



SADDLE BROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2007-1

KUDOS

Susan Robertshaw

Kudos to our hiking members that made our Emergency Work Days a success. They finished the lower end of a very overgrown Dear Camp Trail on Monday and the upper end on Saturday.

Each crew member had their specialty tool, so they cut the pig weed with the weed cutter, pruned Mesquite, Prickly Pear, and Cat Claw with the loppers, sheered grass with the hedge shears, and pruned small branches with the pruners. In addition, the group had a great time making cairns for the areas where the direction of the trail was questionable. I was very impressed with their creativity.

The crews especially enjoyed the wonderful pumpkin cookies that _____ sent Monday and the chocolate chip cookies and drinks that Kathy and Philip Cotton sent Friday. Plus, Elisabeth Wheeler sent M&Ms and Brownie Morsels. Thanks to the crews and the "treat" providers.

Monday's Crew: Debbie Dyer, Rick Phelps, Kent Naugle, Stan Strebig, Fred Kennedy, Greg Lindahl, Curt Hulteen.

Saturday's Crew: Cheryl Werstler, Sandra Sowell, Jim Strickler.

Monday's Crew



Saturday's Crew



WELCOME TO NEW GUIDES

Ten members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club have stepped forward to become hiking guides over the next few months. We welcome and appreciate their upcoming contributions to our club.

They are: Frank Brier, Sandy Businger, Philip Cotton, Larry Dukatz, Debbie Dyer, Dave Hydeman, Ned Meyer, Kent Naugle, Rick Phelps, and John Strada. Thank you!

ARE YOU A PERFECT 10?

1. Do you have contact information and medical alerts in your pack at all times?
2. Do you arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time for a hike?
3. When you call to schedule a hike, do you let the guide know if you are able to drive?
4. Do you wear or bring appropriate clothing for changing weather conditions (layered)?
5. When you call to schedule a hike, do you let the guide know that you have a State or National Park Pass?
6. Are a hat and sunscreen part of your normal hiking items?
7. Do you always carry an extra water bottle and power bar for emergencies?
8. Do you carry a first-aid kit?
9. Do you have a whistle in your pack and know how to signal an emergency?
10. Are you a member of SBHC?

If you answered yes to all ten questions, you are a PERFECT 10.

REVISED HIKE DESCRIPTIONS

You will note the following changes on the hikes descriptions: 1) The round trip drive mileage is included on most hikes; 2) We are converting the hikes to the total elevation change via a GPS reading. You will see "(gps)" on the ones updated; 3) The mileage cost has been increased to \$.07 per mile from the \$.05 per mile on hikes that have dirt roads.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Social Hour	Jan. 17th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Feb. 7th	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	Feb. 7th	4:00p.m.
Social Hour	Feb. 17th	4:00 p.m.

Note: Social Hours held at the MV Clubhouse in the bar area.

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at both the SaddleBrooke and MountainView Clubhouses. They are also available on our web page at www.saddlebrooke.org.

Membership is \$5.00 a year. Send your completed application or renewal to Bob Perez at 65187 E. Desert Sands Court. **Make checks payable to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club.** (Blank applications are placed behind the Newsletters in the clubhouses or are available online at our web page).

NEWS WE CAN USE

New e-mail address: If you change your e-mail address please notify Bob Perez at azsun65@wbhsi.net so you can continue to receive the newsletter and other communications.

OFFICERS

President: Susan Robertshaw - 818-6727
jsrobertshaw@wbhsi.net

Vice-President: Larry Dawson - 825-3480
madmaryann2@aol.com

Secretary: Kathy Gish - 818-0918
robkathy@msn.com

Treasurer: Jan Springer - 825-1451
Janet65673@msn.com

Chief Hiking Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler - 818-1547
elisarick@wbhsi.com

VOLUNTEERS

Chief Guide Asst.: Cheryl Werstler - 825-9057
dbwerst@wbhsi.net

Editor: Carole Rossof - 877-9262
crandmr1@msn.com

Membership Roster: Bob Perez - 818-2111
azsun65@wbhsi.net

Merchandise: Sally Sample - 825-0985

Newsletter Copies: Martha Hackworth – 818-2573

Publicity: John Robertshaw - 818-6727

Statistics & Awards: Melody Branstrom - 825-5562

Social: Cheryl Straw - 818-3631

Social Assistant: Cyndee Jordan - 825-4640

GENERAL HIKING INFORMATION

Reservations: Call the guide to make a reservation for a hike. Let the guide know if you would be available to drive and whether or not you have a 'park entry pass' for the area. If you are unable to go on the hike after making a reservation, call the guide to cancel. The guide will call if hike canceled.

