

# 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

Volume 12 Number 1

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

April 2008

### 2008 Outings

**June 15 – Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point.** Members from across the country converge at the Canyon's edge for a potluck of good food, friendly faces and lively conversation. More details are on page two.

**August 9 – Historic Red Butte Airfield.** Grand Canyon's first airport was established in 1926 and many of the original structures are still there. It is a very interesting historic site that few people know.

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Place:** Meet at **Late for the Train** coffee shop, Fort Valley Road, just south of Schrist Elementary School, Flagstaff

It will take approximately an hour to reach the airfield and we will probably spend about 1-2 hours there. I will have historic photos and other materials during the trip.

*Erik Berg, [eoberg@cox.net](mailto:eoberg@cox.net)*

**November 1 – Annual Board Meeting.** East Flagstaff Library. More details to come.

Please check our web site for outings updates:

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

### Honoring the Life of Ruth Stephens Baker

In a private ceremony, the Ruth Stephens Baker family along with invited GCHS members and friends will attempt to climb Shiva Temple on June 4th, 2008. The group will be honoring Ruth Stephens Baker's request to have her ashes scattered on Shiva Temple. Emery Kolb, Ruth Stephens and others climbed Shiva Temple in the first recorded ascent in 1937.

A celebration of Ruth's life is being planned at the Kolb Studio residence for **Friday, June 6th, 2008, from 5pm to 6pm**. At that time, those in attendance can learn first hand about the remarkable life of this amazing woman. Members of the Baker family will be available to answer questions about what this celebration and the 2008 Shiva Temple Expedition to honor Ruth's life has meant to them. This event is open to all, but due to space restrictions, please notify Stephen Baker at [sbaker6612@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbaker6612@sbcglobal.net) if you plan to attend.

Ruth's account of the first ascent of Shiva can be found in the December 1999 GCHS Bulletin at:

[http://www.bobspixels.com/kaibab.org/gcps/gcps3\\_12.htm](http://www.bobspixels.com/kaibab.org/gcps/gcps3_12.htm)

### Grand Canyon Celebrates CCC Anniversary

On March 31, 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed legislation creating the Civilian Conservation Corps. The first CCC boys arrived at the Grand Canyon on May 29. The Grand Canyon Association and Grand Canyon National Park will mark this seventy-fifth anniversary with an exhibit and a symposium titled "**Saving the Park and Saving the Boys, the CCC at Grand Canyon, 1933-1942.**" The free exhibit, which runs from May 31 through October 31, takes place in Kolb Studio on the South Rim. A formal opening reception occurs the evening of May 30.

The exhibit will start with a symposium featuring scholars, a panel of CCC enrollees, and history walks & hikes, May 30, 31 and June 1. Registration for the symposium began January 31. Participants may register for the symposium by going to the link on the park's website:

<http://www.nps.gov/grca/historyculture/ccc.htm> .

**THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS IN THE SOUTHWEST**  
**1933-1942 - A SYMPOSIUM -**  
**SAVING LIVES; SHAPING THE LAND; BUILDING PARKS.**

- Presentations by outstanding scholars of the CCC.  
Neil Maher of Rutgers University  
Richard Melzer of University of NM  
John Page, National Park Service Historian  
Arizona Historians Mike Anderson, Peter Booth and Bill Collins  
Renee Carona Kolbe of Nevada  
and many others.
- Five different guided history walks, tours and hikes.
- Hear former CCC enrollees talk about their personal experiences during the Great Depression.
- Three day registration - \$50.  
Lodging and camping are available in Grand Canyon National Park and Tusayan, Arizona.

REGISTER ON-LINE:  
[www.nps.gov/grca/historyculture/ccc.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/historyculture/ccc.htm)

Sponsored by the National Park Service and the Grand Canyon Association.

**MAY 30, 31 AND JUNE 1, 2008 - GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH RIM**

Exhibit goers will learn about the despair of the Great Depression, the fear of a possible 'lost generation' of young men, and the feeling of hope that the CCC brought to poor unemployed young men and their families. Historic photographs and artifacts, never before viewed by the public, will be on display. Attendees will learn about the many things the CCC accomplished at Grand Canyon and the positive changes it brought to CCC boys and their families.

Donations from the Grand Canyon Association funded the project. Exhibit team members include Bob Audretsch, James Schenck, Pam Frazier, Pam Cox, and Michael Anderson.



