

# BELLASERA

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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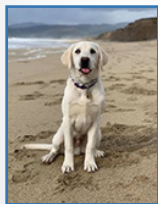
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April - 2020



# Clubhouse Corner

by Annette McCarthy & Trudy Vinger

## Annual Meeting and Board Election Postponement

The Annual Meeting has been postponed to 1:00 p.m. on **Sunday, June 21, 2020**. Notwithstanding the postponement of the Annual Meeting, the election for three open director positions will continue as authorized by our Association's By-Laws.

AAM will mail to residents the customary letter announcing the election, together with the six candidate's information sheets, a ballot and a self-addressed, postage prepaid envelope. Ballots must be returned by USPS mail in the enclosed envelope. The envelope must be signed.

Ballots must be received by AAM on or before **April 30, 2020** to be counted. Ballots received after **April 30, 2020** will not be counted.

Envelopes that are not signed will not be counted.

Ballots will be counted by AAM, and the three candidates receiving the most votes will become the new directors effective May 1, 2020.

**Web Site Search:** Bellasera's web site, **azbellasera.org**, has a wealth of information about our community. It's easy to search for whatever you're looking for by doing a Google (or equivalent) search as follows. To find everything on the site about the word "rain", enter the following: **azbellasera.org:rain** After the colon, enter any topic you wish to search for.



Photo by Paul Rippens

## Bellasera Community Events

Many of the regular monthly events held here in Bellasera have been cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus. Hopefully, things will calm down and we'll be able to continue to enjoy our time here in Arizona.

The cooking demo planned for April has been cancelled.--**Rae Culotta**

**April Wine and Cheese:** Unfortunately, we will be cancelling our April Wine and Cheese event due to the Covid-19 virus. The most important thing we can all be doing at this time is staying healthy. God willing, we hope to resume the Wine and Cheese event in May or June. Please look for future updates regarding this event in the Bellasera Newsletter.

**Bellasera Book Club** will meet on **Wednesday, April 29** at **noon** in the clubhouse. We will be discussing "*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*" by **Kim Michele Richardson**. Our pick for May is "*The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*." In the event the COVID-19 problem continues, these events may be rescheduled.

**Meetings Notice:** All April Board and Committee meeting dates & times will be posted as available.

The City of Scottsdale has postponed its annual city-wide Adopt-a-Road cleanup planned for April due to the Coronavirus. Bellasera has been participating in this twice-a-year event since 2014. We plan to be back in October of this year with our volunteer cleanup crew.



## Meeting Notices

**Board of Directors** will meet on **TBA**

**Budget & Finance Committee** will meet on **TBA**

**Building & Grounds Committee** will meet on **TBA**

**Communications Committee** will meet on **TBA**

**Modifications Committee** will meet on **TBA**.

Applications must be received in the Community Manager's office no later than **Thursday, April 4 at 12 noon**.

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### March Weather in Bellasera

(March 1 - March 31)

Highest Temperature: **81 degrees**

Lowest temperature: **37 degrees**

Rainfall: **3.10 inches**

Rainfall this year: **5.58 inches**

Bellasera weather 24/7/365: **[weather.azbellasera.org](http://weather.azbellasera.org)**

**Bellasera Weather at a Touch:** A free app for your iPhone, iPad only. Provides instant Bellasera weather information at a touch. This app is only available in the Apple App Store. In the App Store, search for "PWS Monitor" (no quotation marks). Install the free app.

Touch the gear icon at the lower left of your display.

The Settings screen will appear. Touch "Enter A Known Station ID"

Enter "KAZSCOTT79"

Touch OK.

That's it. More information, if required, is available by e-mail, **[editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)**

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### Newsletter Copy Deadline

If you have classified ads, meeting dates, or articles for publication, please e-mail to **[editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)**, or turn them in to the Association office no later than the **20th** of the month. The monthly newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee. The editor is **Keith Christian, 480-382-9310**.

Neither the Bellasera Community Association nor its Board of Directors provides any warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose, of any information contained in this newsletter in any form or manner whatsoever.