Arrival Time and Departure Area: The time listed for the hike is the departure time. It is important to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time. All hikes leave from the left front parking lot of the MountainView Clubhouse (just east of the tennis courts) unless otherwise noted.

Medical Conditions: Prior to starting the hike, inform the guide of any special medical conditions or medications you may need.

Voluntary driver donations: Voluntary driver donations are shown at the end of the hike descriptions. Most include the entry and/or parking fees where required, however some hikes may require additional fees. Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView.

Items to Bring: Every hiker should carry identification and any medical alerts in a waterproof container. Always bring ample water (this can vary from a pint on a winter fitness walk to 3 or 4 quarts on a summer hike). On strenuous hikes or in very hot weather you may need to replace electrolytes (eat salty snacks, add electrolyte mix to water, or use sport drinks). A wide brim hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hiking stick or trekking poles are recommended in Arizona. Other suggested items include comfortable hiking boots, whistle, map, compass, tweezers, first-aid kit, and moleskin. Layered clothing works well due to possible changes in weather conditions. In addition, you should bring a snack or lunch depending upon the hike. High complex carbohydrates (nuts, trail mix, and etc.) are good.

Choosing Hikes: Hikes are more difficult than a walk in SaddleBrooke due to elevation change and our Arizona terrain. It is not unusual to encounter rocks, unsteady ground, and steep inclines. It is your responsibility to choose an appropriate hike that matches your physical abilities. The hike description is a great tool. Look closely at the length, elevation change, and comments in the description to determine if a hike is within your physical ability. If you aren't feeling "up to snuff" on the day of the hike, don't hesitate to cancel until a better day.

Assumption of Risk: When you joined the club, you were asked to sign a 'Release of Liability'. **We want to reinforce the fact that by signing the release you acknowledge that participation in the club's activities involves an inherent risk of physical injury and that you assume all such risks. Accidents can happen. Learn about the risks and how to avoid them. Take an active part in protecting yourself and fellow hikers.** We are an organization of volunteers who share their skills and love for the wilderness with one another.

Guest Policy: Normally a SaddleBrooke resident, whether year-round or part-time, must be a club member in order to join a hike. They may however, come on one hike as a guest in order to see if they are interested in joining the club. Members must accompany their guest(s), and all guests will be required to sign

a Release Form prior to hiking (if under age 18, must be signed by parent or legal guardian). If the guest is younger than 16 years old, you must notify the guide who has sole discretion whether or not to allow minors on the hike.

HIKE RATINGS, PACE, AND SYMBOLS

Rating:

- A Hikes >14 miles or >3000 foot climb
- B Hikes >8 to 14 miles or >1500 to 3000 foot climb
- C Hikes >4 to 8 miles or >500 to 1500 foot climb
- D Hikes 4 miles or less and 500 foot climb or less

Pace:

Refers to the length of 2 steps, the speed you walk/hike, or to the average speed of a hike. When we denote the pace of a hike we are referring to the average speed. This means that from start to finish (excluding lunch) you can expect to be traveling at an average speed of () MPH. The average speed or pace of a hike is affected by speed and length of stride, number of rest stops, incline, type of terrain, and trail conditions. We use the following three categories to describe our hikes.

Slow Pace – Average speed of hike < 1.5 MPH

Moderate Pace – Average speed of hike 1.5 to 2.5 MPH

Fast Pace – Average speed of hike > 2.5 MPH

Symbols:

"+"and "-" after a rating. The plus and minus signs are used to show that a hike is harder or easier than the average hike in that rating category. It may have a plus sign added due to a loose rocky area or perhaps due to an unusually steep area. A minus sign might be added to a hike due to it having a very easy, smooth trail surface.

"" by a hike.** Hikes marked by a double asterisk are new additions to our club database or a new 'one time' hike.

"++" by a hike. Hikes marked by a double plus are Orientation Hikes. Orientation hikes are encouraged for all "beginner" hikers and are intended for sharing information and for personal assessment of current physical fitness.

