

Orangewood Consulting

Introduction

Monsoons finally arrived in Arizona this month. Only two months behind the official schedule. It makes a change to see some puffy white clouds in the sky, rather than just intense blue. This month in the campaign section I talk about trying to be less confrontational and more civil. In the ramble I have started talking about "Rules to Live by": things that you recommend to your neighbors and friends.

Inside the Campaign - Richard for Arizona

I'm settling into meeting people and groups as a way of getting my name and face recognized. Meanwhile, what I thought would be the major activity, issues and policy, has become more of a background task. I realize that most issues are expressed as us against them. This allows "activation of the base" but is not conducive to finding common ground. My approach to this is to talk to all interested parties to develop what our real goal is on the issue. Often it seems to have been narrowed to make it a divisive issue. However, if we can express the goal in a way that we can all more or less agree to, we are part of the way there.

When I first moved from England to Phoenix, I was put on a pay scale that was equivalent to my local peers. This was substantially more than I had previously earned. My new boss told me that the increase in pay would allow me to do whatever I wanted...just not everything I wanted. (Thank you, Ike.) It was great advice then and continues to be so now. I am running as a moderate Democrat. What does that mean? It means that there are lots of things that Democrats want to do, but they cannot do everything they want. Call it fiscally responsible.

I have started collecting signatures to get on the ballot next year. Thank you to those of you who have already signed. If you live in Arizona Legislative District 3 (Your voter id card will have "Legislative:3" on it) please consider helping me. This [link](#) takes you to my website page that explains it all. Thanks.

The Rambler

Laurie and I were walking Lucy earlier this month; the sun had not risen above Black Mountain yet. Still, it was over 80F. We hear all about being properly hydrated and not hiking after 9:00am, for good reason in the Sonoran Desert. However, as we stopped to chat to Suzanne, we realized that there is another important rule to live by on these trails: **Carry a comb**. Plants in the Sonoran Desert evolved to be very prickly. Lots of sharp spikes to keep voracious critters at bay. One particularly vicious cactus is the Cholla. In one of its variants, it develops balls of thorns that hang on to the plant very tenuously. It's called the Jumping Cholla because some people, including me, believe that these balls will actually jump onto a passer-by. I assume this is for propagation rather than defense. The spikes are at different angles, so it hangs, painfully, on. The natural reaction is to try to grab it to pull it off, but as it is round with spikes in all directions, this is not a good idea. Dogs respond by trying to use their mouth. Hence, the need for a comb. This allows the removal of the cactus from you or your dog without attaching to any other body part.

You might ask why I think these balls jump. Or you might not, but I'll tell you anyway. For many years I heard about people holding their hands close to one of these cacti and suddenly there is a ball of thorns stuck in their hand. I figured that their hand trembled or something. Laurie and I were wandering through our local cholla forest a few years ago talking about this. I looked down and there was a cholla chunk stuck in my t-shirt. Ouch! Who has the comb?

The Rambler rambles on...

Cheers,

Richard and Laurie
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