



---

## December 2017 Newsletter

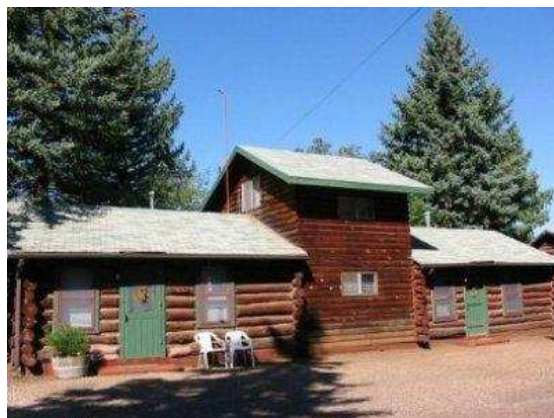
**November TRACKS Meeting:** There were about 22 members present at November General Meeting held at Darbi's in Pinetop. There were no new members or guests present.

**Announcements:**

**Donation from Epic Rides of \$3,500** was announced as well as a very **generous donation from John Peabody** who donated his earnings for helping to set up the ride. Kudos to both.

**Tom Jernigan distributed new recently printed maps** that are a combination hiking/biking trails and off road vehicle trails. Kudos to Betty Zink, Tom Jernigan, WMOTA, the Forest Service and others for their efforts over the past two years in developing this map.

John Burton described the **ongoing development of Walking Down Ranch** (formerly Rainbow Lake Lodge) which will house veterans in the future. The land is owned by East Mesa Fire District. Walking Down ranch has leased it for four years for \$1/yr. It is hoped to raise enough funds during that time to purchase it for \$575,000. John has started a program called the 575 Club and hopes that 575 people will donate \$1,000 each to accomplish this. John described the various services that will be offered in the future. Jim Snitzer added that this project could set an example or model for other communities and cities to follow suit.



**The proposed mountain bike trail** for September 2018 has been scrapped.

**The high school mountain bike trails proposed for Show Low** ( a five mile inner loop and a nine mile outer loop) is still being considered. A NEPA will be required. There will be a meeting in Show Low on November 30.

Jim Snitzer explained the **thinning of the 12 acre parcel off Hwy 260** between Latigo and Branding Iron, which now belongs to the White Mountain Nature Center. He spoke of the community involvement in the thinning and removal of the slash and the firewood donated to Walking Down Ranch. This parcel has been saved from development and provides a more pleasing view to passers by. A trail may be developed in the center area with signage. Lynn announced that the TRACKS Board voted to change the mile for cleanup from the old mile on Hwy 260 to Hwy 60 between mile marker 344 and 345. The old mile was deemed too difficult. TRACKS will have to do one cleanup on the new mile before an official sign is erected.

Liz Jernigan announced the **December 6 Audubon program/potluck** beginning at 6:00 PM at the Old Town Hall Council Chambers. Sue Sitko will talk about her trip to Thailand.

**Next meeting will be a potluck Saturday, December 9, at the Lund's** at 11:00 AM. Bring books for Books for Kids AZ and canned goods for Love Kitchen. Wear holiday socks for Christmas Socks Contest.

### **How Does TRACKS Feel About Thinning of**

**Forest?:** Nick has been getting questions asking how TRACKS feels about the thinning activity here in the White Mountains. Sue Sitko has sent this Payson Roundup op-ed on the recent Yarnell fire court decision. It's a good piece and forces us to look in our own mirror.

[http://www.wmicentral.com/opinion/editorials/the-forest-condundrum/article\\_06ba5cce-4c2c-5c84-81ed-bab49a4ea12a.html](http://www.wmicentral.com/opinion/editorials/the-forest-condundrum/article_06ba5cce-4c2c-5c84-81ed-bab49a4ea12a.html)



**Up the Hill Gang Hiking** will continue throughout the Fall and Winter starting at 9 AM on Wednesdays, as weather permits. Please contact Heather Steiner for information at 928-620-1676. The summer hikes are coordinated by Debi and Steve Williams and they will get the summer schedule out in time for spring publication.