FITNESS WALKS - FIVE DAYS A WEEK

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club offers morning fitness walks five days a week. These sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. They are a great way to start the day and a great way to meet other SaddleBrooke residents as you enjoy the fantastic views.

Fitness Walks will continue Monday, Wednesday and Friday at **7:00 a.m.** from the parking lot just west of **SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center**. Bill Leightenheimer is taking a well-deserved break as a leader. Volunteers will take turns leading these walks and will be coordinated by Dean Wilson.

Dean Wilson and Michael Reale offer fitness walks Tuesday and Thursday at **7:00 a.m.** Meet at the parking lot of the **MountainView Clubhouse**. You may contact Dean at **818-0299** or Michael at **825-8286**.

Judy Barenkopf offers fitness walks every Tuesday and

Thursday at **7:00 a.m.** Meet at the parking lot of at the **MountainView Clubhouse** on Tuesday and at the parking lot of the **SaddleBrooke Tennis Center** on Thursdays. You may contact Judy at **825-7077** or **mbarenkopf@msn.com**.

HIKES OFFERED

Jan 2. – Tues. Lime Falls, Saguaro NP-East. Rating C. Don't let the name of this hike fool you! If any water is flowing it will only be a trickle. In spite of that this is a pleasant hike along the mostly level Cactus Forest Trail to a small drainage ending at a rock outcropping at the "Falls". We will also stop to observe some lime kilns along the trail. Hike 6 miles; minimal elevation change, starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 80 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Jan. 2 – Wed. Tohono Chul Park and Tea Room, Birds and breakfast. Rating D. Join a Tohono Chul docent for a guided bird observation walk in beautiful Tohono Chul Park. We can continue strolling through the park at our leisure and end with breakfast at the Tohono Chul Tea Room. Bring binoculars. There is an admission fee of \$5.00. Hike 1.5 miles; elevation change 50 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:45 a.m.**; round trip drive 36 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Jan 2 – Wed. Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating A. Hike up the Old Baldy Trail to the summit and come down the same way. This is the shortest route to the top (9453') of Mt. Wrightson. At the top are 360-degree views from Tucson to Mexico. This is a shady all day hike to an outstanding mountain. Hike 10.8 miles; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 130 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Jan. 5 – Fri. Deer Camp. Rating C. We will start in the 50-Year Trail area. We hike through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Mt. Samaniego. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 975 feet; starting elevation 3200; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

****Jan 5 – Fri. Superstitions: Dutchmans State Park sampler; Flatiron Peak. Rating C-A.** The group will hike the scenic Siphon Draw Trail (Starts as Discovery Trail) under the towering cliffs of Superstition Mountain. We will pass through the Siphon Draw narrows and possibly see rock climbers on the Crying Dinosaur rock formation. After 1.43 miles we reach the official end of the trail. Here hikers can choose to go on or return the way they came. (At this point the hike=1.4 miles; 1,100 ft. elevation gain.) About a mile back is the turn (Trail #56) to the Palmer Mine site. Here is also a start to additional small loop hikes in the park, all under 2,500 ft. Rock climbers may also be seen on the Praying Hands rock formation near trail #56. Those desiring will continue the bushwhack climb up Flatiron (see www.reppster.com for pictures and description), another 1.45 miles for an additional 1,400 ft. elevation gain (total=6mi. round trip, with exploration). Other park trails: Treasure Loop=2.4 mi.; Prospector View=.7 mi.; Jacob's Crosscut=.8 mi. The group will meet to return home at a designated time. Hike 3+ miles; elevation gain 1,150 in first 1.4 mi.; 1,400 ft. in last 1.5 mi.; starting elevation 2,100 ft.; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$9.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler and

Larry DuKatz, 825-9057.

Jan. 6 – Sat. Blackett's Ridge. Rating B. This hike takes you up to a ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. It has spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons. We hike through lower Sabino Canyon to the Phonline Trail. After 0.4 miles we turn onto the Blackett's Ridge Trail where we begin the ascent. This trail has several series of steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits at the top. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1620 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Rick Phelps & Debbie Dyer, 825-2395.