Photographs used in this newsletter are provided by residents of Bellasera or obtained from social media. Name of the photographer is included if available. If you have photographs that you would like to see used in this publication, please forward them to **[editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)**

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### City of Scottsdale Brush & Bulk Collection

The City of Scottsdale will pick up brush and bulk items in the Bellasera community during the week of **Monday, April 20**, with the next pickup the week of **Monday, May 18**. Brush and bulk items to be picked up should be at curbside by 5 a.m. at the start of the week. It will be removed during the week. **Remember, here in Bellasera, items cannot be put out prior to Friday of the previous week.** For more information, contact Solid Waste Management, **480-312-5600**.

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# APRIL 2020

## Bellasera Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pickleball-2 pm	2	3	4 Pickleball-10 am
5	6	7	8 Pickleball-2 pm Passover starts at sunset	9	10	11 Pickleball-10 am
12 	13	14	15 Pickleball-2 pm	16 Passover ends at nightfall	17	18 Pickleball-10 am
19 Brush & Bulk Pick-up	20	21	22 Pickleball-2 pm	23	24	25 Pickleball-10 am
26	27	28	29 Pickleball-2 pm Book Club - noon	30		

## B e l l a s e r a   C l a s s i f i e d s

I would like to offer private tennis lessons for adults or children. I am formerly a tennis coach with IMG Academy in Florida. My rate for lessons is \$65 an hour. Please contact **Gaby Strobeck**, call or text, **405-204-5998** or email, **gabriela@strobeck.com**. During this time of Coronavirus we would meet on an outside court and keep a 6' distance, but that won't affect our lesson.

I love living in Bellasera! Did you know that real estate inventory levels in our community are very low? I have buyers who want homes in Bellasera. Have you been thinking about making a move? Now is a great time to sell. Contact me today for a market analysis: **Audrey Fischer, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 480-740-4223 or audrey.fischer@azmoves.com**.

All about Cleaning \*\*\* Professional Window Cleaning. Inside-Outside-Tracks. Power Wash (After Monsoon season Must). Request an over the phone estimate or on-site free estimate. Call **Maria at 480-206-5237, www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**, e-mail: **Info@AllAboutCleaning Arizona.com**.

Cabin available for rent in Munds Park. 3 bedrooms, 2 sleeper sofas/2 baths; gas fireplace; fabulous deck; full kitchen; washer/dryer. \$300 weekend/\$500 for 3 night Holiday weekend. Cleaning fee negotiable. Call Bellasera resident **Marti Bening** at **480-488-4297** for details.

Bellasera Residents: The Kiwanis Club of Carefree can pick up your unwanted furniture, clothing and household goods. All items will be sold in our Marketplace resale store in Cave Creek. Proceeds go to support kids in our local school district. Contributions may be tax deductible and a receipt will be provided. Call 480-488-8400 for information and to schedule an appointment. Thanks for your support.

All About Cleaning \*\*\*Regularly scheduled Home cleaning \*\*\*One Time Cleaning \*\*\*Move In/Out cleaning \*\*\*After Remodeling Cleaning. We have excellent references from long-time Bellasera Resident customers and surrounding areas. Call **Maria at 480-206-5237** (owner-operator, Bellasera resident for over 10 years). Licensed-Bonded-Insured. **www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**, e-mail: **Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**.

Desert Dwellers Home Watching, LLC, a home watching service exclusively for Bellasera residents. Desert Dwellers is owned and operated by year-round Bellasera residents **Jennifer Brummet** and **Ross Strozewski**. We are dedicated to ensuring our neighbors have access to reliable and trustworthy home monitoring while away from their desert dwelling. We are licensed and insured and provide a variety of weekly, bi-monthly or monthly visits. We provide visual inspections of the interior and exterior of the home including, but not limited to, check of windows and doors for any potential problems, visual inspection of landscaping, run water in all sinks, bathtubs and showers (to keep traps from drying out and prevent sewer gases from entering your home), start and run vehicles, and post storm surveying. All visits include a comprehensive home watching report. For a complete list of services and to schedule a complimentary assessment contact us at **480-634-1452** or e-mail us at **ddhomewatch@gmail.com**.

