

MADELEINE AND JUEL RODACK

Madeleine Rodack was a long-time member and guide for SAHC. She and husband Juel were guides on one of my first hikes when I joined SAHC 24 years ago.

As we know, Madeleine liked to keep her hiking flock close behind her and in order. Juel was often tail guide. To this day, there are many stops along the trails that we call "Madeleine Traditional."

Many of us remember that Madeleine and Juel didn't always agree with one another, which added a bit of humor to their hikes. When hiking with other guides, Madeleine could put her drama talents to play and surprise us newcomers by her actions.

Madeleine was a dedicated guide and was eager to share her many experiences.

There were many New Years Eve parties at their home; they were the most gracious hostess and host.

Althea McClure

MADELEINE AND JUEL RODACK

In the early days, the Rodacks drove their VW bus down to the Pinacate Mountains in northwest Sonora and camped out with other SAHC members near Emelia Tank. On one trip Juel climbed down into the bottom of 800-foot deep Elegante Crater and Madeleine hiked to the top of the 3,900-foot cinder cone, Pinacate Peak. They also backpacked out on the sand and lava flats, exploring the tanks, dunes, caves, cones and other volcanic features of the area. Later, they led several expeditions down into the Tarahumara Indian country in the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

Juel and Madeleine had no children of their own, so after a few years, they decided to "adopt" SAHC. For more than 20 years they attended nearly every meeting of the SAHC Board of Directors. Even though they had no vote, they contributed to the discussions on nearly all of the various subjects that came before the Board. For many years, they hosted the Crossover Board Meeting following the annual Board elections. This was a potluck social and business meeting where all old and incoming Board members gathered at their backyard. After the new Officers and Board members were sworn in, the social festivities started and continued for a couple of hours. They continued this tradition well into their mid-80s.

Madeleine was a strong hiker when she wanted to be. She had never been to the top of Mount Wrightson so she decided when she was 78 that she would do just that on the annual President's Day Hike. Despite an unusual thunder and lightning storm near the 9,453-foot top, she made it.

SAHC members had a 90th birthday party for Madeleine at the Mica View Picnic Area in Saguaro National Park East on December 28, 2004. More than 30 hikers showed up with snacks and Champagne.

Madeleine passed away on October 20, 2005. Juel passed away on February 23, 2004.

Pete Cowgill

Originally printed in The Bulletin, Volume 51, Number 2