Jan. 7 – Sun. Brown Mountain. Rating C. Brown Mountain Trail is a trek along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts in a picnic area near the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Along this "ridge ramble" are excellent views of the mountains, valleys and desert vegetation. The route has many up and downs. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 73 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Jan. 9 – Tues. Picacho Peak. Rating B. From Barret Loop trailhead hike up to a saddle then down to Sunset Vista Trail then to the top of Picacho Peak using the permanently installed guide cables to get to the top. Bring cotton or leather gloves for holding on to cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short, strenuous, 'acrophobic' hike & a favorite among hikers. Park entrance pass required. Hike 4.2 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 1500 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 90 miles; driver donation \$6.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Jan. 10 – Wed. Blackett's Ridge. Rating B. This hike takes you up to a ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. It has spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons. We hike through lower Sabino Canyon to the Phonline Trail. After 0.4 miles we turn onto the Blackett's Ridge Trail where we begin the ascent. This trail has several series of steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits at the top. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1620 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Jan. 12 – Fri. Alamo Canyon to the Water Tank. Rating C. This hike begins at the Romero Ruins trailhead. Elevation change is gradual. We will hike from the ruins through Alamo Canyon. There maybe water at the canyon. We will then go around, down and up and down again to a non-used large water tank. Trail is rocky in some areas. We can return one of three ways of equal distance. Hike 6+ miles; elevation change 300-400 feet. Leave at **8:30a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

****Jan. 12 - Fri. AZT: Santa Rita Mountains Passage. Rating A-** This passage is rich in mining history, much of which can be observed from the trail. The trail goes through renovated Kentucky Camp, an early 1900's base for Stetson hydraulic gold mining company which never saw production. Remnants of an aqueduct to provide pressurized water, along with interpretive signs can be seen along the trail. We will be hiking 14 miles of this passage from just west of Gardner Ranch

to SR 83. Hike 14 mi.; elevation change 830 ft. (cumulative gain 1,650 ft., loss 1,750 ft.); starting elevation 5,225 ft.; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$8.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Jan. 13 – Sat. American Flag to Windmill. Rating C. From the American Flag Trailhead the route proceeds in a northerly direction across National Forest and State Trust Land, crossing Webb Road and continuing to Oracle State Park. After traveling 1.7 miles through the park it crosses the Cottonwood Wash and continues on to a Wind Mill after another .3 mile. We will stop and have a snack or lunch here and return via the same route. This route is fairly level and travels through Desert Grasslands that are part of the upper Sonoran Desert. Expansive views of the Galiuro Mountains. Hike 8.7 miles; elevation change 350 feet; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 41 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

Jan. 15 – Mon. Fifty Year Trail/Sutherland Trail Loop. Rating C. We will start at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park and hike north to a stream terrace that gives a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area and the Santa Catalina Mountains. We will then hike down to the Sutherland Wash, take the Sutherland Cutoff Trail to the Sutherland Trail and head back to Catalina State Park. Hike 7.6 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$1.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Jan. 16 – Tues. Quantrell Mine. Rating C. A scenic trek through a historic and legendary mining area of the Santa Rita Mountains. We will lunch at the head of Chino Canyon at the Quantrell Mine and enjoy magnificent views down the canyon, as well as that of the mythical giant rock sculpture know as Elephant Head. You will not be berated if you have visions of Jesuit gold, Teddy Roosevelt, and Apache sacrifices. This hike features a good trail with no steep sections. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 4500 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 130 miles (dirt); driver donation \$9.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Jan. 17 – Wed. Arizona Trail - Oracle State Park Work Session. Rating C. This is our Hiking Club work day. Come join in the fun--it's nice to work side by side with other hiking members and it certainly gives you a feeling of pride and accomplishment along with a way of 'giving back' for all the trails we hike and take for granted so often. We help develop, maintain, and report conditions of the trails for which our Club is responsible. Generally, the work is light, involving some clipping, brushing, hoeing, raking, and pruning, and for some, lifting and carrying of tools. On rare occasions we may rebuild water runoffs, add erosion control devices, and other trail work. Wear long pants and bring along gloves, hat, and hand clippers. Any other tools needed, will be provided. We work on trails in the Oracle State Park and a section of the Arizona Trail called, "Black Hills/south," which is just north of the Park, across Hwy 77. The sessions usually last about 4 hours, so bring water and snacks and lunch if you wish. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 40 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Jan. 17 – Wed. Social Hour, 4:00 p.m.