*Classified Ads are only accepted from Bellasera homeowners. Real estate for sale, non-resident business or commercial ads are not accepted. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad. Your ad will run for 3 months, and may be extended upon request. E-mail your ad to: **editor@azbellasera.org***

## Here's when and how to prune your trees in Arizona

Trees are an important part of our community. Not only do they enhance your property, they can provide a cooling relief from the hot summer sun. Taking care of your trees is very important and when you live in the desert, the pruning of the trees in your yard raises a lot of questions: What time of year should pruning occur? Should they be trimmed, crowned, rounded or what? Please remember that your gardener or landscaper may not be knowledgeable in the way to properly trim trees. Rely on a Certified Arborist for the proper care of your trees.

A gardener recently trimmed some trees in Bellasera and has basically damaged these trees to a point where they cannot recover. Sucker growth will occur where the trees were topped and this growth will be weak spots subject to breakage during windy conditions. Please do not make this mistake.

**Your trees probably need to be pruned at various times of year.**

December through February is the best time to prune deciduous trees.

**“Lion’s tailing” or “topping” should never be done to your trees.**

These are improper pruning operations that make trees more vulnerable to sun and wind damage.

Topping is often done when trees grow taller and branches hit the house or hang over the roof. Tree owners think the only solution is to aggressively cut large stems to reduce the height or spread of the tree, but these cuts made at predetermined heights only encourage sprouting at the ends of the branches.



These large cuts are also the entry points for decay fungi to invade the tree.

A better method is to cut branches back to side branches at least one-third the diameter of the branches being cut. This reduces sprouting and leaves trees looking more natural.

In “lion’s tailing,” interior branches of a tree are over-pruned, leaving behind long slender limbs with a puff of foliage at the end that looks something like the tail of a lion. This technique can lead to sprouting as well as sunburn on the trunk and lower limbs on super-hot days. The heavy branch ends also collect the force of the wind and are more prone to breakage in storms.

**Most desert species should be pruned during the spring or fall.**

Spring or early summer pruning of mesquite and other vigorous desert trees can prevent damage during the summer monsoon storms.

Palo verdes are more sun-sensitive, so avoid summer pruning and, as a rule, reduce their pruning dosage. Smaller and less vigorous desert trees that don’t require preventative monsoon pruning can be pruned in the fall.

Pruning later in the year tends to hold shape longer during the fall and winter months when tree growth slows down.



# IT'S A DOG'S WORLD!



**Gracie, Emma and Sadie Bozik who let Cindy live in the house, pay the bills and give them a great life.**



**Sophie, who shares space with Stan & Phyllis green**



**The boyz, Pete & Stevie, share their home with Dave & Georgette DeMarte.**

*The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too.*

**Samuel Butle**





# *Rear View A History of Bellasera*

## **APRIL 2010**

A Board of Directors election ballot is in the mail to all homeowners. Please either return by mail, or bring to the April 25 Annual Meeting.

Anne Chernis, Susan Loiselle, Bruce Martin (later withdrawn), and Mike Simpson have applied for the 4 open Board positions. This year neither write-in candidates, or nominations from the floor, will be accepted.

Last month I commented about members' responsibilities under the CC&Rs when leasing residences. I noted that our CC&Rs require a minimal rental term of at least 30 days. Since then I have become aware of proposed legislation in the Arizona legislature addressing lease terms for planned communities. If the legislation becomes law, planned communities will not be able to regulate the minimum time a unit can be rented. If you believe our community might be adversely affected by enactment of the proposed legislation, then I urge you to contact your state representative and let your position be known.

Frank Biondo brings together aspects of impressionism and realism to his art, through the creative fusion of photography and painting. In college, Frank majored in advertising art, while also studying photography and fine art. He spent his professional career in advertising at some of New York's top ad agencies, and later established his own graphic design studio. Now he combines his love for photography and painting to create unique works of art that embody both disciplines.

Have you wanted to try Western Line Dancing or 2-step with your partner? With the help of a professional instructor, you are sure to be hooked after this event. Bring your friends, your chili and dancing shoes. Sign-up sheets include indicating whether you are bringing prize worthy chili, preferred dish or \$5 per person.

