

RRHS Newsletter September 2022

# The Rio Rico Voice



[www.rioricohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.rioricohistoricalsociety.org)

Rio Rico Historical Society, PO Box 4201, Rio Rico, Arizona 85648

*Dear members of the Rio Rico Historical Society,*

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer break, enjoying family and travels. Even though we did not hold a General Meeting or a Board Meeting in July, Board members were busy behind the scenes.

A wonderful visit to the **Amerind Museum** near Benson for a behind-the-scenes special guided tour of the collection of Rio Rico artifacts took place on July 13, 2022. The fundraising tour was limited by the museum to only 10 members. Thank you to Olivia for arranging this special tour. Olivia is in the process of arranging a second one for more members to enjoy.

## *News*

- Our **General Meeting** will take place this coming **Tuesday September 20, 2022, at 6:00 pm** at the **Rio Rico Community Center**. We are very excited about our guest speaker for our September meeting, German Quiroga, the President of the Patagonia Museum since 2009. German will give us a power point presentation on the History of Patagonia. It mostly covers the American territorial times and the development of the Town of Patagonia. He will also speak on the establishment of the Patagonia Museum and their projects ([see attached flyer](#)).
- We are also very excited about our November 15, 2022 guest speaker, our very own RRHS member **Connie Williams**, who will give us a presentation about the Santa Cruz River titled "A River Runs Through Us (see attached flyer). Please Note: This will be at 2:00 p.m. We eagerly await your comments about your time preferences for future speaking engagements ([see attached flyer](#)).

- White Elephant Grant – the Committee got together twice in person and several times over email and put together a great proposal application for the annual grant. A big thank you to all committee members (Bob, Manny, Chris, Veronica, Helen)! Manny Trujillo delivered the application in person last Saturday at the White Elephant in Green Valley.

- While we are waiting for our museum’s re-opening we are planning for six mobile photographic, educational and historical museum exhibits to be placed and rotated in prominent places around our community, depicting the Rio Rico and surrounding area’s rich history. Among those places are local libraries, schools, banks, and community lobbies. This was part of our proposal for the White Elephant Grant, and the Board will be working on details very soon, and we’ll share with all of you. We may be asking for your assistance in helping develop and present this important project.

- Our Board has been making several efforts in the pursuit of a museum location, but unfortunately, nothing has yet come to fruition.

We have intensified our efforts in finding a new location for our Rio Rico History Museum. We met with Santa Cruz County Manager, Jennifer St. John, and Jesus Valdez, County Public Works Director, and we submitted a written proposal to the Santa Cruz County Supervisors with the request for use of a portion of the Very Important Traveler building (V.I.T.) for the Rio Rico Historical Society Museum. We also recently met with Santa Cruz County Treasurer, Elizabeth Gutfahr. The answer from all of them is that the county is still using the building for Covid-19 Testing with a national grant at least until February 2023.

We also created a petition for this, and RRHS Board members set up a table at Garrett’s promoting the petition, and received over 250 signatures in one day and some donations! We have also received letters of support from the Nogales Mayor, Arthur Garino, Nogales & Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce, and Tubac Historical Society.

We are also pursuing other options including renting (even though the rent fees in Rio Rico are way above our means), and purchasing land and building our museum. Our board members are following every possible lead.

- We are planning the following **Fundraising Events** this year:

1. Visit the new home of the **Tubac Historical Society** in Tubac for a special guided tour on Friday **September 9, 2022, at 11:00am**. Our society will sponsor light lunch on their patio. Participation fee is \$20 per person. For reservations please call Veronica Sainz at 520.878.6584 or Olivia Garino at 520.227.9994.

2. Our all-new itinerary **Fall Bus Tour** will be on **Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. It will include a stop at the Calabasas Cemetery, and 3 stops in Nogales (the Historic Courthouse, Pimeria Alta Museum, and Holler & Saunders Historical Home housing unique artifacts and antiques from around the world). Olivia Garino did a fantastic job organizing this all-new itinerary bus tour. We truly thank her and everyone else who helped her ([see attached flyer](#)).

3. Our **Annual Rummage** sale is scheduled for Saturday November 19, 2022. Please get in touch with Victor Cazares, who is the Committee Chair for this event, at 520.313.5733, if you want to donate items or you want to volunteer to help.

Please support all our Fundraising Events. It is crucial for our society's continuity and expansion.

We are still looking for someone to pick up the Newsletter as Editor. I am very thankful for Veronica Sainz's editing assistance and Janice Ranck's help, who is creating a new email service for the society and will be sending out the Newsletter to all members.

Looking forward to seeing all of you very soon at our many fall events,  
Warm greetings to all,

*Helen*

Helen Serras-Herman  
RRHS President and Newsletter Editor