in Dutch.

The most recent edition to my collection is October 14, 2008, the day that the Dow Jones average had the highest gain in history.

I hope, when our kids have the responsibility of cataloguing our belongings, that they recognize that the filing cabinet containing 150 or so newspapers with large banner headlines are truly a catalogue of important items of our history in the latter half of the 20th and, with a bit of luck, the first half of the 21st centuries.

* * *

Did you know that we have lost a Time Capsule? It seems that in 1991, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the founding of our community, our community leaders buried a time capsule in Fountain Park near the flag pole at Saguaro. (I don't remember if the flag pole was there then, but that's where the time capsule was planted.) And then they promptly forgot about it. In fact, the bronze plaque that MCO had made to mark the location was never set in place. It still sits in Keith McMahan's home.

It might have been forgotten forever, but that's the general area where we plan to locate our new sculpture of Teddy Roosevelt. So Cassie Hansen sent out the alert, don't put Teddy on top of the Time Capsule. Well, we don't want to, but nobody really knows where the Time Capsule is. Or even if it still is. Keith is speculating that it might have been lost when that general area was relandscaped a few years ago and an old drainage ditch was eliminated. There is talk of using a geiger counter to try to find the capsule, but no one can remember if there is any metal in it. Perhaps we can hand some shovels to our Town Council members and tell them to start digging. Who knows what they might find.

History is fascinating, isn't it?



SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS

President	Jerry Miles	
Vice President	Debbie Skehen	Executive Director
Secretary	Walt Dunne	Judy Starr Confer
Treasurer	Harold Denomme	

BOARD MEMBERS

Niobe Borman	Linda Kavanagh	Sandy Myhr
Teena Borman	Jean Linzer	Clinton Pattea
Alan Cruikshank	Keith McMahan	Rick Wambach
Arlie Denomme	Keith Millett	Anne Wicklund

From the Director's Desk by **Judy Starr Confer**

The 2008-2009 Season is off to a great start as our winter residents return. The Museum will be open Tues-Sat, 1-4 pm this Season. Store Manager, Stephen Jones, plans to have the store open Mon-Sat, 1-4 pm giving the public an extra shopping day.

We have missed all of you over the summer and through the miracle of e-mail, several Board Members continue their duties with the help of "stand-ins" back at the home base here in Fountain Hills. Treasurer **Harold Denomme** is one such example with **VP Debbie Skehen** wearing one of her many hats and standing in locally for Harold. Thanks and congratulations for your willingness to get the jobs done, and done well.

This season 3 trips are being offered by **Arizona Trails** as fundraisers for the Museum. The first one is a trip on the Verde Canyon Railroad and promises to be a delightful excursion.

Consult the calendar in this issue for the many exciting events. **SRP** has donated an exhibit on Teddy Roosevelt. It will be up until the first part of December, accompanied by the bigger than life-sized Teddy Roosevelt statue commissioned by a Fountain Hills based group who summer in North Dakota. **Roy Nickel** headed this committee and the statue will be unveiled Nov. 22nd in Fountain Park, followed by a reception at the Museum at 3:00 pm **Niobi** and **Teena Borman** will chair this for the River of Time Museum.

Watch for the new lobby entrance into the Museum coming soon, designed and executed by **Rex Witte**.

Mark your calendars for the first volunteer meeting of docents, diplomats and store personnel on Monday, Nov 3, 1-3 pm in the joint Museum/Library Conference Room. **Earl Zarbin**, noted water authority, will speak, as will **Charlotte McCluskey** regarding "Project Wet" and the Water Festivals we will be hosting along with **Chaparral City Water**.

I'm looking forward to our great Season together!

Your Dues are Due

By now you have received your membership renewal letter and brochure. Please take a moment and fill out the form, returning it in the enclosed envelope. **New in 2009** ... showing your annual membership card means unlimited free admission for the entire year plus a 10% discount at the River Bank Store. We offer comprehensive levels of membership. The membership brochure describes these levels in detail and you will note that these levels provide more opportunities and benefits for you, while at the same time give needed extra financial support to your Historical Society.