Jan. 18 – Thurs. Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C-. We follow the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign then turn off at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks laid out in a row on the right (east) side of trail. The hike then veers to the right and follows a small canyon where there is a beautiful waterfall (depending on recent rains). Much of this part of the trail is sandy with several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **9:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Ned Meyer, 818-2798.

Jan. 18 – Thurs. Seven Falls With Tram. Rating C. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center we will take the Tram to lower Bear Canyon. Bring \$3.00 for Tram Ride. We will hike the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls and return. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Larry Dukatz, 825-7097.

Jan. 19 – Fri. David Yetman Trail. Rating C. This hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. This trail has two trailheads – one at Camino de Oeste and one near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. We can leave cars at one end and drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, then down a wash with a short but steep climb back up to the ridge. We pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that is a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick, if you wish. Hike 5.4 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 75 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Larry Dawson, 825-3480.

Jan. 19 – Fri. Deer Camp/Baby Jesus Loop. Rating C. We will start in the 50-Year Trail area. We hike up toward Deer Camp then take the Middle Tank Connecting Trail to the Baby Jesus Trail and hike back to our cars. This area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 993 feet (gps); starting elevation 3200; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Jan. 19 – Fri. Superstitions: La Barge Creek/Boulder Canyon Loop, with side trips. Rating B. This hike is for those who would like to see the Superstitions from a different perspective, hiking off-trail to areas not commonly seen. About a half mile from the trailhead, after a 3 min. side trip to the Superstition Wilderness sign with great views of Weavers Needle and Battleship Mountain, we leave Boulder Canyon Trail going down a spur trail to La Barge creek. We will walk along this rocky creek bed about 1.9 miles (reduced pace), briefly rejoin the trail, then leave it again, soon entering through the sheer rock walls of La Barge Canyon. Hiking through this canyon, described in [Todd's Desert Hiking Guide](#) as the "nicest canyon in the Superstitions," will involve boulder hopping, some scrambling and climbing, and minor bushwhacking. We will hike less than a mile through the canyon along the east side of pyramid-shaped Battleship Mountain to an area of lovely

seasonal pools and then return the way we came back to the trail. We will continue on Boulder Canyon Trail through Paint Mine Saddle to Indian Paint Mine. In addition to old foundations and mining shafts, the rocks in this area are said to have been mined by the Indians for paint. We will continue SW on the trail past the intersection with Boulder Canyon, and hike an additional .5 mile down the west side of Battleship Mountain looking for the route to the top of Battleship Mountain (a hike for another day!). We will then return to the Boulder Canyon intersection, hike 1.7 mi. north through the Canyon, rejoin La Barge Creek for 1 mi., then exit the remaining .6 mi. to the trailhead. Wear long pants and wetable shoes (although water in the creek at this time of year is not likely); consider bringing hiking sticks. Hike 9 miles; elevation change 600 ft. (entire cumulative elevation gain is less than 1,200 ft.); starting elevation 1,660 ft.; leave at **6:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$10.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

++Jan 21 – Sun. Alamo Canyon. Rating D. We will begin the hike at the Romero Ruins trailhead. Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is gradual. This is a lovely hike up to the Alamo Canyon Falls. There may be water if we have had recent rains. We will stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail. Hike 3.4 miles; elevation change 423 (gps) feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **1:00 p.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 24 – Wed. Maiden Pools. Rating C. We'll start at the public parking lot past the employees' parking lot and use the new Forest Service trail into the canyon. The trail is rocky in places with some steep climbing. Hopefully, we will be rewarded for our efforts with spectacular views of the East Side of Tucson. Lunch at the pools and return. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 54 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossosf, 877-9262.

Jan. 25 – Thurs. Mt. Wrightson via Super Trail. Rating A. Hike up the Super Trail (8 miles) to the summit and come down either the Super Trail or Old Baldy Trail. At the top are 360-degree views from Tucson to Mexico. This is a shady all day hike to an outstanding mountain. Hike 14-16 miles; elevation change 4050 feet; starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 130 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Rick Phelps & Debbie Dyer, 825-2395.

Jan. 26 – Fri. Deer Camp. Rating C. We will start in the 50-Year Trail area. We hike through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Mt. Samaniego. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 975 feet; starting elevation 3200; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Chris Costello, 818-0368.

Jan. 26 – Fri. Sabino Canyon with Tram. Rating C. We will take the Sabino Tram (\$5.00) to stop 4 and explore this oasis in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Hike 5-6 miles; elevation change 400+ feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Jan Wilson 818-0299.

