

Mists of Jacob Lake or You Missed Jacob Lake

There were 25 or so GCHS members and guests (and 2 dogs) that showed up at the historic Jacob Lake Ranger Station on Saturday, July 17.

The day began with Matt Zweifel demonstrating the art of flint knapping, similar to what he did for us last year. His two best students were John Azar and Josh Hodorff.

Then began the most incredible thing - RAIN!! It rained for THREE and a half hours!! To us drought-parched Arizonans, it was pure heaven. We watched mists floating between the trees as the lake filled up during the downpours and then subsided. We were all cozily sitting on the spacious front porch of the station, watching the rain cascade off the roof. Little streamlets ran, and puddles formed. Ahhhhhh. The sun came out, and the rest of the afternoon was pleasantly damp and cool, but sunny.



GCHS President Lee Albertson and many of the GCHS group and guests enjoying the food and the conversation.

A student at NAU, Josh Hodorff is in charge of the Fredonia Youth Conservation Corps this summer. He was eager to show off the rustic fence that he and his crew had just finished in front of the ranger station. It is one of those wonderful fences that can be seen around the northland occasionally, with the long

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GCHS Outings for 2004

August 21: Annual Community Service Project. The Grand Canyon Historical Society will team up with the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association for the annual community service project at Grand Canyon National Park. If there are enough people available, there will be two projects: trash pick-up along the rim and/or landscaping at the Grand Canyon Recreation Center.

Where: GC Recreation Center

Time: 9:00 AM

Directions: After proceeding through the entrance station: • Left at the yellow flashing light (this is Center); take Center for about 1-1/2 miles; • Left on Albright; take Albright for about 1/2 mile; • Right after the apartments...to the Rec Center

Bring gloves and hat. GCNP will provide drinks and a bar-b-q lunch.

There will be a group site at Mather available for camping on Friday night. If you plan to camp, you must notify Nancy Green at 928-638-0666 by August 13. For those campers who are interested, we could carpool to the Mather Amphitheater (Shrine of the Ages) for the evening Ranger Program.

September 18: *Harvey: The Adventures, Tragedies and Legacy of Grand Canyon's Greatest Hiker* by Elias Butler and Tom Myers. Held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Prescott Book Festival. Elias Butler is a journalist as well as a photographer (whose works have appeared in publications like *National Geographic Adventure Magazine*, *Arizona Highways*, *Backpacker Magazine*, *Plateau Journal* and *High Country News*). Tom Myers is the author of *Fateful Journey - Injury and Death on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon* and *Over the Edge - Death in Grand Canyon*. Eli and Tom will talk about their upcoming book about the life of Harvey Butchart. Lecture from 10:30 to 11:00 in the Sharlot Hall Museum. (Book signing until 2:00 PM if their book has been released by this date.)

October 16: Annual Board Meeting. (Nancy Green, October Outing Leader)

November 20: Search and Rescue Services Director Ken Phillips--tentative (Tom Myers, November Outing Leader)

December: No outing.

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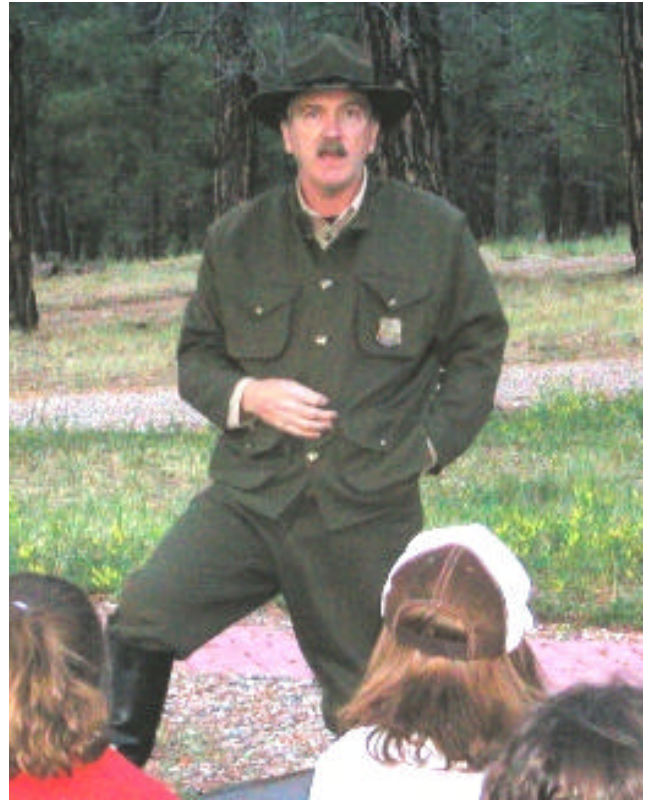
logs coming to a triangle and then zig-zagging back and forth. He explained that to build it, first, sight the distance of the logs. Designate the angle desired, then set the rock under the place where the logs will be coming together to form a triangle. If there are to be five logs acting as the bars, the first one will be on the rock, next log to log, and on up. The two segments traveling at the same angle get started first, then the middle section is filled in between the two other sections. At each end there needs to be a fence post, to which the logs are bolted. By the fence post, short spacer logs need to be bolted between each log bar. Rebar needs to be fitted into the place where the angles form the triangle. It was a very well done project, and relatively easy, as far as fences go, because of only requiring fence posts at the end.

