

# Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc.

To develop and promote appreciation, understanding and education of the earlier history of the inhabitants and important events of the Grand Canyon and surrounding area.

## The Bulletin

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www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

May 2011

### 2011 Outings

**Saturday, July 16 11am - 4pm Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point.**

**Where:** Shoshone Point, South Rim, Grand Canyon

**When:** 11:00AM gate open

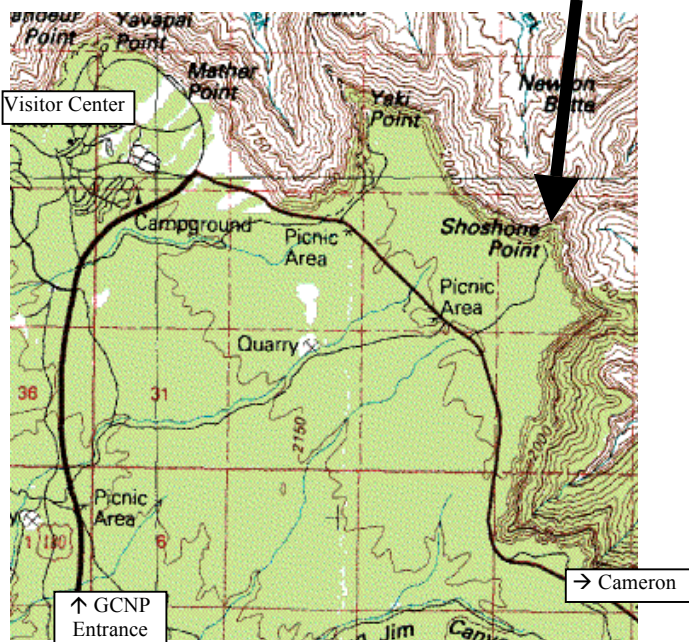
We'll eat around noon then have a short speech about what's up with the Society by our President, Erik Berg, and then presentation of the Pioneer Award and the Hall of Fame Awards.

Everyone should bring: a dish to share (casserole, dessert, etc), drinks, dishes/utensils, and something to barbecue.

Parking at the point will be limited; please carpool or plan to walk from the parking lot. There will be volunteer vehicles to help ferry supplies and people as needed.

To get to Shoshone Point from the main entrance:

- Take the East Rim Drive.
- About 1.5 miles beyond the road to Yaki Point, turn left into a dirt parking area and look for the yellow gate.



### January 26-29, 2012 GRAND CANYON HISTORY SYMPOSIUM III

The Symposium has received **“Official Centennial Event”** designation by the Arizona Centennial Sanctioned Events Committee.

Presentation proposals are due Wednesday, June 15 2011. More details and links to the electronic presentation proposal form and other relevant documents are at:

<http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/symposium.html>

### Daniel Karalus Awarded GCHS Scholarship

This year's 2011 Grand Canyon Historical Society scholarship has been awarded to Daniel E. Karalus, PhD candidate at Northern Arizona University. Al Richmond presented the award at the NAU History Department awards ceremony on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Daniel has been researching the history of reclaimed water use at Grand Canyon, which began in 1926, well in advance of similar efforts in the urban West. In addition to detailing the history of reclaimed water use, this research also aims to highlight reclaimed water's role as an important and inexpensive alternative water supply, a hallmark of new technologies, a form of conservation hidden in the landscape, and something Park officials and the public were not entirely comfortable using. The project should provide valuable insights into the Grand Canyon's technology, and the balancing act between the Park's urban-style growth and its mission to conserve American resources. The scholarship funds will be used to help cover research expenses including trips to the National Archives and Records Administration offices in Denver, CO and Laguna Niguel, CA, and additional visits to the Grand Canyon research collection.

### Natural Quiet

Grand Canyon National Park is once again trying to enforce its 1975 congressional mandate to return natural quiet to the canyon. Restrictions on the air tour industry were forced by Congress in 1986. Since then, the Park Service has realized that those rules did not go far enough to actually restore natural quiet to the Grand Canyon. However, most attempts to change those restrictions have been unsuccessful because of politics, special interests, and jurisdictional squabbles.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulates Grand Canyon's airspace; NPS can only make recommendations and hope FAA enforces those recommendations. NPS personnel seem encouraged that currently the FAA will support the decisions NPS makes as long as they don't compromise safety.

In an example of political interference, as NPS began to publicize their recent plans to change air tour flight rules over Grand Canyon, both Senator McCain (R) AZ and Senator Reed (D) NV introduced bills in Congress that would have stopped NPS from making any further restrictions to air tour flights over the canyon. Both bills died in committee.

There are four alternative plans. The important alternative, as usual, is the NPS **Preferred Alternative**, described below.

The Dragon Corridor crosses the canyon just west of Hermit Canyon. Aircraft in this corridor are audible from the Hermit Trail and all points west of S. Rim Village. At times, when there are no aircraft in the Dragon Corridor and there is little wind, the majestic roar of the river rapids can be heard from the rim at Pima, Mohave, and Hopi points. In the preferred alternative, the Dragon Corridor would cross the canyon further west than present and would only be used during summer (May-Oct).

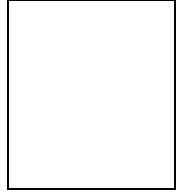
# Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 31405

Flagstaff, Arizona 86003-1405

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## (Natural Quiet, cont'd)

According to NPS noise experts, the new westward dogleg in the Dragon Corridor would possibly diminish aircraft noise west of the Village by one-half, but it would still not diminish aircraft noise enough to allow hearing the river.

In the preferred alternative, use of the Dragon Corridor would alternate with use of the Zuni Corridor. That corridor is another short-loop tour crossing the canyon near Hance Canyon. It would only run in the winter (Nov-April).

Long-loop air tours would continue year-round. They cross at either the Dragon or Zuni corridors, then connect to the other corridor by flying over the North Rim. Since the Zuni Corridor is a little west of Marble Canyon, the long-loop would not have its present noise impact on Marble Canyon, Nankoweap, and the confluence of the Little Colorado.

The NPS Preferred Alternative also encourages the use of quieter technology and mandates its use in ten years. Presently “quiet technology” is not quieter under the aircraft, but its noise doesn’t travel as well as does the noise of other aircraft.

The preferred alternative also “limits” the number of air tour flights to 364/day (65,000/year).

If you would like to see the details of this and other alternatives, or make comments about these special flight rules, they are can be found at [www.parkplanning.nps.gov/grca](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/grca).

*Submitted by Keith Green*

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## GCA Community Lecture Series

The Grand Canyon Association has one remaining upcoming lecture of interest. A complete listing with details is at:

<http://www.grandcanyon.org/events/lectureseries.asp>

**Seth Muller *Walking the Canyon Highway: The Story of the Corridor Trails of Grand Canyon*** Tues, June 14<sup>th</sup> 7pm Carl Hayden Visitor Center Page, Ariz.

**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **Outings Coordinator** at [TontoWalk@gmail.com](mailto:TontoWalk@gmail.com).

*The Bulletin* welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances.

Please send them to: [kgreig@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreig@yahoo.com)

*Ol' Pioneer* submissions should be sent to Mary Williams: [mary@marywilliamsdesign.com](mailto:mary@marywilliamsdesign.com)