## **APRIL 2015**

A recent addition to the new Bellasera Lone Mountain Hiking Trail is a plaque and concrete bench located about part way up the trail from the Balao Drive trailhead. The plaque honors the memory of the late Bellasera resident Gregg Dittoe, one of the prime movers in establishing the trail. The bench nearby is a perfect spot for watching our spectacular Arizona sunsets.

Tony Alberto, long time resident of Bellasera, has passed away. His wife Patty wants all to know that he was a kind and giving man. He was, up until his illness occurred, a volunteer for many years at the Mayo Clinic Hospital for 2 days each week. He enjoyed very much the many friendships he had made there. He is greatly missed.

For the past five years I have been a volunteer tutor at the Paradise Valley Community College. I tutor math, physics, statistics, and computer programming.--Harold Levin

I am a volunteer with two local organizations. The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is dedicated to preserving the desert environment for the enjoyment of current and future generations. Stewards patrol the preserve at Brown's Ranch, off Alma School Road and Dynamite, and also at Gateway, off Thompson Peak Road. We also do trail maintenance, lead public hikes, and hold educational events that teach the wonders of the plant and animal life around us. To plan a visit to the 31,000 acre preserve or to get involved, check out the following website: [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org). I also am a guild member and docent at the Heard Museum, which is dedicated to the art and culture of the Native American people of the Southwest. If you haven't visited the Heard, you are in for a treat. It is on the list of the top ten attractions in the Valley of the Sun.--Pat Blix



# April In the Garden

by Joe McDade

## A Special Spring, Awash In Color And

### A Perfect Place For Social Distancing..... Your Garden!

If you are having trouble coping with the minefield of restrictions, mandates, closures and cancellations caused by the COVID-19 virus epidemic, your garden/yard is waiting for you! After all, we have plenty of time on our hands as most of our normal social activities and entertainment have been eliminated as restaurants are shut down, events cancelled and, any form of social gatherings, strictly taboo. And, to make matters worse, there are absolutely no sports on TV unless you are into UFC? Just think, we would have been in the middle of March Madness and eagerly awaiting the start of the baseball season with the Masters right behind it.

### A Perfect Spring Is Unfolding ....Dig In!

We've had a great March with plenty of rain resulting in ideal conditions that will enable you to enhance and add to the total beauty of our part of the desert. To that point, I'd like to focus on some general maintenance topics including **planting** and **pruning**, as well as some **monthly garden tips**.

### Planting

Although your summer planting should be underway, you still have time to add some additional life to your garden. Just remember to choose native plants or plants that are adapted to our high temperatures and alkaline soils. This is a good month for transplanting as you should beat the heat and have them in the ground before temperatures climb beyond 100 degrees. Some suggestions:

- **Tropical Plants** like *Bougainvillea* and *Lantana*.
- **Desert-Adapted** trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines, ornamental grasses, perennials, cacti and succulents.
- **Citrus Trees**- Remember, dwarf only and they need to be in the rear of your property.
- **Herbs**- Transplant warm-season favorites, including basil, lavender, rosemary and sage.
- **Warm-Season Veggies**-Sow seeds for *black-eyed peas*, *cantaloupe*, *cucumbers*, *jicama*, *lima beans*, *okra*, *peanuts* and *summer squashes*, such as *crookneck*, *pattypan* and *zucchini*.

### Warm Season Annual Flowers

I covered this last month and, since March temperatures continued to be kind to your winter-growing annuals, you may still have them in place. However, once again, as our temperatures begin to climb, they will decline rapidly and need to be replaced with warm season annuals. Look at it as an opportunity to add some new, bright color to your surroundings. So, when it is time to give up on them, nurseries will have great varieties and they're always glad to help you with their choices. Some suggestions are:

- *Celosia* - *Gaillardia* - *Globe amaranth* - *Portulaca* - *Gazania* - *Zinia* - *Verbena*
- *Lisianthus* - *Madagascar periwinkle* - *Marigold* - *Petunia*