The potluck this year was of staggering proportions, meaning that everyone ate yummy portions that left them staggering afterwards!!

But the true and totally unexpected highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of Caleb Rass from 1928! (AKA North Rim Interpretive Ranger Stu Whipple, doing a living history presentation of a composite of the type of ranger who might have worked during that time.) Besides looking totally the part, complete with wool uniform, period ranger hat, jodhpurs and spurs, he was amazingly able to stay in character the entire time he was there, even during the potluck! As talk turned to our upcoming election, Caleb perked up and said - I hear Mr. Hoover might win! Comments about the Jacob Lake Lodge had Caleb swinging his head over to Jacob Lake, where the 1923 lodge would have existed in his day. (The one we currently buy cookies at wasn't built until 1929.) But his 3:30 and 7:00 presentations were able to transport the large audiences back to a time when the car was a novelty, the North Rim Lodge was three times the size it is today (before fire engulfed it in 1932) and the Paiute Indians still roamed the Buckskin Mountain (Kaibab Plateau) as part of their ancestral hunting grounds. Here are some of his stories from that long ago time.

The ranger station you see before you was built in 1910.

In 1906, Uncle Jimmy Owens hatched a plan to bring buffalo up by the North Rim to breed with cattle to get beefalo. At about the same time, cattle, sheep and horses were being allowed to graze up on the plateau, so a game warden was needed to shoot the predators. Uncle Jimmy gladly accepted that job. Unfortunately, he was very good at it, killing 365 mountain lions in his first year. Predators in those days were considered to be not just mountain lions, but eagles, hawks, owls, coyotes, bobcats and wolves. With this extreme plan in place, it didn't take long for the deer population to explode in numbers. Trying to compete for browse with the introduced grazers caused tens of thousands of deer



*Caleb Rass from 1928
(AKA North Rim Interpretive Ranger Stu Whipple)*

to die each winter. Something had to be done about this situation. So - the famous deer drive of 1924 was attempted. The plan went as follows: Get between 3000-8000 deer from the North Rim, and simply make them go over to the South Rim, via the Saddle Mountain Wilderness, down the Nankoweap Trail, swim across the Colorado River, and go up the Tanner Trail. Although all the humans involved in this did their parts as bangers and clangers, the deer simply refused to cooperate. Once they reached the part of the trail that departed from the trees and other cover vegetation, the deer got too nervous being out of their ecozone. The bucks started prancing and dancing, and trotted up and through the line of men, who began to dive for cover themselves behind trees. When the humans all reached the designated point, all the deer were behind them bounding away toward the forest. The really hilarious part is that Zane Grey had bought the story rights to this event, and a movie company was on site to record this historic event. Anyone know where that movie is now??

The next plan was equally as successful - round up the deer and truck them down off the plateau. Ever seen a live deer in a truck?

Next thought was - round up the fawns and fly them off the plateau. That was just as successful as the previous two plans.

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In 1927, government hunters arrived on the plateau to simply shoot the deer. That plan was not at all popular with the locals.

In 1928, licenses were issued for hunting. (This plan is still in effect today.)

Uncle Jimmy had a cabin at the North Rim until 1926. With Grand Canyon National Park being established in 1919, the Park Service kept trying to get him to move out. They burned it in 1926. Jimmy built another one by Jacob Lake in 1928. He could make \$500 on a good day in bounties on all the predators he was killing, which was darn good money for those days.

But Caleb reminds us that now that with the howling wolves gone, it has left a mighty big hole in the wilderness on those long winter nights which used to be filled with the singing of the wolves.

Pretty soon tourists wanted to start coming up to see this here Grand Canyon. The Parry brothers from Kanab brought folks up in buses and trucks. W.W. Wylie had operated camps in Yellowstone, and he opened Wylie Way Camp on the North Rim by the head of Bright Angel Canyon. He also operated camps in Bryce and Zion. When construction began for the Grand Canyon Lodge, a sawmill was built about one-half mile up from the lodge for the timber. In Harvey Meadow, a quarry was opened for the rock used for the lodge. In fact, the only things brought in were the windows and chandeliers. These beautiful light fixtures were made of Eisen glass made from mica, with wrought iron supports. Now with a first class lodge on site, a dependable source for water was necessary. A 3-inch pipe was installed down to Roaring Springs, with 1600 lbs. of pressure per square inch. What does this mean? It means - don't be in the way when it breaks!

To facilitate the building of this system, a tram was built using 15 towers to descend into the Canyon. This involved one turn in the cable system, which had 18,000 feet of wire. Once, supervisor George Croft was riding the tram and noticed the speed seemed jerky. Instead of a smooth and steady pace, the cable car would zing between the towers at a stomach-wrenching speed and drop, and then slow to a crawl. As gravity took effect, the car would plunge out of control and then stop as it reached the next cable. George stoically accepted the ride, thinking that maybe the boys were just funning him. However, after arriving at the station, he found the cable operator passed out drunk on the floor. The tram system was not used after that, as deemed just too dangerous.

