

THE BULLETIN - THE LATER YEARS

It doesn't seem possible that *this* issue is the 121st I've cobbled together as Bulletin Editor, but, there it is – ten years and counting. When I first joined the club at the end of 1981, the bulletin was being typed on a typewriter and Eber Glendening was cutting, pasting, printing and distributing the bulletin. Earlier this year in another issue of The Bulletin, Joe Hoxie described how we collated the bulletin at Eber and Lorna's home. We've come a long way...

For Volume 27 through 29 (1984 - 1987), I was the "Trailscriber", which meant I was typing up the bulletin and then handing over the hard copy to Eber. And, not learning my lesson, I was the trailscriber again for Volume 32 through 34 (1989 - 1992). During the early 1990's Charlie Whitmore stepped in and suggested we switch from a typewriter to a word processor (a.k.a. computer). Then I gave Eber a *floppy disk* with the bulletin on it. Pretty soon after that Charlie suggested we use a modem and I could *send* the bulletin to Eber. There was still a lot of manual work on Eber's part, but my job as trailscriber was so much easier. Thanks to Charlie, this was the first step into the modern world for the SAHC bulletin.

After 1992, I think, Sandi Sledge (Bartell) took over. Eventually Louise Irving became the Trailscriber. During her tenure, Eber became too ill to produce the bulletin and Louise became the *editor*. She did that for five years and when she had enough fun, I took it on again. Since I started as the "editor" in late 1998 (Volume 41, #3), a few more modernizations have occurred: instead of printing hard copies and giving it to the Bulletin Manager to take to the printer, in 2003 we became entirely electronic. The bulletin was generated in PDF format and given to the printer on media. Later, we put the file on the SAHC server for the printer to download. Modernization comes slowly to SAHC. The Bulletin process has changed so much since I started helping in the 80's.

Of course the bulletin arriving in your mailbox each month would not be possible without Deborah Moyer, the SAHC membership secretary. Deborah has been doing her job for SAHC **EVEN LONGER** than I have been doing mine. What a trooper! Deborah maintains all the address and membership information for the club. Then she sends the membership info to John Yau, the statistician and new member info person. John then puts the info into his database. I enter the information from the trail sheets into John's database and the member's name comes up. The list from the trail sheet is then saved in the database and the statistics are updated automatically. They are up to date as soon as I enter the names in – how cool is that? We do need to thank Charlie Whitmore again for membership numbers and a statistics database. Those were pretty much his ideas. You can thank John and Deborah for all the info in the Membership Directory as well. I just pull it out and slap it into a document. Viola!

And let's not forget the Bulletin Manager, Scott Casterlin. Scott reminds the printer about the bulletin each month and monitors the company that puts the address labels on and sends the bulletins to the post office, making sure everything is running smoothly. Scott has also had some terrific ideas for the bulletin. He also makes sure the program presenter gets photos and descriptions to us in a timely manner.

Thanks to Jerry Dean, the SAHC Webmaster, any club member can get the electronic bulletin from the SAHC website. Our ultimate goal would be to have every member getting the bulletin electronically.

And, without Guides volunteering to lead hikes, there would not be anything to put in The Bulletin. Here's to more years of hiking with SAHC and more issues of The Bulletin!

Linda Miller
The Bulletin Editor

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