BLAZING THE TRAIL
to cleaner highways

Adopt a Highway Newsletter • Issue 2 • July 2006

Governor announces 'Don't Trash AZ!'

Statewide campaign to educate against littering

As Adopt a Highway (AAH) participants well know, no matter how much trash gets picked up, there's always more the next time you go out. That's because the litterers haven't learned their lesson.

The "Don't Trash AZ!" campaign will work to change this sloppy mindset.

"It's just sad that as we drive along our freeways and streets, we see soda cans, napkins, cigarette butts, paper, coffee cups, even large boxes and plastic buckets," Governor Janet Napolitano said. "This is more than an eyesore; litter is expensive to clean up and makes for very dangerous driving conditions."

The campaign will encourage every Arizonan to participate by using trash receptacles, carrying a litterbag in the car and reporting littering on the Arizona Clean & Beautiful litter hotline. Call the toll free hotline at **1-877-3LITTER** (1-877-354-8837).

A Clean Sweep at Chase Field

The Diamondbacks game on Saturday, June 24, was more than just another day at the ballpark for Arizona's Adopt a Highway (AAH). In fact, it was a first in terms of recognizing outstandingvolunteers and corporate sponsors.

AAH volunteer Bill Jeffers and Victor Mendez

Complimentary tickets were provided to a number of group representatives, including Mr. And Mrs. Michael Allen of Safford, Bill Jeffers and his wife of the Holbrook/Painted Desert Kiwanis, and, representing the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge group, Deborah Pike's son, Travis Southall, and his friend Jonathan Stine.

In a special pre-game ceremony, Diamondbacks manager Bob Melvin, along with Gail Lewis, representing Governor Napolitano and Victor Mendez, Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation, presented AAH corporate sponsor Jobing.com with a certificate of appreciation. Jobing.com

left to right: David Dickens, Matthew Moses, Brian Mohr, Victor Mendez, Gail Lewis, and Bob Melvin

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A Clean Sweep at Chase Field

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sponsors more than 45 miles of highway in Phoenix and Flagstaff. Senior Vice President of Operations Brian Mohr, along with Market Managers Matthew Moses and David Dickens, received the certificate.

After the presentation, and to everyone's delight, Governor Napolitano unexpectedly visited the sponsors.

The AAH public service announcement was played on the stadium big screen, and AAH and Arizona Clean & Beautiful representatives worked in Chase Field's Community Corner booth handing out litter-bags and Pitch In, Pitch Out flyers.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Allen and Victor Mendez

In the end, although the D-backs lost, it was a clean sweep for AAH. Volunteers gained recognition. Corporate sponsors received acknowledgement. And the public at large learned more about AAH.

It's quick as a click:

AAH activity reporting goes online

Beginning this fall, Adopt a Highway groups will be able to report their pickup activity online instead of by mail. This will save a stamp and the trip to the mailbox, and will make the job of tracking AAH activity a lot more efficient for ADOT. If you don't have computer access, don't worry. You can still mail in your activity postcard to your District Office as you have in the past. For more information, please contact Stephanie Brown, Communication & Community Partnerships Statewide Adopt a Highway Coordinator, at sbrown@azdot.gov.

Proposition 400 Funds in Action

Proposition 400 provided additional financial support for more litter abatement in Maricopa County. Allocated through the Maricopa Association of Governments' Regional Council and Transportation Policy Committee, these funds are already being applied by ADOT to make the Regional Freeway System cleaner.

Eleven litter pickup crews are active, with authorization to hire an additional crew, if necessary. Two crews are poised for same-day response and more frequent pickups at hot spots. In addition, three new inspectors have been hired to oversee landscaping, litter removal, and sweeping.

Lane sweeping is being increased in urban and some suburban areas. Two additional PM-10 sweepers were acquired this year. Also, to get the word out, messaging on electronic freeway signs (DMS) are promoting cleaner habits by drivers and reminding drivers to secure loads. Working together with existing government programs, volunteer efforts, and greater cooperation from the public at large, these Prop 400 enhancements should significantly boost highway litter cleanup in Maricopa County.

Electronic freeway sign on State Route 51

volunteer spotlight

Southeast Arizona Clean and Beautiful

The Volunteering Spirit Soars

In Safford, just about everyone benefits from the good work done by Southeast Clean and Beautiful (SEACAB). They regularly pick up litter between milepost markers 135 – 136 on SR 191, but that's only the beginning. From Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cleanup projects throughout Graham Country, to beautification efforts for the streets and roads in the local communities, SEACAB is a powerful force for fighting litter all over the region.