## Pruning

As emphasized last month, pruning should be done to maintain plant health (remove dead, damaged or diseased portions, cross branching, etc.), to highlight the “natural” shape of the plant, to train a young plant, and to eliminate hazards. With this in mind, April is a good month for pruning as follows:

### Trees

- See separate article on Tree Trimming on Page 7
- Pruning newly planted trees and shrubs is **not recommended** and in fact can be detrimental. However, corrective pruning of broken or torn branches and/or limbs can be done at planting time. Save other pruning activities for the second or third year.
- Continue to prune summer and fall flowering shrubs by mid-month including:
  - Texas Sages**    -**Yellow Bells**    -**Lantana**    -**Turpentine Bush**
  - Mexican-honeysuckle**    - **Sky Flower**    - **Black Dalea**
- **Rosemary**- Spring growth should be well underway and, following the blossoming (which should be almost over) of its vivid blue-violet flowers, can be safely trimmed back.

**Cactus**- If **cholla** or **prickley pear** cactus become too large, they should be cut to a joint with a saw or large clippers. Remember to wear heavy gloves to protect your hands. Also, it is not necessary to treat a cut on these types of cactus if the cut is made at the joint.

**Yucca** should not be pruned unless it is necessary to remove dead or diseased stems. If you need to prune, cut back to either a joint or as low on the plant as possible and dust the wound generously with powdered sulphur until it completely dries out.

### Do you have a shrub that needs to be rejuvenated?

Shrubs that have been repeatedly sheared into unnatural shape are in a near constant state of stress and, over time, develop a thin layer of leaves that scarcely cover an unsightly interior. Give these shrubs a new lease on life by pruning them back to stems 12 to 18 inches high. Follow up a deep watering to support new growth. Don't be afraid to do this. It works.

## Monthly Garden Tasks

**Roses**- During spring's peak bloom period feed and water to promote continued flowering. Apply fertilizer every two weeks until the heat of summer begins. Water twice per week when temperatures are below 80 degrees, increasing to three times weekly when temperatures are above 80 degrees or conditions are windy, which can dry out foliage and blooms.

**Drip System**- As mentioned last month, you need to clean out sediment and algae as well as replace clogged emitters and also clean filters. Adjust your drip system to *water more frequently. How much?* This is always one of the hardest questions to answer. Generally, be sure to run your system long enough to wet the top two feet of soil. Deep, infrequent watering is much better than a daily sprinkle.

**Feed Citrus**- Fertilize trees with their second feeding of the year this month or next. Apply one-third of the tree's total annual nitrogen requirement. Water deeply after spreading the fertilizer.

**Weeding**- April and May are usually the worst months but they got upstaged this year by March. In driving around our community, it's obvious that we are attacking and winning the war.

## What's Blooming Now?

### Shrubs, Vines and Groundcover

**Bougainvillea** has been blooming for the most of the winter and, right on schedule, is now undergoing a growth spurt which will add to their intensity and luster. In addition **Penstemon**, **Fairy Duster**, **Senna** and **Lantana** are coming into their own, adding to the bouquet. It's the tip of the iceberg as a myriad of other “Bloomers” will quickly join the color parade. And, of course, we have our omnipresent Desert Marigold with its beautiful yellow flowers cropping up everywhere.



## Citrus

If you have citrus, go outdoors at night and enjoy the unmistakable beautiful, unique fragrance of citrus in full bloom.

## What Will Bloom Soon?

### Trees

Bellasera is widely populated with ***Palo Verdes*** (the desert “bean” tree) and, during the next two or three weeks, they will bloom and make the desert golden. There are four species of green-barked trees: ●***Blue palo verde*** ● ***Foothills palo verde*** ● ***Mexican palo verde*** ●***Palo Brea***.

Once pollinated, the yellow flowers will produce edible beans and, as they begin to open, their yellow to creamy blooms will create ***corridors of yellow*** throughout our community. The first to bloom will be the Blue palo verdes followed by the Foothills palo verdes, about two weeks later. The Mexican palo verdes bloom as the Foothills are finishing and can bloom through August.

