December 26, 2009
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The Sunspots

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy New Year!

For the past three years Mary Holmen has done a terrific job with this newsletter. During the December breakfast meeting, Mary asked for a volunteer to take over for her. I am that volunteer!

My name is Bob Bluhm. My wife Janet and I bought our Sun City Grand home in 2000. We have a Bounder Diesel motor home and spend several months a year on the road. We joined the Arizona Sun Chasers last April. So far we have only been on one rally with the club. Hopefully that will change in the coming months.

I believe a newsletter should reflect the club activities. A few photos and a short description of a rally lets everyone know what a great time we have together. Therefore I am asking all rally hosts to take some group and some action photos of their rallies and email these photos to me at rgbluhm@gmail.com. It would also be nice to include a paragraph describing the activities that took place on the rally. The write up does not need to be fancy, just a few notes.

Nominating Committee

Mary Holmen, Bob Lussier, and Cheryl Kroll volunteered to be the nominating committee for 2010. Please make their job easier by offering to serve in some position during the coming year.

New Members

The following members have joined the Arizona Sun Chasers since the last Sunspots.

- **Ken & Carole Vidak**
- **Norm & Alice Thibault**
- **Chuck & Carol Mattheeussen**
- **Rhoda Kennedy**
- **Gary & Chris Dishman**

Welcome! New members are the lifeblood of a club. Hope you get signed up for a rally soon.

Contacts

WEB: www.arizonasunchasers.info
This site provides information to both club members and to potential members that want to learn a little more about our club.

President:
Mike Holmen
president@arizonasunchasers.info

Membership Chairman
Bob Lussier
membership@arizonasunchasers.info

WEB / Newsletter:
Bob Bluhm
(623) 556 9598
rgbluhm@gmail.com

If you have questions about or are interested in joining our club, please give one of us a call. We are an FMCA chapter, all members must have a motor home of some sort and must be FMCA members. We have a limited supply of free FMCA memberships available.

Where was I?

The last Sunspots showed a photo of the Dome of the 24-inch Clark Telescope at the Lowell Observatory located near Flagstaff. No one correctly identified the building.

The Lowell Observatory was founded by Percival Lowell in 1894. The observatory has a rich history of observations, among those being the ones that led to the discovery of the planet PLuto by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930. Lowell predicted the discovery of a ninth planet and spent years searching for it. The planet was named by a young British girl who named if for Pluto, God of the Underworld, because the planet is so cold and so far away from the Sun. The PL was definitely a PLus, as it happens to be the initials of Percival Lowell. Lowell was also fascinated with the planet Mars and as a result the name of the location which contains the observatory is now appropriately named Mars Hill.

The 13-inch astrograph, which is now known as the Pluto Discovery Telescope, was used in the search for Pluto and is still in use today. There are also several other telescopes located at the site, including the historic Clark telescope. The Clark telescope was used by Dr. Slipher in 1912 to discovered first evidence that the universe is expanding and is now used for public observing sessions. The mausoleum of Percival Lowell is located next to the main telescope dome. Today, there are five telescopes on Mars Hill, two of which are used for the public. In addition, there are six telescopes used solely for scientific observation at Lowell Observatory's dark-sky site southeast of Flagstaff.

Where am I?

- I am in Arizona
- The developer was famous and is the subject of several movies.
- The area was developed in the 1880's

Look for more clues on the web site beginning in January,

When you figure out where I am, email rgbluhm@gmail.com or call (623) 556 9598.

Monthly Breakfast Meetings

We have begun having monthly breakfast meeting. The meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at the ***La Petite Café*** restaurant in Sun City West. The restaurant is in the group of buildings on the east side of W. Granite Valley Dr. where Granite Valley and Meeker intersect. Entrance to parking is from Meeker about one half block east of Granite Valley. Look for small black sign close to the ground.

Breakfast begins at 9:00 am with a short meeting following. Members and anyone who is interested in our club are welcome.

Rallies

The January, 2010 Chula Vista rally departs in a little over a week.

The February, 2010 Tubac, Arizona Rally to be led by John and Paulette Duda is to be held at the De Anza RV park near Tubac. They could only get reservations for 10 units, so some may not be able to get full hook ups. Check it our on the web site.

The March, 2010 Death Valley Rally to be led by Elaine & Dean Lewellen is planned for March 8-13 (Monday through Saturday). A minimum of 7-8 coaches is required for the rally is take place. There will be an overnight stay in Pahrump, Nevada on the way there and again on the way home. Estimated cost for this rally is $150, and includes the Pahrump overnights, but not the cost of camping in Death Valley. March is a beautiful time to visit Death Valley, so if you are interested in this rally, please contact the Lewellens at DeanLinAZ@cox.net or call them at 546-7649.

The April, 2010 Parker, Arizona Rally to be led by Co-hosts Jim & Nancy Labowe and Howard and Linda Madden is planned for April 22-26 (arrive Thursday, leave Monday). Parker is approximately 170 miles from Sun City West, and it's a pleasant drive. We'll stay at the Blue Water Marine RV Resort which has 30/50 amp electric, a club house with three ovens, microwaves, etc. As of this date, the camping fee at Blue Water RV is $25.00 per night. For those who play golf, whether often or rarely, if there is enough interest, a golf scramble can be held at the beautiful Emerald Canyon Golf Course. Information is still being gathered to determine the rally fee.

The May, 2010 Verde Valley Rally to be led by Carolyn Rhea and Bob Lussier is planned for May 12 through 16 (arrive Wednesday, leave Sunday). The drive is Verde Valley is a nice, easy drive and the campground is a Thousand Trails campground which is normally open only to its members. The cost is approximately $22.00 per rig per night. The campground offers a club house, miniature golf, shuffleboard, and horseshow pits. The campground requires 25% in advance, but does have a 24 hour cancellation policy. Rally fee still in the planning stage.

From the President's corner:

Well the start of a new year and I think we had a great send off to 2009. The Christmas party was great, Jan Mahon and Cheryl Kroll did a great job on setting it up. For all of you that missed it, better get on board for next years. We will need volunteers to organize the 2010 Christmas party and it is never too soon to get started. The trip to Chula Vista trip is full and should be a very good outing to start the new year. I look forward to a very productive and enjoyable 2010 camping season, we have some great outings scheduled and we are getting new members which always helps keep the club exciting. Remember the club is run by volunteers and we need a new set of officers for next year so please contact the election committee and step up to keep the Sun Chasers a successful and viable club.

Bools on CD Library

- The Righteous Men by Sam Bourne. 5 CDs.
- 5th Horseman by James Patterson. 7 CDs