CCC Workers on the Clear Creek Trail

National Park Service historian John Paige stated that the CCC advanced park development by 10-20 years during the program's first 2-3 years. Some have called the 1930s the 'golden years' of the National Park Service in large part due to the almost unlimited labor pool provided by the CCC. Grand Canyon National Park had as many as four 200-man companies working simultaneously. Ultimately seven different companies worked at Grand Canyon: 818, 819, 847, 2543, 2833, 3318 and 4814. The most significant CCC accomplishments at Grand Canyon include trail building, the South Rim Community Building, the beautiful stone wall in the Village, the trans-canyon telephone line, and trail shelters.

Questions? Contact: [bob\\_audretsch@nps.gov](mailto:bob_audretsch@nps.gov)  
928-638-7834

### Submit Your Stories To Ol' Pioneer

The Ol' Pioneer is the Society's magazine featuring stories, photos, and letters of historical relevance to the Grand Canyon. Submit your stories, photos, etc to the editor, MaryWilliams, at:

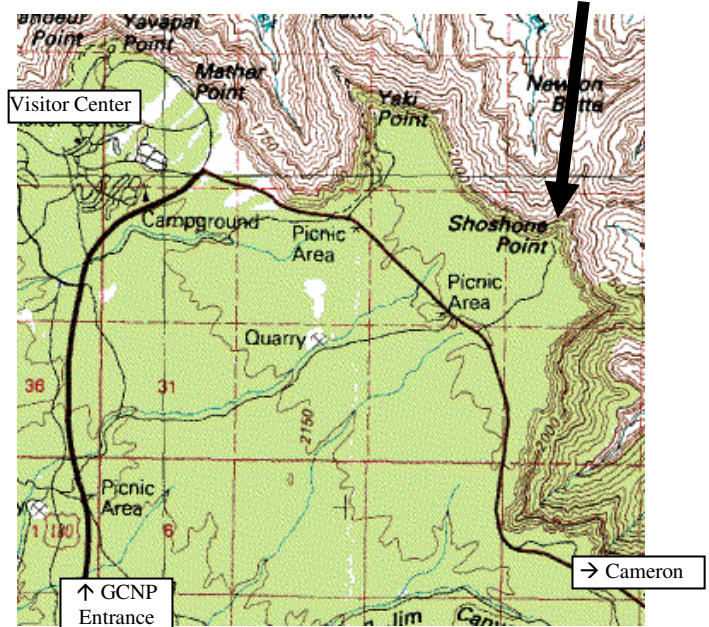
**Mary Williams**  
4880 Weatherford Rd,  
Flagstaff, Az 86001  
Phone: 928-779-3377  
[mary@marywilliamsdesign.com](mailto:mary@marywilliamsdesign.com)

## Annual Picnic: June 15

Join the Grand Canyon Historical Society for the biggest event of the year - the Annual Picnic on June 15th. The picnic will be at Shoshone Point (but, if it is moved, a notice will be posted at the entrance station and at Shoshone Point gate; the Recreational Center has been reserved as an alternate location.)

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 parking area and look for the yellow gate.



### 2008 Board Meeting Minutes – Saturday, February 9, 2008, Flagstaff Public Library

Meeting called to order by Chairperson George Billingsley at 9:15 am. The following persons were in attendance: George Billingsley, Susan Billingsley, Erik Berg, Henry Karpinski, Bev Loomis, Richard Quartaroli, Lee Albertson, Gaylord Staveley, Keith Green and Nancy Green.

Congratulations were offered to Lee Albertson, Henry Karpinski and Gaylord Staveley for running and being elected to the board. New members Amy Horn & Paul Schnur were not able to attend.

Minutes of the November 2007 board meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Susan Billingsley gave a treasurer's report. It was approved.

Election of new board officers: Treasurer Susan Billingsley agreed to continue in her current capacity for another year, since she's now got a great system running. All agreed.

President: Keith Green  
Co-Vice Presidents – Erik Berg and Henry Karpinski  
Secretary – Nancy Green

Richard Quartaroli gave a presentation on what the NAU Cline Library Special Collections and Archives Department has to offer which may be of great interest to historical society members. See [www.nau.edu/library/speccoll](http://www.nau.edu/library/speccoll) for more specific information. Thanks Richard for the great overview and brochures.

