

# EL PLIEGO



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## From The President

Karol Stubbs

A special thanks to all the volunteers who help with trail maintenance and restoration, making our fundraising events successful, and doing public outreach. These volunteers logged nearly 8000 hours last year and loaded a dumpster with 3040 pounds of debris during our January trail maintenance day.

Trailhead and trail way-finding signs were installed on Santa Cruz County Roads last summer. We are actively working on additional signage that will direct people off the interstate and frontage road to the trailheads as well. We are also actively working with one landowner to secure new trail and another one to re-route a trail in Rio Rico.

## What's Happening on the Trail?

### Santa Cruz County Report By Jerry Behn

Come down and walk the Trail. All the effects of last year's heavy monsoon and fall rains have departed and you can hike the entire trail without getting muddy. The most traveled section is from Tubac to the Tumacácori Mission (approximately 4 miles.) It is now completely dry, mowed and bridges across the River are in place. Trail segments at Amado Road, and Santa Gertrudis Lane are also open and in good hiking condition. From the Richard Williams Memorial Trailhead on Palo Parado Road hikers can go north or south on a beautiful shaded trail, while at the Guy Tobin Trailhead on Rio Rico Drive; a leisurely walk south through open grazing land can be enjoyed.

We have recently negotiated a new access for going north from Guy Tobin trailhead and it will, be in place by the end of this monsoon season. New interpretive signage has just been received and you will be observing this at the major trailheads in the next few months. Also, with the help of NCCC-Americorps young adults and ATCA volunteers, we built a new 10'x14' covered Ramada at the Richard Williams Memorial Trailhead so you can enjoy a snack or picnic in the shade. Please check us out!

### Pima County Report By G. Donald Kucera

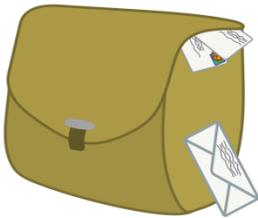
With the new section of trail open from Ajo Way to Silverlake Road, there is a distance of 13.2 miles (21.2km.) of trail now open to Hikers and Cyclists from Valencia Road to El Camino del Cerro. Equestrians are able to use the river bed. There is an equestrian center at the southern end of Christopher Columbus Park. The park is located on Silverbell Rd. just south of El Camino del Cerro.



Did You Know?

What a “pliego” was? It was a packet of letters or documents. Mail did not run every day, so a person might mail a half dozen letters at a time. Groups of letters like this, plus the letter packets of other people that the courier was carrying was called a “pliego,” something similar to today’s mail pouch.

From the November 1995 Issue of “EL PLIEGO”



Anza’s Color Guard Now in California, Too!

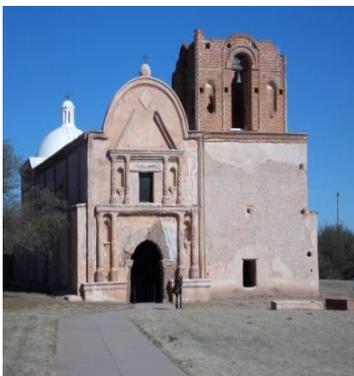
During the last year, a California division of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Color Guard was created to coordinate activities. Both the California, under Dennis Carlos, and the Arizona division, under Richard Collins, promotes the Trail and its history. Units wishing to portray the Anza Expedition can receive guidance and assistance from the divisions. The mounted Color Guard is composed of men, women, and children representing both soldiers and civilian participants of the Anza Expedition. The professional organization has taken several parade awards and been recognized for their service.

Bill Islas, who portrays Colonel Anza, was recognized by the National Park Service as the official Anza for the Trail. Bill has dedicated himself to the role and feels great responsibility to honor the legacies of Yjinio Aguirre and Don Garate, the previous “Anzas”.



For the summer months, members of the Arizona Guard will be in Los Angeles to dedicate a portion of the Trail through Griffith Park, and later members will be at the Presidio of San Francisco assisting in commemoration ceremonies for the founding of San Francisco. In the fall, the annual Tumacácori to Tubac ride and Hacienda de Canoa ride will take place in October.

