



Granite Falls E-Newsletter Winter 2024

Happy New Year!

Suggestions? Let us know! Terra Rafael & Sam Marutzky
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Some of our GF Adventures, Shared

If you want to share your adventures, send them to us at granitefallsnews@gmail.com for future newsletters. We'll share as space permits...more to come.



Jim and Nancy Young spent the summer touring Western Canada and Alaska.



Sam and Iris Marutzky visited their son's family in the Houston area. They spent a day at Johnson Space Center with their son and grandkids.



Barry and Judy Siel are avid bicyclers. Photo is from Cap Formentor on Mallorca Island, Spain.



Vidar and Sherry Andresen (on left) took a snorkeling trip to Costa Rica with high school buddies. They held an octopus!



A Granite Falls Adventure to the Grand Canyon

by Julie Christianson

Just a half day's drive from Grand Junction is one of the most remarkable places on this beautiful Earth. You can read about it; see pictures of it; hear about adventures taken in it. But, nothing can really prepare you for it. You must make the effort and take the journey yourself to truly appreciate what is so grand about the Grand Canyon. And, you should take the journey multiple times to witness the seasonal changes to this timeless place.

This national park has two main areas to explore. The south rim has more services with more people and is open year round. The north rim has limited services with fewer people and is open when the snow is gone - typically, May to October. You can connect these two areas by driving, a route of about 200 miles. Or, you can walk, hike, ride a mule, or run from one rim to the other. With this choice, you face a distance of about 24 miles on two primary trails: South Kaibab to North Kaibab or Bright Angel to North Kaibab. If you start on the South Rim, you have a little over 5000 feet of elevation drop down to the Colorado river. Then, you have over 6000 feet to climb up to the North Rim. You would have to hike Serpents trail about eight times to match this elevation change!

Jodie and I have had many adventures in this national park. We, along with our son, have hiked on the Bright Angel Trail from the South Rim to Phantom Ranch, at the Colorado River, for Christmas Eve and back again on Christmas Day. We started in a blizzard on the rim and hiked into fall at the river. I have run from the North Rim to the South Rim - the easier option to do what is called a Rim-to-Rim. For my sixtieth birthday, I wanted to watch a sunset on the terrace at the North Rim Lodge. So, at 4 AM on a day in September 2023, I set off with two friends from the South Rim.



We took the South Kaibab trail down past Ooh Aah Point, Skeleton Point, and Tipoff before sunrise. The hike to Ooh Aah Point is well worth your time if you feel adventurous. Just dropping a few hundred feet below the rim will give you such a different impression of the Canyon. (And, you get away from a lot of the people who stay on the rim!) We split up at sunrise at the river where they went back up on the Bright Angel trail to the South Rim and I headed for Phantom Ranch. This is a popular destination has dorms that you can reserve for a night's stay, a post office that will deliver your mail by mule (with a cancellation to prove it) and a cantina that will serve you steak or stew for dinner. If you are just passing through, you can stop to get a \$5 lemonade!

Once you cross the river, you are on the North Kaibab trail. This trail was put in when a water line from Roaring Springs on the north side of the river was needed to establish a water supply for the South Rim. (In fact, the trail is closed for the first part of 2024 for maintenance on this water line.) Just past Phantom Ranch is a section called the Box. You are following Bright Angel Creek through a narrowing of granite and Vishnu schist. If you brave this area in the summer, temperatures can be deadly. For me, early in the morning, this day was simply glorious. You eventually turn away from the creek and head up to great views of Roaring Springs, the Redwall, Supai Tunnel, and just before the rim's edge, Coconino Overlook. As with Ooh Aah Point, you will not be disappointed if you can make it to Coconino Overlook for the views.

After just under 12 hours on the trail, I made it in time for a beer and a sunset at the North Rim Lodge!

Going On An Extended Trip/Adventure?

Be sure you think security. Tell your neighbors. Ask to have snow removed from driveway. Hold mail or have friends pick it up for you. Stop newspapers. Use timers to have lights go on and off. Leave some shades down - if they all are it looks like no one's home!

And let's all keep our eyes open to be sure there's no hanky-panky when our neighbors are out of town.

Rigg's Hill

The hill just to our north is called Rigg's Hill. It is home to hiking trails as well as many dinosaur bones.

It is an outcrop of the Morrison Formation formed during the late Jurassic Era some 140 million years ago during a period when much of the western United States was covered by inland seas with lots of volcanic activity. This was the age when the dinosaurs ruled the earth.

H. W. Menke, Riggs' field and lab assistant, poses with the femur (thigh bone) from Riggs Hill. The 6'10" bone belonged to an animal 75 feet long and 40 feet tall. Discovery of these huge dinosaur remains created such public interest that it made headlines in Boston and Chicago newspapers.

Courtesy Field Museum of Natural History (Negative #2956, Chicago, IL)



In the late 1890s, Elmer S Riggs, assistant curator of paleontology at the Field Columbian Museum in Chicago, now the Field Museum of Natural History, excavated quarry no. 13 where he found several bones from a very large dinosaur. He called it Brachiosaurus altithorax because of its large size and because its front legs were longer than those in back. At the time, it was considered the largest land animal that ever lived.

In 1938, a bronze plaque was placed at the site of the original quarry commemorating the importance of the find. It reads: "Brachyosaurus, The Giant Dinosaur, First Known Skeleton Discovered in 1900 by Elmer S. Riggs and Preserved in Field Museum Chicago".