**The last monthly meeting of the White Mountain Audubon Society for 2017** will be on Wednesday, Dec. 6. It will be a potluck dinner with the ham provided. Sue Sitko will be the program presenter for the evening. **We will meet at 6:00pm at the Pinetop-Lakeside Council Chamber Room on Neils Hanson Lane.** For more information call Mary Ellen Bittorf at (928) 367-2462

**TRACKS Annual Christmas  
Brunch, Sat Dec 9 at 11am, at  
the home of:**

**Nick and Peggy Lund  
20 West Suncrest Ct.  
Show Low 928-532-0405  
at the door. Who knows you  
might even win the sock  
contest!**



**If your last name begins with:  
A - J bring a main dish  
K - Q bring a side dish or  
salad  
R - Z bring a dessert**

**Please plan your contribution for 20-25 people as we are expecting 60 -  
70 guests.**

**Beverages will be provided. Label your  
utensils and dishes so they can return  
home with you.**

**We will be collecting donations for:**

**Books for Kids - AZ (new or gently  
used children's books)**

**Love's Kitchen - canned goods for  
food boxes**



**Report Volunteer Hours:** Please be sure, by the end of December, to report your volunteer hours during 2016 to Nick for the TRACKS annual report. Include ANY volunteering you do, for TRACKS or otherwise, and count your travel time in the hours. Liz keeps the hours for TRACKS trail work, so report any hours beyond trail crew (like trail head adopter, reporting trail problems, kiosk work, etc.) to Liz. Also, please let Nick know what boards, commissions, significant committees, etc. that you served on during 2016.

**Show Low Main Street's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.**

Saturday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m., Show Low City Hall (free).  
Entertainment, face painting, concessions, announcement of parade float winners and lighting of the community Christmas trees. For more information, call 928-532-4124.

**The Pinetop-Lakeside Christmas Tree Lighting :** the Pinetop-Lakeside Christmas tree lighting will be across from the library on December 3rd at 7 PM.

**White Mountain Audubon Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting:**

Wednesday, December 6th at 5:30 PM  
Town Council Chambers

Sue Sitko will talk about her recent trip to Thailand

Please bring a dish to share:

**Everyone welcome**

**Bring a friend**



## ***TRACKS Calendar of Events***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Meeting Place/Info</b>
December 2. Saturday	<b>Pinetop-Lakeside Christmas Tree Lighting</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b> – Bring a can of food or \$1.00 ticket
December 6, Wednesday	<b>Annual White Mountain Audubon Holiday Pot Luck Dinner &amp; Meeting</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b> Council Chambers. Room 16
December 7, Thursday	<b>TRACKS Board Meeting</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b> at the Nature Center, 425 S Woodland Rd, Lakeside. TRACKS members welcome
December 9, Saturday	<b>TRACKS General Meeting</b> Holiday Breakfast Brunch At the Lund's	<b>11:00 AM</b> Contact the Lunds for directions at 532-0405 or <a href="mailto:lundaz@cableone.net">lundaz@cableone.net</a>
Mondays	<b>Trail work</b> when weather allows.	To add your name to the Trail Crew list, contact Nick at <a href="mailto:lundaz@cableone.net">lundaz@cableone.net</a>
Wednesdays	<b><u>Up the Hill Gang Hikes</u></b> Every Wednesday morning (weather permitting) / Contact: Heather Steiner, 480-620-1676 for further information.	<b>9:00 AM</b> -A more specific schedule will be back in effect starting in May. The summer hikes are coordinated by Debi and Steve Williams and they will get the schedule to you in time for spring publication.
<b>Thursday, December 25</b>	<b>Happy</b>	<b>Holidays</b>



928 S. Woodland Road  
Lakeside, AZ 85929