There was a discussion about the scholarship award. Al Richmond has been the contact person and chair for quite some time, for which the Society is very appreciative. The thought of the board was that this scholarship opportunity should be extended to students at Arizona State University and University of Arizona, as well as Northern Arizona University. This was met with approval by the board, as any worthy projects in keeping with our mission should be examined. Al reports that there is a graduate student with a proposal for this year. The board made a decision to include as a stipulation to receiving the scholarship that the recipient must make a presentation to the Grand Canyon Historical Society. This can be in whatever format is comfortable for the graduate student.

Al Richmond will also file the non-profit paperwork for the GCHS to the Corporation Commission. This paperwork must be filed each year to keep the status. Thank you, Al!

The board members then began planning for this year's outings. There is quite an exciting list of potential excursions and lectures. Richard Quartaroli will investigate the possibility of an outing to the Powell Museum in Page. Nancy Green will try to contact author Frederick Swanson, to see if he will do a presentation on his new book, "Dave Rust: A life in the canyons". George Billingsley will try to contact author Jean Luttrell to see if she could do a presentation on her new book about John Riffey. Gaylord Staveley will look into arranging an outing to see the historic boats in the National Park Service's Museum Collection on the South Rim. Lee Albertson and Richard Quartaroli will try to contact one or all of the three women who ran the Colorado on riverboards. Erik Berg and Henry Karpinski will make arrangements for our annual picnic at Shoshone Point this year.

Tom Martin and Jim Ohlman will be leading a hike to scatter the ashes of Ruth Stephens Baker on Shiva Temple. Ruth, along with Edith Kolb Lehnert, was the first woman to climb Shiva. Lee Albertson made a motion that the Society pay for any permits necessary. It was seconded and approved.

Erik Berg will try to arrange an outing at the former Grand Canyon Airport at Red Butte, currently owned by the Avery family.

Susan Billingsley will try to get something into the Boatman's Quarterly Review about the GCHS upcoming events.

George will contact Mary Williams to see if there could be 3 issues of the "Ol' Pioneer" for 2008. The board determined that there would be enough money to do this for 2008, and recommended making that decision each year. The website can also be checked for current information about planned outings, as well as referring to the bulletin. Diane Cassidy, webmaster, should be contacted at [Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org](mailto:Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org) and Karen Greig, editor of the Bulletin at [kgreig@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreig@yahoo.com) anytime events are planned and information needs to be disseminated to the membership. Henry Karpinski is willing to do mass emails should that need arise for information that must be distributed under a time crunch. Henry can be reached at [hk86023@gmail.com](mailto:hk86023@gmail.com).

Susan will contact Al Richmond to find out the tax status of the Society. Gaylord and Bev will work on a revision of the by-laws, which are from 1995.

There are 10 members currently on the board, and the by-laws state the number could go up to 15. George has the names of the other persons who ran for the board, but did not get elected. These people are heartily encouraged to take part in helping the Society to run well. Henry made a motion to remove Amanda Zeman from the board simply due to a lack of communication from Amanda when she left the country. Bev seconded, and it was approved. Susan made a motion to keep the board to 9 members for 2008. Gaylord seconded, and it was approved.

A master calendar needs to be set up by our co-vice-presidents as soon as events are planned.

Nancy will attempt to contact the elusive John Azar to find out what the progress is on the Pasture Wash Ranger Station project in conjunction with Grand Canyon Youth.

Lee made a motion to have 2 worthy Pioneer Awards for 2008. Bev seconded, and it was approved.

Al Richmond is also noted as being the chairperson for the Grand Canyon Hall of Fame Award for Community Service. Thanks again, Al!

The next Grand Canyon History Symposium will be held in 2012.

Nominations for next year's board need to be made in a timely manner so that ballots may be sent out and tabulated prior to the annual board meeting. This will take place at the East Flagstaff Public Library on Saturday, November 1, 2008

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

*Submitted by Nancy Green (who only became Secretary part-way into this meeting!)*

Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 345

Flagstaff, Arizona 86002

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***Outings/Programs:*** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2008 Outings Coordinator** at [Outings@GrandCanyonHistory.org](mailto:Outings@GrandCanyonHistory.org)

***The Bulletin*** welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances.  
Please send them to: [kgreig@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreig@yahoo.com)