The Tubac exhibit on the 1775-76 Anza Expedition re-ride continues through the summer. This exhibit features the event which helped cause the founding of the Anza Trails. The exhibit can be visited at Tubac Presidio State Historic Park.



Tumacácori Mission  
Picture taken by  
Deborah Kucera-Scott

Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, Inc.  
POB 4711, Tubac, Arizona 85646  
Phone (520) 841-6944

For Membership Information go to:

<http://anzatrail.org/html/membership.html>

Or call the phone number above.

Anyone wishing to submit articles for the “El Pliego” Newsletter can mail them to The ATCA Post Office box address on the left or Email to:

Connie Williams – Secretary  
[conniew100@gmail.com](mailto:conniew100@gmail.com)

Or

Deborah Kucera-Scott - Editor  
[gardengirl1955@hotmail.com](mailto:gardengirl1955@hotmail.com)

## *For Birders:* Tubac Takes Flight 2016

The Second annual **Tubac Takes Flight** event, sponsored by the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, was another success this year.

This event brings people from all over the world and every corner of our nation to enjoy the trail and life along the river. It has also turned into a welcome economic boost for Tubac and Santa Cruz County.

Beginning Birders attending one of four weekly walks doubled compared to last year, with an increase in the number who drove down from Tucson to take part. Estimates of visitors watching for raptors in Ron Morris Park during the migration period were 150-200 birders a day. Peter Collins, one of our birding experts, noted that on one day there were license plates from 13 states and Canada in the parking lot. He has also observed visitors from England and Switzerland.

This event was organized and run by a knowledgeable and dedicated crew of volunteers. They are the backbone of all our efforts and deserve our special thanks.



### Special Thanks To:

James P. Karp – Team Lead  
Peter Collins – Raptor Thursdays Lead

#### Beginning Birders Leads and Assistants

- Michael Dunn
- John O’Neil
- Judy Ellyson
- Wendy Harper
- Marty Sewell
- Dianne Baker
- Mary Dunham
- Ruth Vesber

#### Riparian Walk Leads

- Michael Dunn
- Sherry Sass

#### Organizers - in addition to others already listed

- Karol Stubbs
- Nancy and Denny Baker

### Jim Karp’s Birdwatcher Diary:

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

It was a sunny day with cool temps. in the low 50s and 60s with light winds during the 3 hour walk. We had 16 birders to start. We found 52 species. The number of birds active during the walk was amazing. The mulberry trees were loaded with Western Tanagers, Black Headed, Grosbeaks, and several others. The day started with a Hooded Oriole, so we knew it was going to be a good one. We have never seen as many Yellow Warblers as we did today, and the Phainopeplas were everywhere. A short talk on how to differentiate Myiarchus Flycatchers (Dusky-capped, Ash-throated, and Brown-crested) at the beginning of the walk got the inevitable results we did not see or hear a single Myiarchus Flycatcher.

### Bird Sightings

The Tucson Audubon Society has a ongoing list of rare birds recently sighted in southeastern Arizona. The list includes sightings in Sonoita, Santa Rita Mts., Tucson, Patagonia, and Nogales areas. You can even add a sighting of your own. Just go to [www.tucsonaudubon.org](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org) there is a list on the right-hand side of home page, which includes rare bird sightings. The Audubon Society’s **Southeastern Arizona Birding Festival** is being held August 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Check out the web site for field trips and other activities.



Vermillion Flycatcher

### Natural History Along the Trail

The Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum has just published a new 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of their [Natural History of the Sonoran Desert](#). In its 575 pages it covers the climate, geology, flora, and fauna of the region. The book also has a *list of species* with the Scientific, English, and Spanish names.

### Web de Anza

Do not forget the Web de Anza (<http://anza.uoregon.edu>) on the Internet for information on Anza and the Anza expedition. There are thousands of pages of information to better view the ins and outs of the expedition. The *Search* element of the website is very helpful in locating subjects in the diaries. A good example is type in “bean” or “beans”, the program will automatically go through the diary to find the places in which that subject are found. So, when you get bored with TV, try Web de Anza.

