



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

Meetings are held at the
Encanto Park Clubhouse
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
North of Encanto Blvd., On 15th Ave.
Phone (602) 261-8993

The next regular society meeting will be
Monday, November 3, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided
This month beverages will be furnished
by: Bob MacLeod
Edibles will be provided by:
Jarka Kazda and David Wehrli

Janet Jurn,
Refreshment Coordinator
(623) 386-2741

NEXT OSA BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be
Sunday, October 26, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.
Hosted by Norma Kafer
Please contact Norma at (602) 252-6197
for directions to her home,
if you plan to attend
The meeting is open to all OSA members

GROWER ON CALL

Joe Freasier
(602) 840-4046

November Program

Problems With Phalaenopsis Culture and How to Solve Them

Our speaker, **Bob Gordon**, is the eminent Phalaenopsis "evangelist" who has written several best-selling orchid culture manuals and a book of tips on garden writing for newsletters and magazines. Bob is convinced that Phals are the only orchids to grow. "Nuestra Señora de Las Orquídeas" (Our Lady of the Orchids), is the subtitle on the link on OSA's website to Bob's Phal books.

Bob is a retired US Air Force Officer who lives with his wife, Alice, on a mountain top near Running Springs, CA. His Curriculum Vitae includes: "Past President (several times) of the California Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society" and Honorary Member of OSA for 23 years.

Members and guests who did not have the privilege of hearing Bob speak at our October, 2000 meeting, will hear a lively presentation. Bob encourages growers to ask questions during his presentations, so bring your questions and/or any "problem" Phal you might have. (Please keep plants with potential problems isolated from other plants at the meeting.)

Newer OSA members might be interested to know that Bob has DONATED at least 6 CASES of his books for use in our school programs! Each class receives a book which remains in the classroom, in the custody of the teacher.

Copies of Bob's books will be available for sale at the meeting, and Bob has offered to sign both new purchases and copies already owned by members and guests.

(The URL for Laid-Back Publications is <http://members.js-net.com/orchid>) There is also a link on OSA's website, to Laid-Back Publications (<http://www.phalbooks.com/>)

Program notes and bio by W. Stimmell



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From the President's Desk

Lou Ann Remeikis

I will try to keep this section of the newsletter short as I have submitted the show information for this publication. I know the show information is lengthy, however it is very important. It is important that *YOU* pitch in, in any way *YOU* can, which will contribute to the success of the show!

I want to clarify one statement I wrote: "No plant preview – show opens to members and the public at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday & Sunday". In previous years we have allowed members to enter early and this led to chaos and confusion when the doors opened for the day's show. Some of those members had "grouped" plants together before the doors opened and when the doors opened, other members (not to mention the general public) entered and were at a distinct disadvantage for getting a chance at purchasing plants they wanted. The "grouped" plants were scooped up and unavailable. The goal of the show *IS* to sell all of the plants, but it is our goal to make the sale inventory available to all in a fair way. My hope is that everyone will understand the need for this policy.

We have some great plants for the sale thanks to the stock we found at Gubler's Orchids! On October 2nd, Joe Bacik and five gals (Sharon Davis, Julie Rathbun, Norma Kafer, Wilella Stimmell and I) went to Gubler's 8th Annual Orchid Festival in Landers, California. We had a great time! A lot of work went into the weekend, but I can honestly say we are all looking forward to doing it again next year!

Several months ago, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to make Chris Gubler an Honorary Life Member to OSA. Chris has continuously for many years supported OSA's beliefs and philosophies. OSA's Community Service Programs have been made possible because of Chris' generosity and selfless contributions, and we had the opportunity to present this honor to him, in person, while attending a Rotary dinner as his guests. We even had a ceremony, of sorts, and hung his plaque in the showroom of his retail greenhouse business! We felt as honored to be a part of that as I believe Chris was to receive the award!