This dynamic grass roots organization was founded by Jay Rasco, who was inspired by a group of Boy Scouts doing an Eagle project to clean up a favorite local area called "Red Knolls", which had been used as a dumpsite. Jay was so impressed, he decided a permanent group was needed to keep up the good work.

Clel Flake, Graham County CFO, helped Rasco and others to start SEACAB. Volunteers were solicited from the local communities, Federal, State and local agencies and businesses. Rachael Walker, City of Safford, has served as Secretary. From BLM, first Bonnie Winslow and now Deborah Morris have served on the Board. John Bonafas, retired Safford School Principal, also is a great asset to the organization.

"There are some who think volunteerism is dead," says Jay Rasco, "I certainly hope that is not true."

If SEACAB is any measure, Rasco has nothing to worry about. But they are always looking for more people to help. Catch SEACAB's spirit of volunteering and help keep the Safford District clean and beautiful. For more information, please call Jay Rasco at 928-428-2820.

What's in a name?

Even One Lamp Dispels the Dark, SR64: The Zen of Litter Removal

Our AAH volunteers are obviously inspired people, or they wouldn't be out working so diligently to keep our roads clean. Often this inspiration is reflected in the unique names people pick for their groups. In this newsletter, and in issues to come, we will share with you the creative and personal ways people have found to add meaning to their AAH activity through the names they've selected.

Bob Audretsch is a National Park Service Ranger living in the Flagstaff District. He based this group's name on a traditional Zen teaching, that says: "Even a single lamp dispels the darkness." Audretsch modified it due to limited space on the sign, but his message comes through with crystal clarity. As he puts it:

"I feel like I make a difference by picking up trash and I love being able to see the results of my work immediately. How many jobs can give people that immediate gratification in this modern age?"

Audretsch is responsible for two additional sections of Highway 64 near the Grand Canyon. In case you were wondering, the other two have slightly more obvious names: Ranger Bob and Sierra Club.

DISTRICT • NEWS

ARIZONA ROUNDUP

ADOT AAH activities are coordinated by various District Offices across the state.

Phoenix: Innovation worth mentioning

Any invention that can make picking up litter more efficient is a welcome development. In Phoenix, Jeff Knapp and Ken Klippert offer the Klippert 1600. It's a PVC pipe with rubber foam grip used to hold your trash bag open, even in windy weather.

They pick up on SR 87 at milepost 216. Their group works in memory of Knapp's daughter, Tarina Brooke Knapp who passed away in 2003. Klippert at first used a stick to hold his bag open, but the PVC is lighter and won't tear the bag.

Jeff Knapp and Cipe Trillo

"I got flustered with the wind out there, and thought there has to be a better way," says Klippert. "People are doing a good thing picking trash, so why not make the job a little easier."

You can make your own Klippert 1600 with materials from any hardware store. Or you can have Knapp and Klippert make you one for the minimal charge of $1.00. For more information, call Jeff Knapp at 480-827-2166.

Double duty in Prescott

In Prescott, special recognition goes to Richard and De Maloney who pull double duty for AAH. They have participated with the Payson United Methodist Church AAH program on SR 87, MP 252-253 since 1998. In addition, Richard and De Maloney have had their own AAH location on SR 87, MP 258-259 since 2001. Between these two locations, they pick up trash an average of eight times per year. Richard also does volunteer work for the Forest Service and on behalf of Habitat For Humanity.

On the road again in Flagstaff

Chuck King reports that Flagstaff volunteers are starting to hit the roads for cleanup now that the weather has become more mild. The AAH phone line there is warming up as well, with two to three calls per day coming in from people interested in volunteering. According to King, everybody seems to have a hand in creating the litter including truckers, travelers and locals. So it makes sense that more people are pitching in to help. Two groups in particular stand out for their stellar efforts. They are El Cristo Rey Catholic Chapel-Grand Canyon on SR64 and Keep Sedona Beautiful on SR89A. Here's to a job well done.

Triple team in Yuma

Ladd Bouts reports that pickups slowed down for the summer in Yuma. Nevertheless, he does want to recognize the good work of all 89 AAH volunteer groups in the district, covering a total of 151 miles. In particular, he gives special notice to three groups. The first is Vietnam Veterans of America, who are always out there, in any weather, picking up trash. They work a particularly challenging stretch of Interstate 8, where litter from produce haulers abounds. The Bahai of Yuma also do great work, picking up three to four extra times a year. In addition, the employees of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge are extremely effective, not only picking up trash, but hauling it away with them.