### Publications

**Spanish Colonial Period and Southwest Natural History Publications Sources:**

**Tubac Presidio State Historic Park**  
Museum in Tubac

**Tumacácori National Historical Park**  
Visitor Center Gift Shop

**The Tucson Audubon Nature Shop**  
300 E. University Blvd #120, Tucson  
Go to [www.tucsonaudubon.org](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org)  
and click on Nature Shops.

**The Western National Parks Association**  
128880 N. Vistoso Village Dr.  
Tucson, Arizona 85755

### A tribute to Bunny Fontana

By G. Donald Kucera

Bernard L. Fontana (Bunny) passed away on April 2, 2016, early in the morning. He was a well-known anthropologist and historian. He was the world authority on the Baroque Mission Church San Xavier Del Bac located in the village of W’ak of the San Xavier District of the Tohono O’odham Nation. He has contributed much to the history of the Spanish Colonial period and his passing is a great loss. A Memorial was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the San Xavier Del Bac Church with many people in attendance.

The Southwest Mission Research Center published Bunny’s 71 page book “San Xavier Del Bac: Portrait of a Desert Church” in 2015. It includes some wonderful illustrations, most in color.

### Park- to -Park Hike Earns Rave Reviews!

The first Park-to-Park hike on the Anza Trail between Tumacácori National Historical Park and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park in April was such a success that the parks turned around and did it again a couple of weeks later. There was free shuttle service running between the parks, which allowed people to park their car at one site and catch a lift back after hiking the 4-mile trail.



## Calendar of Events

### June 2016

#### National Trails Day

Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Hope you were able to Take a Hike!

#### Pasados Del Presidio

Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif.

Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, (Presidio Officers Club

10-3p.m.

Hands on Activities for the young and young-at-heart, Ballet Folklorico dance workshop, storytelling, living history, and kids activities.

**6:00-8:00p.m. 1776 Campfire at Rob Hill Campground**

The founders of San Francisco camped as they traveled. Join this family-friendly expedition campsite. Meet 18<sup>th</sup> century soldados and Capt. Juan Bautista de Anza. Enjoy s'mores by the campfire.

Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>

**10:30a.m.-Noon** come to a ceremony honoring the families of the Anza Expedition, and their arrival at golden gate. The ceremony will be held at the Pershing Sq. main post. For more Info, go to [www.nps.gov/juba/](http://www.nps.gov/juba/) and click on calendar icon.

### July 2016

#### Old- Fashion Fourth of July Celebration

**Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 10a.m.to noon**

Tubac Presidio State Historic Park will be the site of an assortment of free games for the kids, including; hula hoops, water balloon and bean bag toss, coin toss, and others. For a special treat kids can make authentic adobe bricks to take home. A face painter will be available to brighten kids' faces. Free hotdogs, nachos, watermelon, and lemonade will be available. The “squirt-down”, courtesy of the Tubac Fire Department, will be the cooling grand finale. This old-fashion family celebration is organized by the Tubac Chamber of Commerce, with help from our local non-profit organizations. Park admission is free during the event.

### September 2016

#### PONY UP FOR ANZA DAYS!

**September 5, 2016 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

Come to a party to raise funds for the horses for the Anza Day re-enactment ride from Tumacácori Mission to the Tubac Presidio. Come enjoy a delicious food, music, piñata, and 50-50 drawing. All proceeds benefit Tubac's Anza Day celebration. The tickets will be \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Tickets are available at the Tubac Presidio and Tumacookery. Tickets are also available online from the Tubac Chamber of Commerce at: [tubacaz.com](http://tubacaz.com)

### October 2016

15<sup>th</sup>- Anza Days at Tubac State Park and Tumacácori National Historic Park

22<sup>nd</sup> – Anza Days at Canoa Ranch, Green Valley  
9:00 a.m. To 3:00 p.m.

### December 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – La Fiesta de Tumacácori

10<sup>th</sup> – The 6th annual ATCA Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Wisdom's Café, at Wisdom Café in Tumacácori.

### The Festival of Books

The University of Arizona has announced their dates for the next four years

2017 - March 11th & 12<sup>th</sup>

2018 - March 10th & 11<sup>th</sup>

2019 - March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

2020 - March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

The Western National Park Association will have an area setup devoted to the National Parks.