Chris e-mailed a statement he wanted me to read to the OSA membership. This was read at the October meeting, and I want everyone to know his words (for those members who were unable to attend). Chris wrote, *"I would like to thank the Board of Directors, and the general membership of the Orchid Society of Arizona for the Lifetime Honorary Membership. It is truly an honor; it was unexpected, and it was my first. You always remember your first! The only society that I belong to is OSA. I believe in the programs you offer, and the tremendous efforts that some of the members put into these programs. Together we make a difference. Again, my heart felt thanks and I hope to see the membership soon. With best personal regards, Chris Gubler"*.

I am very pleased to welcome five new members to our family! Kathleen Clifton and Linda Bonds mailed their membership forms to Wilella, and James Lauck, Roy Castle, and Cynthia Schnitzer joined during our October meeting. Please join me in making them feel a part of our "family"!

We also had several guests at the October meeting, and hopefully they were as entertained by Mike Davis' presentation on beer as I was. It was a fun meeting for them to attend, and I hope we see them again. I know several of our guests were visiting from out of state, but I hope they attend the next time they visit!

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From the President's Desk

For those members who were not in attendance at the October meeting, I would like to make an announcement about a problem experienced by subscribers of Orchid Digest. Subscribers of Orchid Digest should verify they received the April-May-June issue (Vol. 67, No. 2). A few of us discovered we had not received this issue, and contact was made with Orchid Digest. Orchid Digest advised that all subscribers were mailed Vol. 67, No. 2, however some – not all – never received their copy. Orchid Digest will resend your copy if you did not receive it. One catch – once they run out of their extra copies, they can do nothing about replacing your missing issue. Contact them ASAP if you are a subscriber and did not receive this issue.

Don't forget – the 2004 Board of Directors for the Orchid Society of Arizona will be chosen by membership vote at the November meeting. The Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers and Trustees for 2004 was published in the October newsletter. I want to thank the Nominating Committee for putting the slate together. It is a time-consuming task to call everyone and talk them into...uh, learn of their willingness to run for a Board position, and publish the list. Jim Johnson, Doug Baldwin and Bob MacLeod – thank you for a job well done!

Continued wishes for improved health to Pearl Bays – we miss you at our meetings!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting AND at the Orchid Mardi Gras Show & Sale! Until then...

Happy Growing,

Lou Ann Remeikis

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct inquiries to our website at:

[Http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz](http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz)

Or to any of the board officers or trustees

Board of Directors for 2003

President	Lou Ann Remeikis	(480) 892-0263 remeikis@dancris.com
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The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization dedicated to community service and the study of orchids. It is affiliated with the American Orchid Society, The Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, and Biosphere 2 Center.



Thank you for your October Raffle Table Donations



Alan Ladd, Diana Sibley, Cynthia Schnitzer, John Atwood, Lou Ann Remeikis,
Sharon Davis, Wilella Stimmell and OSA

ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME NEWS

by Wilella Stimmell

For those of you who know that each month, a few OSA members, on behalf of ALL OSA members, personally donate an assortment of 12-packs of soda pop for the ASVH gift shop, and who attended our October meeting, you know that I read an article I submitted to our Editor for inclusion in our October newsletter. Cyber-gremlins interfered, and our Editor did not receive my submission. I opted to read the article, a remembrance of Jim Bishop, President of the Residents' Council, ASVH, at our meeting.

Jim had an assortment of serious health problems and came to live at the newly-opened ASVH in 1995. Although he was confined to a wheelchair, Jim was very optimistic! Every month when I made soda pop deliveries, he was waiting outside the gift shop. I always enjoyed visiting with him. On the day I delivered the September "load" of soda pop, Jim was NOT waiting outside the gift shop. I asked Grace, "Where's Jim?" I was not prepared to learn of his sudden death. Grace reported that everyone at ASVH was shocked at the news of Jim's death.

(To recap: Jim served three tours of duty during the Korean Conflict. He was a Tank Commander assigned to the 761st Tank Battalion of the 3rd Armored Division. He was wounded several times before he was discharged, and at the time of his discharge from the Army, he had earned the rank of Sergeant First Class. Master Sergeant Audrey Tucker, one of James' 18 nieces, wrote her uncle's obituary. Jim was interred at the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road.)