In the 1980s the Museum of Western Colorado acquired the property to preserve the site. Riggs excavated several quarries in the area, including near the east entrance to the Colorado National Monument, and Dinosaur Hill near Fruita. A Brontosaurus from the Fruita site was erected in the Field Museum in 1908.

[Click here for more information](#)

References:

Paleontology and Geology of the Dinosaur Triangle, edited by Walter R. Averett. Article: "The Riggs Hill and Dinosaur Hill Sites, Mesa County, Colorado, by William L. Chenoweth, Grand Junction, Colorado. 978.801 P156

"Among The Eagles: A History of the Redlands, CO", Redlands Middle School, 1997. 978.817 A523

Granite Falls HOA Report, Winter 2024

Hello from your HOA Board of Directors. We hope you had a wonderful, peaceful holiday season. Our neighborhood continues to grow with 83 houses completed and 9 currently in construction. We have a total of 104 lots, so that leaves just 12 undeveloped. We continue to gain many new faces in our community so we encourage you to get to know each other by checking out our 'groups' list and upcoming activities.

As we wind down our fiscal year, we'd like to recall the various activities and accomplishments for the year.

- We held our annual meeting in February. The meeting was well attended, two new members and one returning member were voted onto the board, the new budget was approved, the proposed changes to the Bylaws were approved; however, the proposed changes to the CC&Rs could not be passed because the required number of votes were not obtained.
- A vote on the CC&R changes was conducted via email/mail. All changes were approved and incorporated into the governing documents.
- Two Bird Walks were held in the 7-acre common area. Several birds were identified, some rare.
- Two Neighborhood Block parties were held potluck style with lots of neighbors attending. These will continue each Spring and Fall.
- Two neighborhood cleanup parties took place. New signs were placed reminding folks to leash their dogs and pick up after them.
- PTL won our Common Area Maintenance contract. The 10 horsepower pump was replaced and several sprinkler heads also were replaced. The old 10 horsepower pump was rebuilt and will be placed in service next year.
- The Natural Areas subcommittee developed the Granite Falls Subdivision Natural Area Management Plan. The Plan describes the strategies to meet the objectives for our natural area which include mitigating fire hazards, benefiting wildlife with useful habitat, and providing an enjoyable and useful natural area for the benefit of the members of our community. We are taking advantage of expert advice and support and pursuing matching grants to reduce our costs.
- A Community Library was installed at our entrance, thanks to Cindy and Jeff Tate.

Housekeeping items:

- Please keep your trash cans out of sight as per our CC&Rs (Article III, Section 3.2 (c)).
- Parking is allowed only on driveways or in the street, not on gravel, unless it is behind a 6-foot fence.
- RV parking is allowed behind a 6-foot fence on the garage side of your property. It must not extend beyond the back of the house. See the DRGs for details.

- Speed limit in the subdivision is 20 mph and please watch out for children (and adults) playing in the streets.
- Most improvements, especially landscaping and out buildings, must be approved by the Design Review Committee prior to installation. Out buildings, such as sheds, must match the design and exterior of the house. See the website for details.

Thank you, enjoy the New Year!
Your Board of Directors:

President - Brian Langfitt
Vice President - David Lurye
Secretary - Amy Mohler
Treasurer - Sam Marutzky
Assistant Treasurer - Sandy Rhoades

Activities & Groups to Join

- **Colorado Mountain Club** - Neighbor Victor Ketellapper vkhome77@yahoo.com Founded in 1912, the Colorado Mountain Club is Colorado's community for mountain adventure, education, and conservation. Trips and training include hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, rock climbing and more. Learn more at www.cmc.org
- **Poker Club** - contact Aaron Meckler: 303.324-4510 (text) or Aaron.meckler@gmail.com
- **Game Afternoon Club** - contact Jennifer Bradfield: Jennifer.bradfield@gmail.com
- **Families w Kids Club** - contact: Elizabeth Brookmeyer: ebrookmeyer@gmail.com
 - Wednesday Bike beginning April 12, 4:30 pm Sieber Canyon cul-de-sac area- kid play, etc - all welcome
- **Monthly Book Club** - Neighbor Terra Rafael: wisewomanhood@gmail.com We currently have space for one more member.

Yard Care Tips by Bob Mohler

Our local expert, Bob has kindly written tips for each season which are available in our [enews archive](#)

Neighborhood Art Tour - in the Spring or Summer

We are organizing a neighborhood art tour after noticing the number of people with beautiful art in their homes. If you have art in your home or yard that you'd like others in our neighborhood to see and appreciate, please email Terra at wisewomanhood@gmail.com to sign up. Include your name, address, black-out days for you, and an idea of what and how many pieces you have to share. If there's interest - watch for the save the date.

HOA Basics

Information for new homeowners: <https://granitefallshoa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/New-Homeowner-packet-for-HOA.pdf>

For general HOA information: www.granitefallshoa.com

For newsletter articles, suggestions, corrections, updates: granitefallsenews@gmail.com

For Design Review Committee: drcgranitefalls@gmail.com

To contact the Board of Directors: granitefallshoa8@gmail.com

Current Board of Directors

- President - Brian Langfitt
- Vice President - David Lurye
- Secretary - Amy Mohler
- Treasurer - Sam Marutzky
- Assistant Treasurer - Sandy Rhoades