Another character of the time was Mr. Ley. He was hired to lay the pipe. However; it turned out that the only thing he was good at was writing the reports. In fact, he was so good at writing the reports, that he documented the laying of 3000 more feet of pipe than the company had ever sent.

When the lodge was finally opened, that meant the road needed to be plowed. The tremendous snows on the North Rim (remember when it used to snow here??!) meant that a special kind of plow was needed. The rotary plow pulled the snow up and threw it out on both sides of the road. It was driven by an armored tank. It took 3 days to get from the lodge to Jacob Lake. Three men had to work in shifts - one driving the tank, the other two in a carriage behind the tank. One could be sleeping, and the other would be feeding the fire.

Caleb continued to regale us with stories about the Native Americans' interpretations of the stories of the constellations. As the sun began to set and the long shadows of the ponderosas spread around our circle, Caleb had us all stop and listen. "Hear that?" he asked. We all paused in silence as a night wind blew the pine needles into a soft roar that rose and fell as the breeze passed by. That sound is the ponderosa pine trees in the wind. It's picking up pieces from in your heart and keeping them here on the Buckskin Mountain for you to come back and find.

*[Article submitted by Nancy Green;
photos by Diane Cassidy]*

July Outing Attendance

The July GCHS get-together was held at the old/retired Park Service HQ a short distance from Jacob Lake. We were glad to see Lee Albertson of Tempe; Nancy Green, Pipp Piatchek, and Todd Berger & Bonnie Platt of Grand Canyon; Jim, Janece, Robert & Jon Ohlman of Kayenta; Gus & Sandra Scott, Ann Reynolds and Dan & Diane Cassidy of Prescott; along with the organizer, John Azar who with the help of his friends Josh Hodorff of Flagstaff and Cal Callaway of Fredonia, served up beef stew and barbequed chicken. We also were honored with a visit from Gary Ladd of Page and Judy Druzo of the Grand Circle Field School. Later that evening, we enjoyed lively conversations and the sounds of classical guitar by Josh. The next morning, there were crepes and strawberries for breakfast!

Welcome New Members...

Alan & Jane Doty – Cottonwood AZ
Lucille Oswald (A Harvey Girl) – Phoenix AZ

Letter of Thanks

July 7, 2004

Dear fellow members
of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

It was with extreme pleasure that I received the Pioneer Award at Shoshone Point in June. You have joined me with a wonderful and illustrious group of Grand Canyon scientists, explorers, writers and National Park Service employees. I'm greatly honored.

It has taken a little time to consider what the Pioneer Award means. But, if George Steck were still here with us, I'm sure he would aid me in my thoughts by making the following calculations:

I have made about 25,000 4x5 images and about 120,000 35 mm slides in my career. If my 4x5 exposures averaged 1/4 second and my 35 mm exposures averaged 1/60th second, then my total "Canyon and River contribution" time comes to 2 hours and 17 minutes. As George would point out, this figure seems rather "statistically pathetic" when compared to the many years of work invested by the other award recipients.

George, all I can say is that I'll keep photographing. And I will be sure to make more compensatory time exposures wherever possible.

The Pioneer Award plaque is extremely handsome, and it will hang on the walls of my home forever.

Sincerely,
Gary Ladd
Page AZ

Board Elections – 2004

The Directors continue to build and guide the organization. The strengths of the organization are worth repeating; they are: monthly outings, community service projects, *The Bulletin* – monthly newsletter, *The Ol' Pioneer* – quarterly magazine, Pioneer Award – presented at the annual picnic, scholarship of \$1,000 to a student at NAU doing research on Colorado Plateau issues, and collection of historical and significant documents to be housed at the NAU Cline Library – Special Collections.

Do you love the Grand Canyon? Do you think the Historical Society is a worthwhile organization? During the next year, which will have 8,760 hours, do you think you can find a few hours, say 6 to 8 hours to devote to the Grand Canyon? If the answer is yes to any or all of these questions, then you are a candidate for the Board of Directors of GCHS.

What is your excuse? You are a new member of the Historical Society...wonderful! A Pioneer is someone who has never done this but has the courage to try. You are a very busy person...great! As the "old saw" goes, give the job to the busiest person and they will get it done. "I have been there and done that for years"... fabulous! Your experience is invaluable.

If you somehow, suddenly find yourself somewhat short of excuses, you are a great candidate for the Board of Directors of the GCHS... don't hesitate. Please call or write Lee Albertson for more information and to "sign up"!

480-838-2710

Albertson1213@msn.com

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2004 Outings Coordinator:** Keith Green, PO Box 1986, Grand Canyon AZ 86023; phone 928-638-0666; email: Keith_Green@nps.gov.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Diane Cassidy at 2112 Demerse Avenue, Prescott, AZ 86301; email: Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org.

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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