Membership Report and Upgrades by **Joe and Debbie Skehen**

Welcome **NEW MEMBERS** Bill and Sandy Myhr

~~~~ Membership Gifts for 2008 ~~~~  
We Thank You One And All

**Adventurer Level:**

**\$1,000+**

|                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alan & Diane Cruikshank    | Keith & Dottie Millett          |
| Hosea & Lily Harkness      | John & Jane Mooty               |
| Sami Jack                  | Doug Schmidt                    |
| Walter & Janet Johnson     | John VanDerWerf                 |
| Bill & Charlotte McCluskey | Anne & Wayne Wicklund, and Snow |
| Jerry & Jackie Miles       | Mary Zicarelli                  |

**Pioneer Level:**

**\$500-999**

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Jack & Roseanna Bercel | John & Linda Kavanagh  |
| Walt Dunne             | Hank & Susan Lickman   |
| Fred & Barbara Hansen  | Robert & Dorothy Mason |
| Mike & Sheila Jones    | Joe & Debbie Skehen    |

**Wagonmaster Level:**

**\$250-499**

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Verna Alexander          | Don & Lisa Lawrence  |
| Richard M. Carrabine     | Carolyn McClure      |
| Carl & Eunice Feinberg   | Dave & Edith Roberts |
| Robert & Barbara Hegwood | Val Stasik           |
| Paul & Jacklyn Kolwaite  | Margaret Tibbetts    |
| Agnes Kramer             | Mardelle Willson     |

**Pathfinder Level:**

**\$100-249**

|                              |                         |                           |                           |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charlie Axtell               | Julie Cullinan          | Jim & Betty Isaacson      | Bill & Sally Mantle       |
| Don & Andy Baer              | Harold & Arlie Denomme  | Elert & Christine Johnson | Terry & Vivian Merrell    |
| Loretta Bayne                | John & Clara Dolan      | Ed & Dolores Kehe         | Velma Monks               |
| Beverly Belury & John Hersey | Bill & Shirley Eckhardt | John & Diana Klesner      | Roald & Ruth Nelson       |
| Mali Berger                  | Helen Felts             | Allen & Sharon Koehlinger | Ken & Phyllis Osterberg   |
| Joe & Nancy Bill             | Lee & Shirley Fisher    | Shelly Knuths             | Dr. & Mrs. Clinton Pattea |
| Jean & Doris Boatman         | Jeff & Marla Fryer      | Robert & Marcia Krane     | David & Marilyn Ritchie   |
| Hank & Roxanne Boryczki      | William & Lois Grate    | Marvin & Darline Leader   | Stuart & Judy Shoob       |
| Evelyn Breting               | Bruce & Cassie Hansen   | Robert & Joan Lickman     | Richard & Virginia Siegle |
| Art & Jeanette Carpentier    | Pat Hemmer              | Jean Linzer               | Earl & Ann Stavely        |
| Craig & Jeanine Capirchio    | Greg & Marian Hermie    | Linsley & Jane Lundgaard  | James & Roberta Urban     |
| Joan Colomo                  | Norma Homrich           | Robert & Edith Malone     | Tom & Pat Wells           |

# Thanksgiving Day Parade

The River of Time Museum ushers in the Holiday Season on Thanksgiving Day in a horse-drawn wagon from Fort McDowell Adventures courtesy of President Clinton Pattea. The horses and wagon will be decorated in their best holiday finery. Be sure to see the parade this year and cheer our entry as it passes by.



## 2008 holiday events



From November 24<sup>th</sup> to December 24<sup>th</sup>, the front lobby of the River of Time Museum/Library building will feature a display of Southwest holiday scenes which have been created by local grade school children. They also will be seen Inside the Museum.

The store in the Museum will be festively decorated, and there will be a Holiday Mart November 24<sup>th</sup> to December 24<sup>th</sup> staffed by the Museum and Historical Society Volunteers.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> there will be an Open House at the River of Time Museum. Docents will be available to lead tours through the Museum. We are hoping to have students from our local schools and youth from our Community Theatre provide holiday music. Soft beverages and cookies will be served in the lobby. A personally decorated holiday tree will be on site from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to the day of the Holiday Tree Drawing on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm at the River of Time Museum. On Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, tickets for the holiday tree will go on sale at Sami Fine Jewelry during her Ladies Night event. Tickets are each \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00.

Our Annual Angel Luncheon is scheduled on December 24<sup>th</sup> for our Museum volunteers who have greatly assisted the society during the 2008 year. They are the true backbone and support system of our historical society. A full buffet and beverages will be served.