OSA's monthly donations of soda pop for the gift shop at ASVH, helped make Jim's last years feel a bit less institutional. And it has been my privilege to befriend Jim and other veterans.

The October delivery of soda pop was a happier occasion. I met a new ASVH resident who was very pleased to know that he could use his bingo scrip to "purchase" cans of soda pop. **(There are about 200 other veterans in residence at ASVH, and they literally descend on the gift shop after soda pop is delivered. So keep those 12-packs coming! EACH MONTH we donate 5-8 CASES of assorted flavors of soda pop! Sharing and caring about others are the hallmarks of OSA!)**

More happy news: **GRACE KOBESCH**, Arizona State Veteran Home Volunteer and former WAC (Women's Army Corps), will be inducted into the Arizona State Veterans Hall of Fame in a ceremony which will be held on November 6! (The first state to start a Veteran Hall of Fame was Ohio. The program started in Arizona in May, 2001, and is based on the Ohio program.) Grace served from 1942 through 1945 and was stationed at various bases, but her last posting was perilous...in the Pacific, on Biak Island, which is about 60 miles south of the equator, near New Guinea. You probably can't find Biak Island on an atlas, but suffice to say that during World War II, the island dominated the strategic Geelvink Bay. Its coral airstrips were suitable for heavy bombers. But...the enemy was entrenched in caves on the island. Violent clashes of forces occurred, and sweet, little Grace was there! She told me that there were others more deserving of being inducted into the Arizona State Veteran Hall of Fame, but I think she truly deserves the honor. Make a point to stop by the gift shop and congratulate Grace! She continues to serve, in the capacity of a tireless volunteer at ASVH!

(For those interested in World War II history, check out the US Army Campaigns in WWII: New Guinea, transcribed and formatted for HTML by Patrick Clancey, HyperWar Foundation, <http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/USA-C-NewGuinea/>)

Other ASVH News: In September, as a member of the West Central District of the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, OSA took its turn providing centerpieces for the ASVH dining rooms. 10 blooming mini-phals were delivered to Diane Mcguire, Recreation Therapist. And in October, the member clubs in the West Central District will be donating 2 centerpieces per group, for the ASVH dining rooms. Also in October, OSA will donate 30 pumpkins for the ASVH craft class. (Residents in the Alzheimer's Unit paint the pumpkins before Halloween. NO knives are involved!)

IT'S SHOWTIME

Items Needed From OSA Members for the "Orchid Mardi Gras" Show & Sale:

Mardi Gras props and decorations meeting the float themes (Roman Greco, Asian, and Celestial) are needed. Your blooming orchids for the various displays are needed, too! White flat sheets are needed for table tops (they'll probably get dirty/stained so don't lend us your best).

Miscellaneous items needed include hammers, nails, duct tape, masking tape, screwdrivers, ladders, paper towels, string, fishing line, etc. Additionally, if you have any cassette tapes or CD's featuring Dixie Land-type music or New Orleans jazz please bring them for the music to be played during the show. It will help set the Mardi Gras mood to have the music playing.

Set-up at the Encanto Park Clubhouse is scheduled for Friday, November 7th, at 12:00 Noon! This will be a fast marathon folks! Set-up must be completed by 5:00 PM. We need *YOUR* help to set up, decorate, and arrange blooming orchid plants on the Mardi Gras floats. *All member display plants need to be at the Encanto Park Clubhouse on Friday* (even if you cannot stay to help complete the set-up)!

*****IMPORTANT*****

If you provide display plants and property for the Orchid Mardi Gras Show & Sale, and want them returned, please label your stuff!

Members are asked to donate cookies for the show's refreshment table. OSA will be serving cookies and coffee from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both show days, so all donations will be appreciated. Wilella Stimmell has graciously donated the coffee that will be served continuously on Saturday and Sunday.