### Cacti

The cacti will begin to bloom as well, with a few of the prickly pears, chollas, and hedgehogs starting off. By the end of the month, some saguaro cacti will open their big, white flowers.

## Houseplants: Maintenance

As days lengthen, houseplants begin producing fresh shoots. Gradually water more frequently and apply houseplant fertilizer according to package instructions. If roots poke out the bottom of the pot, or if growth was stunted last year, repot in fresh soil. In the process, trim or spread out encircled or overgrown roots, and wait to fertilize for a month to allow roots to re-establish. Clean and disinfect pots with a 10-percent bleach solution (1-part bleach to 9-parts water) before reusing. Don't be afraid to repot a plant! The internet has numerous sites that will help you.

## Desert Observations And Musings

**Big Mosquitos?** You may have seen them around your house or in your yard. They are huge, scary and look like the world's biggest mosquito! These flying giants actually are not mosquitos but Crane Flies. They are big with a long needle nose that looks like it's perfect for sucking blood, but the Crane Fly is harmless.

**Bright Star?** That bright star in the western sky in early evening is actually **Venus**. Take a look.

**Shifting of the Sun-** We don't change our clocks like most of the country, however, we in Bellasera, are very much aware of the shifting of the sun. First of all, we get to see a lot of the sun and a good number of our homes face north/south. Hence, the sun's shift to the back or front of your house is obvious. Our plant life is certainly aware of this also as everything on the north side of your house will finally catch up to the plantings on the south. Check it out.

**April Fool's Day Is Upon Us-** Any joke is acceptable as long as it doesn't include the phrase, “We're out of coffee”.

*“The earth laughs with flowers”* Ralph Waldo Emerson

*“To Plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow”* Audrey Hepburn

(If you have a gardening question, please contact the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Service at 602-827-8200)





## **Bellasera Community Association**

**7350 E Ponte Bella Drive  
Scottsdale, AZ 85266-2701**

Office: **480-488-0400**

Security/Front Gate: **480-488-3663**

**M-F: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.: Sat: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Sun: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Web Site: **azbellasera.org**

Weather: **weather.azbellasera.org**

Community Directory: **directory.azbellasera.org**

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Community Manager: **Annette McCarthy** ([manager@azbellasera.org](mailto:manager@azbellasera.org))

Resident Services Coordinator: **Trudy Vinger** ([manager@azbellasera.org](mailto:manager@azbellasera.org))

-Office Hours-

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Questions regarding your account?

Contact AAM, LLC: **602-957-9191** or toll free, **866-354-0257**

AAM, LLC (after hours, emergency): **602-957-9191** or toll free, **866-553-8290**

### ***Bellasera Community Volunteers***

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless*

*Interested in volunteering? Go to [azbellasera.org](http://azbellasera.org), "BCA Members" page*

#### **Board of Directors**

[board@azbellasera.org](mailto:board@azbellasera.org)

**President - Dennis Carson**

**Vice President - Joe Carlon**

**Secretary - Dennis Soeffner**

**Treasurer - David Reid**

**Director - Carl Leroux**

#### **Committees**

**Budget & Finance - ([bandf@azbellasera.org](mailto:bandf@azbellasera.org)) Audrey Fischer, Mary Moore-Chair, Chuck Roach, Carlton Rooks, Charles Schroeder, Paul Snyder**

**Buildings & Grounds - ([bandg@azbellasera.org](mailto:bandg@azbellasera.org)) John Mattox, John Nielsen, Tom Saari-Chair, Dennis Soeffner, Bruce Van Cleave, Jill Wyllie**

**Communications - ([comm@azbellasera.org](mailto:comm@azbellasera.org)) Dennis Carson, Keith Christian-Chair, Joe McDade, Carol Padwe, Paul Rippens**

**Modifications - ([mod@azbellasera.org](mailto:mod@azbellasera.org)) Stanley Green, David Hathaway, Craig Johnson, David Reid-Chair**

**Security Advisory - ([sec@azbellasera.org](mailto:sec@azbellasera.org)) Joe Carlon**

**Wildfire Safety Advisor - Paul Rippens**