Immediately following the Holidays we will be featuring a month long exhibit in the Traveling Exhibit Room of the Cactus Clan, their Casita and Paisley Ponies. This is an original exhibit by our Director Judy Starr Confer that consists of panels explaining the whimsical history of the Cactus Clan originating in the Four Peaks Mountains and our Verde Valley. Small books written and illustrated by Judy featuring original adventures of the Cactus Clan and their Paisley Ponies will be available.



# Road Trips Planned

Sign up now for exciting trips planned by Arizona Trails and Daybreak Travel.

Reservations need to be made before the end of this month to enjoy a day traveling by rail through the Verde Canyon on Saturday, January 24. A luxury motor coach will leave Fountain Hills at 10 am and drive to Clarkdale where a box lunch will be prepared to take on the first class railway car for the four hour tour to Perkinsville and back – a gorgeous trip through red rock country - arriving back at the station around 5 pm. The motor coach will then head to Murphy's Grill for a private buffet dinner and return to Fountain Hills at approximately 10 pm. The bus is a 48 passenger luxury motor coach with a lavatory and an entertainment system. The cost is \$199 per person which includes round trip luxury motor coach transportation, first class train fare, box lunch, and buffet dinner.



You need to make a reservation by the end of January to participate in the overnight trip on the weekend of March 7, departing Fountain Hills on a luxury motor coach and traveling south to the Tubac destination. First we'll visit the Tumacacori National Historic Park with a private guided tour. Then we'll check into the Tubac Golf Resort and enjoy lunch at this spectacular resort. There will be free time that afternoon for either driving into Tubac and shopping or an optional (added cost) round of golf at the resort. We'll enjoy dinner that evening and breakfast the following morning at the resort. We'll depart mid-morning and stop to tour the Tubac Presidio State Historic Museum. After touring the museum, we'll stop for lunch on the road (cost on own) and return to Fountain Hills in the early evening. More details will be available soon on this trip which includes historic parks and the option of golf, spa or shopping.



The Historical Society will receive \$25 per person for everyone booking on one of these travel adventures as a charitable donation from Arizona Trails. What a great idea. The trips will be fun and will also help to raise money for the River of Time Museum. Call Roxanne at Arizona Trails to express your interest and learn more details (837-4284).

Did you know ~ ~ ~

The first tequila ever produced in the United States  
was made in 1936 in Nogales



## *From the River Bank* by **Stephen Jones**

Each year the Store grows better and better and this is solely from the interaction between those of you who shop and those of you who volunteer in the store. Without your support the store would be an after thought and thankfully because of you it is a viable entity.

We hope this fall season, though economic times are tough, you'll again patronize the store, find gifts for loved ones and friends, and maybe something new and special for yourself.

Speaking of new & special, there will be some truly great new works available before Thanksgiving. And there will be some fun specials taking place throughout our fall & winter season. Don't forget, members and volunteers receive a 10% discount on all purchases and **NO** 8.9% sales tax is required.

Winter Hours have begun: Monday through Friday from 1pm to 4pm daily and 10am to 4pm on Saturdays. There will be a couple of Sunday special dates prior to Christmas and as always, e-mail blasts will inform you of any of those dates and any special purchase opportunities we will be giving.

Diane and I would like to invite you to join us as a Volunteer working a short schedule in the store. We could use your expertise and your help. If you could, please call us anytime. We'd be happy to invite you to visit the store and experience the fun and excitement of what actually has been happening there. Our cell number is 480-216-3360 and ask for Stephen. Thank you in advance for your decision to volunteer. It is truly the backbone of what makes Fountain Hills such a great place to live.

Big savings on wonderful fine art & fine crafts, books, jewelry, and more at the River Bank Museum Store...

~~ Stephen Jones

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## *From the Desk of our* **Museum Archivist**

The following is excerpted from Arizona 2000: A Yearbook for the Millennium by © Marshall Trimble, Arizona's State Historian, Flagstaff: Northland Publishing Company, 1996, pp. 139-140.