In the past, show workers have brought food (not intended for the refreshment table) that is shared with other workers who also bring food to share. We will again encourage this, as many times show workers do not have the opportunity to leave the show to eat lunch. The show days are very long, and unless other food is brought by the workers, the donated cookies do not make a good choice for lunch!

Show & Sale Worker Schedule Sign-up Sheet will be circulated at the November meeting! Come to the November meeting with an idea of when *YOU* can help during the show days. Your assistance for a couple of hours, a half day, full day, or both days will be greatly appreciated! Set-up and tear-down assistance is also encouraged! Tear down will be Sunday at the conclusion of the show (5:00 pm). We must have the show dismantled and removed from the Clubhouse by 6:00 pm, so please make arrangements to be there to retrieve your show contributions, or make arrangements for someone to take your things home with them for retrieval by you at your convenience!

NO PLANT PREVIEW

SHOW OPENS TO MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC AT 9:00 A.M. ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

International Orchid Conservation Congress II Registration Forms Available

At each of our monthly meetings from June, 2003 through April, 2004, registration forms for the International Orchid Conservation Congress II, will be available on our raffle ticket sales table. The Congress will be held at Selby Gardens, Sarasota, FL, May 16-21, 2004.

OSA was the FIRST orchid society to donate funds for the IOCC! The goal of the organizing committee is to have funds available so that scientists from Third World countries will be able to attend the congress. Your OSA Board of Directors voted unanimously at our March 2 Board Meeting, to donate funds for the IOCC.

October Program Notes

Mike's Brew was a great topic to cover with OSA members! Mike Davis put together an informative hand-out – "The Not So Art of Making Beer". The hand-out is a great reference for anyone wanting to make their own beer for their orchids (or personal consumption). Beer is usually provided to orchids during the hot time of the year to assist the plants in using the readily available amino acids (sugar) found in the brew.

As I have never personally used beer to supplement my fertilizing regime, I do know some of our members who have had success using this method. Wilella Stimmell reported at the meeting that she uses a ratio of 16-1 (water-beer) when she waters her orchids. If I remember correctly, she said she does this a couple of times each month during the summer. This readily makes the food available to the plants for healthier foliage and blooms!

I want to thank Mike for putting a humorous spin on the beer presentation! Mike's informative presentation of this topic was well received and generated some really good questions. But...were the questions related to making a better brew for drinking or for the orchids? :-)

I encourage anyone who serves beer to their young plants (under 21 is okay in this instance), or their older established specimens, to give us an evaluation on whether they believe this feeding method is beneficial. Of course we are soon going to be seeing cooler weather and I know this beer treatment is best used on the orchids during the stressful heat of the summer. Anyone who does experiment with this method is invited to report to the membership their results. (Note: If you do not have a large orchid collection, you can substitute homebrew with a bottle of dark ale-type beer found at your local stores).

Lou Ann

MORE NEWS

ROSTER PAGE UPDATE: There will be a 2003 OSA Membership Roster Page Update available at our meeting on November 3. Be sure to pick up a copy. They will be available on the raffle ticket sales table. This is the LAST roster update for 2003!

OSA'S DONATION OF BOOKS TO PHOENIX PUBLIC LIBRARY - For benefit of our newer members, you might like to know that in 1996, OSA made an initial donation of books from OSA's library, to Phoenix Public Library. (It had become impossible for us to keep track of the books in our library, and when we compared an inventory of our library that had been made in 1986, with the inventory we made in 1996, we discovered that quite a few books had developed "feet"! The 1996 OSA Board voted to donate the lion's share of our valuable books to PPL and to get out of the "book police" business. This action also made available to the entire community, a valuable resource.) Since our "core" donation, each year we donate additional reference works that were not in the initial donation. We keep track of all books we have donated to PPL, and as of October 8, 2003, the value of the books we have donated exceeds \$5941.00! We do not recalculate the value of previously donated books, even those that are now out of print and only available from rare book dealers. We simply add the value of a current donation to the value of previous donations.