ARIZONA ROUNDUP: *Cont'd*

Holbrook: Kiwanis make cooperation their priority

The Painted Desert Kiwanis has been dedicated to AAH in the Holbrook District since 1989. That in itself is a solid track record of consistency. But they've also been extremely accommodating of the community at large. Twice they have relinquished mile sections in order to allow others to participate. The first time, in 2000, was for a family who had lost their mother in a fatal accident, and so felt a particular connection to that stretch of road. Then again, in March 2006, the Kiwanis moved to accommodate the widow of a Superior Court Judge who wanted a section for its proximity to the county court house. So kudos to the Kiwanis for doing a great job, while considering the priorities of others as well.

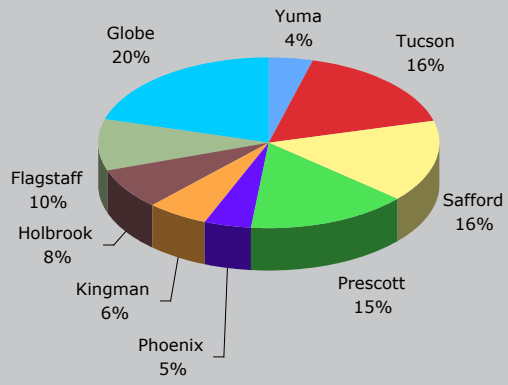
Holbrook has 168 groups who cover 402 miles of road. But without a doubt the most popular section of road is SR 87 South between Winslow and Clints Well, preferred for the cool shade of its tall pines!

Sold out in Safford

Here's a problem we love to write about. In fact, we wish every district had the same difficulty. Armando Membrila tells us that AAH is so popular in Safford there are simply no more miles available at this time. Typically, if an area does becomes available, it's usually snapped up pretty quickly by someone else. Now that's community spirit in action. Congratulations to Safford. Enjoy riding those well-kept roads, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are making the difference.

AAH Volunteers by District

There are 2,235 volunteer groups covering 2,467 miles of highway in Arizona. The chart below shows the percentage of total volunteers by district.



Get Involved In AAH In Your Area

If your business would like to sponsor a segment of highway, visit: www.azdot.gov and click on Adopt a Highway for a list of pre-approved maintenance providers.

Arizona Districts

Flagstaff District Office (928) 779-7558
Includes Flagstaff, Sedona, Cameron, Page, Fredonia, Littlefield

Globe District Office (928) 402-5608
In addition to Miami/Globe, also covers Snow Flake, Show Low, St. John's, Young, Winkleman

Holbrook District Office (928) 524-6801 x201
Includes Holbrook, Chinle, Kayenta, Winslow, Second Mesa, Window Rock

Kingman District Office (928) 681-6019
In addition to Kingman, also includes Lake Havasu, Bullhead City, Seligman, Wikieup

Phoenix District Office (602) 712-6552
Covers the central Phoenix Metropolitan area

Prescott District Office (928) 777-5875
Includes Prescott, Camp Verde, Wickenburg, Cordes Junction, Payson

Safford District Office (928) 428-5470
In addition to Safford, also covers Morenci, Bisbee, Sierra Vista, Willcox, Benson

Tucson District Office (520) 388-4232
In addition to Tucson, also covers Ajo, Casa Grande, Nogales

Yuma District Office (928) 317-2106
Includes Yuma, Gila Bend, Quartzite

If your business would like to sponsor a segment of highway, visit www.azdot.gov/highways/adoptahwy/SAAH.asp or call us at **602-712-7355** for a list of pre-approved maintenance providers.

Calendar Info

October 24-27, 2006: Annual International Adopt a Highway Association Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska. For additional information, contact Denise Wallman, dwallman@dor.state.ne.us

October 30, 2006: Governor's Pride in Arizona Awards and Luncheon, Scottsdale Valley Ho. For more information, visit www.arizonacleanandbeautiful.org or call Linda Stiles, 602-262-2532

November 2006: Arizona Clean & Beautiful Wine Tasting/Silent Auction. For more information, call Linda Stiles, 602-262-2532

Contact Info

For general information about AAH, please email us at info@azdot.gov or call us at 602-712-7355.