### **THE SPACE RACE**

Arizona's contribution to the corps of astronauts was Frank Borman of Tucson. As a youngster, Borman quarter-backed the undefeated Tucson High School Badgers to the 1945 Arizona state football championship. He also developed a love of flying. After high school he attended West Point and graduated with the class of 1950. He qualified for the Air Corps – the Air Force Academy wasn't established until the mid-fifties. He became a fighter pilot and later a test pilot before joining the second generation of astronauts. He flew two of NASA's most dangerous missions. . . .

Since a good portion of the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona bears a strong resemblance to moonscape, NASA decided to use it as a training ground for the Apollo astronauts. The Grand Canyon provided a veritable textbook, each layer a page in geological time. From 1963 until 1972, fifty astronauts – including all twelve who walked on the moon – took part in thirty-seven different training exercises at sites that included the Grand Canyon, Barringer Meteoric Crater ("Meteor Crater"), Sunset Crater, the Hope Buttes, and Merriam Crater. In 1969, near Sunset Crater, two crater fields were blasted into the earth using explosives. Within a year, a winter training site was constructed near Cottonwood in the Verde Valley.

# Upcoming Events

## Traveling Exhibit



We are pleased to feature our newest Town statue which will soon be installed in Fountain Park with an exhibit in the River of Time Museum. This statue honors President Theodore Roosevelt for his many contributions to the Lower Verde River Valley. We want to thank SRP for graciously providing many memorabilia of Roosevelt's life and activities especially at Roosevelt Dam. On November 22, the statue will be moved to its permanent site in Fountain Park.



## Pony Express

Mark your calendar for January 29, 2009. This will be the 5th annual Pony Express Event taking place at the Community Center from 3-7 p.m. There will be food, music, entertainment and a raffle. Further information will follow in the [Fountain Hills Times](#) or you can phone **Niobe Borman** at 837-0239.

Plan to join us and enjoy a fun day.



## Poker Tournament



January 31 has been chosen for the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament fundraiser at the Ft. McDowell Casino. Many, many prizes will be awarded.

To the first place winner, a seat at the World Series of Poker championships in Las Vegas – a value of \$10,000. Mark your calendar. Chair **Linda Kavanagh** will make more news available as the date draws nearer



Diplomat **Margie Slater** and Docent **Mike Downes** are outstanding volunteers at the River of Time Museum. They enjoy the comeraderie and challenges volunteering has to offer.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Do you have a few hours a month to help out? We have many opportunities for all the talent that we know exists in Fountain Hills and the surrounding communities.

Diplomats, docents, store clerks . . . many opportunities exist and are waiting for interested people to step forward. *How about you?*



## **Legacy What Will Yours Be?**

What will you bequeath to future generations? How will the ideals and memories you cherish now be sustained then?

The Mission of the River of Time Museum is to recount and preserve the captivating past of the Lower Verde River Valley and to illustrate the vital role of water in our Sonoran Desert.

Your membership can go on into perpetuity and also provide you with significant tax savings for your estate.

For more information, please  
Contact Bob Thomson at  
480/948-7060  
[rthomson@jekel-howard.com](mailto:rthomson@jekel-howard.com)





**THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER  
FOUNTAIN HILLS AND LOWER  
VERDE VALLEY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM**

**P.O. Box 17445**

**Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269**

Phone: 480-837-2612

Fax 480-836-4292

Email: [info@riveroftimemuseum.org](mailto:info@riveroftimemuseum.org)



**The River of Time Museum is certified  
by the Arizona Historical Society**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!!**

[www.riveroftimemuseum.org](http://www.riveroftimemuseum.org)

## NEW MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION

**General Individual Membership**

**\$20 / Year**

**General Family Membership**

**\$25 / Year**

**I would be interested in contributing  
On a higher financial level or a gift  
endowment or major bequest.**

**Please Contact Me [ ]**

**PATHFINDER**

**\$100 - \$249**

**WAGONMASTER**

**\$250—\$499**

**PIONEER**

**\$500—\$999**

**ADVENTURER**

**\$1000—\$2,499**

**TRAILBLAZER**

**\$2,500 OR MORE**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed or

Please Charge my VISA or MASTERCARD

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

• The IRS has designated this Society and Museum as a 501 (C) (3) organization.

Donations are tax deductible to donor. Please consult your tax advisor for specific information.