The Orchids of the Yavita-Maroa Road

September 2003 Expedition

Report

Thanks to funding from the Orchid Society of Arizona and the Orchid Research Fund of the New York Botanical Garden, I was able to re-visit the Yavita-Maroa road in Venezuela's Amazonas state. Background on this project can be found at:

www.huh.harvard.edu/research/staff/romero/maroa.html

The field trip started in Boston, Massachusetts, from where I flew to Caracas, Venezuela, on August 26, 2003. During the next three days I retrieved my permit to collect botanical samples from the appropriate government office (Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales Renovables), bought some supplies, and visited the National Herbarium (VEN). On Saturday, August 30, I attempted to fly to Puerto Ayacucho, the capital of the state of Amazonas, as I had done for the past 20 years. To my surprise, the daily flights to this town had been reduced to one (from up to three flights some five years ago), and the plane was a small craft that could carry only 12 passengers and hardly any cargo (it had a 10-kilogram limit per passenger). Between photographic equipment, food, and supplies, I was carrying over 60 kilograms, and I had to take "taxis" to and from Puerto Ayacucho. This was a 16-hour journey that, going south, took me across the Coastal Cordillera to the plains (Los Llanos), then south to Puerto Páez *via* San Fernando de Apure (crossing along the way the overflowing Capanaparo and Sinaruco rivers on small "chalanas", scows powered by outboard engines that could carry 4–6 vehicles at a time). At Puerto Páez we cross the Meta and the Orinoco rivers on a much larger "Chalana", this time powered by a small tugboat, that took us to El Burro. From this "settlement" in the south-western edge of the state of Bolívar, we drove south to Puerto Ayacucho.

I spent the next four days getting my permit properly signed, making reservation to fly to and from Maroa (my final destination), buying food and supplies, and getting field equipment ready. Particular study sites around Puerto Ayacucho were scrutinized in the early mornings or evenings trying to locate any orchids in flower. These study sites are unique, island-like habitats in grassy savannas, such as "morichales", biologically diverse communities dominated by the palm *Mauritia flexuosa* L.f., and "lajas" or granitic outcrops, which were established when I first moved to Puerto Ayacucho in the early 1980s. On several outings I was able to collect a rare species of *Cleistes* (which, in the past, was described as *C. rosea* Lindl. var. *pallida* Carnevali & I. Ramírez, but it is different from *C. rosea* and should probably be elevated to the rank of species), and found a few remnants of orchids formerly abundant around town such as *Catasetum bergoldianum* Foldats, *C. pileatum* Rchb.f., *Cattleya violacea* (H.B.K.) Rolfe, *Cyrtopodium graniticum* G. A. Romero & Carnevali, *Epidendrum ibaguense* H.B.K., *E. purpurascens* H. Focke, *E. stanfordianum* Bate-man, *Oncidium* [*Cohniella*] *cebolleta* Jacq., *O. orthostates* Ridley ex Thurn, *Pleurothallis granitica* Luer & G. A. Romero, and *Schomburgkia heidii* Carnevali. It is worth noting that many of these species have practically disappeared in the vicinity of around Puerto Ayacucho due to overcollecting for commercial purposes (especially plants of *Catasetum pileatum* and *Cattleya violacea*) or to degradation/destruction of their habitats (especially species found on granitic outcrops, such as *Catasetum bergoldianum* and *Oncidium orthostates*).

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A particularly sad case is a "morichal" just 1.5 km south of Puerto Ayacucho, where many rare plant species had been reported in the past, such as *Brocchinia* sp. (Bromeliaceae), *Epistephium parviflorum* Lindl. and *Otostylis brachystalix* (Rchb.f.) Schltr. (Orchidaceae), species in genera usually associated with habitats at higher altitudes or on white-sands further south. The population of *Brocchinia* is now locally extinct and only a few plants of the three other rare species have survived the intense savanna fires of the past few years.

I flew to Maroa September 3 in a Cessna 206, accompanied by my guide and collaborator Carlos Gómez. It took us about two hours to reach our destination, Maroa, along the Guanía river (from a town further north, Victorino, all the way down to its junction with the Casiquiare, the Guanía river serves as the border between Colombia and Venezuela). In Maroa we stayed with the Sandalio Family. We worked and slept in the addition to their house, a second floor above the area we had occupied in the 1990s. As in April 2002, there were no walls, but the space available to us had plenty of ventilation and room to press plants, setup a rudimentary photographic studio, and to hang our hammocks. We were bothered by a few insect pests, particularly one species of mosquito (versus 2--3 species in April 2002) in the early and late evening. We were bitten repeatedly when, after going to our hammocks, any part of our bodies happened to be next to the protective netting. Although the welts their many bites caused were bothersome, malaria was not a concern since none of the existing mosquito species in the area is known to transmit this dreaded disease. One species of black flies (*Simulium* sp.) was especially nasty in the early morning, and we caught our share of ticks and chiggers in the field. As for the past 15 years, the bathroom and shower facilities left a lot to be desired.

We spent the next seven days (September 4–10) documenting orchids along the Yavita-Maroa road. We collected a total of 46 species, including eleven new records for the Orchidaceae checklist of the Yavita-Maroa road:

Pleurothallis sp. [epiphyte; new at least to Venezuela, possibly a new species];

Brassia sp. II [epiphyte];

Cleistes aff. *triflora* (C.Schweinf.) Carnevali & Ramírez [terrestrial on white sand];

Cleistes aff. *unifoliata* (C.Schweinf.) Carnevali & Ramírez [terrestrial on white sand];

Coryanthes sp. [epiphyte; most likely a new species];

Encyclia sp. [a large epiphyte];

Epidendrum sp. [epiphyte; in the *E. nocturnum* Jacq. complex, possibly a new species];

Epistephium sp. [terrestrial on white sand, flowers larger than two previously reported species];

Lophiaris aff. *nanum* (Lindl.) Braem [epiphyte];

Rodriguezia sp. [epiphyte, plants much larger than *R. lanceolata* Ruiz & Pav.];

Myoxanthus trachychlamys (Schltr.) Luer [epiphyte].

The following species, although reported previously based on vegetative features, were photographed for the first time during this trip:

Octomeria surinamensis H. Focke;

Pleurothallis kerryi Braga;

Xerorchis amazonica Schltr.;

Zygosepalum lindeniae (Rolfe) Garay & Dunsterv.

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Additionally, flowering material collected during this field trip allowed the identification of the following three species previously misidentified or identified to the rank of genus:

Coryanthes senhasiana Gerlach;

Habenaria avicula Schltr.;

Octomeria scirpoidea (Poepp. & endl.) Rchb.f.;

Among the sites where we collected, I should emphasize "Sabana El Venado" [Sabana Venado" locally], along the eastern margin of Caño Pimichin, a savanna Basset Maguire and collaborators surveyed in 1957. To my knowledge, our collections from April 2002 and from the present expedition represent the only collections from this site made since Maguire's expedition.

We flew back to Puerto Ayacucho (this time in a smaller and a much older plane, a 4-seat Cessna 182 that could barely hold our cargo) in the late afternoon of September 10. I returned to Caracas On September 15 (reversing my Caracas-Puerto Ayacucho journey), and I flew back to Boston on September 23.

The following table presents a summary of the collections made on this trip (and I should emphasize that my current permit restricts my collections to Orchidaceae, although occasional collections in other families, especially in areas poorly collected, are usually "tolerated"):


Eriocaulaceae	1
Gentianaceae	2
Orchidaceae	46
Rapataceae	1
Theaceae	1
Xyridaceae	13
TOTAL	64

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OSA November 2003 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3 OSA MEETING 7:00 P.M.	4	5	6	7  Peggy Stejskal	8 Orchid Mardi Gras 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
9 Orchid Mardi Gras 9:00 AM-5:00 PM	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17  Jeff Armstrong	18	19	20  Alana Johnson	21	22
23/ 30 John Atwood	24  Madeleine Heberling	25	26	27 Rhonda Woodward THANKSGIVING 	28	29



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November 2003 Newsletter