****Jan. 26 – Fri. Superstitions: Geronimo Cave and Barks Canyon Loop. Rating B.** We will start at the Peralta

Trailhead, climbing the Peralta Trail 1,400 ft. over 2 mi. to Fremont. From there we will access the Cave Trail which makes its way for 1.5 miles along cliffs and boulders and across weather-worn rock. Geronimo Cave (actually 1 of 3 alcoves), about .6 mi. in on the trail, was named by the Dons Club which has drawn 100's of people every spring since 1934 for its Dons Trek (different trail). (See www.hikearizona.com for a description of Cave Trail.) We will then connect with Bluff Springs Trail, taking it north 1.6 mi. to the intersection of Terrapin Trail. From here we leave the trail and descend into beautiful, seldom used Barks Canyon, hiking about 2.3 miles off trail through the Canyon. We will soon encounter a series of cascading pools beneath sheer walls, then enter a dense thicket of trees that will require some bushwhacking. (This hike is also described in www.hikearizona.com.) The Canyon is named for Jim Bark, a rancher in the 1890's who hunted for the "Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine" for many years. We will see reddish colored mine tailings from a tunnel, that goes a considerable ways back into the mountain, that was either a prospect or a producing mine. A short distance after the canyon opens up into Barkley Basin we intersect with the Dutchman Trail, following it a mile back to Peralta Trailhead. Hike 9 miles; elevation change 1,450 ft.; cumulative elevation gain/loss is about 2,090 ft.; starting elevation 2,400 ft; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$11.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Jan. 27 – Sat. Hidden Canyon Loop. Rating C+. This is a beautiful hike, practically in our "back yard", to a secluded canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti, along the way and a rock ledge with a great view down the valley, for lunch. The hike begins in the Fifty Year Trail area past Golder Ranch Road gate. After lunch we will continue on out of the canyon, and circle around Hidden Canyon Peak, back to the "North Gate" and return to our trailhead via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 975 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

****Jan. 28 – Sun. Samaniego Roost, Rating C.** This hike takes the hiker on a tour of several different environments. It starts with one mile along the Baby Jesus Trail and a stop at an old Saguaro grove with many 100+ year old sentinels. The next mile follows cairns along a dry creek bed (keep an eye out for those cairns). The final mile takes the hiker through an ocotillo grove, past an ancient cholla TREE, up slickrock and the final destination at a lookout on an "arm" that stretches down from Samaniego Ridge. You will have a great view of SaddleBrooke, the Sutherland Wash, the Biosphere, the Tortolita Mountains and the Pusch Ridge series. Hike 5.5 miles; elevation gain 1165 feet (gps), starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 30 – Tues. Tortolita Trail (medium). Rating C. Come explore part of the 12-mile multipurpose Tortolita Trail. The trail is near the Tortolita Preserve below Dove Mountain. It took outdoorsman and amateur trail designer Chuck Boyer, age 66, more than two years to carve out this 12 mile recreational trail using only hand tools. Hike 6 to 8 miles; elevation change <500 feet; starting elevation 3600 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Jan. 31 – Wed. Oracle Ridge to Saddle. Rating C. This hike begins in Oracle off the Cody Loop Road. It follows the Oracle Ridge Trail to the junction with the American Flag/Cody Trail where we have great views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas to the west. We follow the ridge south where we will lunch in a saddle at the top of Camp Bonita Canyon on the northwest side of Apache Peak. Return by the same route. Hike 5.2 miles; elevation gain 700 feet; starting elevation 4700 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 39 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rosssof, 877-9262.

Feb. 1 - Thurs. World's Largest Cactus Hike. Rating B. This is a beautiful hike in the south central part of the Superstition Mts. Along the way we will hike through beautiful Bluff Springs Canyon where we will have great views of Weavers Needle. After passing Bluff Springs we will come upon the largest Saguaro Cactus in the world. This cactus is spectacular to behold and has an estimated sixty arms. We will try to determine its precise height. Bring along cameras and binoculars. Hike 8.5 miles; elevation gain 800 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 154 miles (dirt); driver donation \$11.00. Frank Brier, 818-0493.

Feb. 2 – Fri. Tortolita Mountains/Wild Burro Canyon with Key Exchange. Rating C. We will take the Rail-X Marble Mine road off Oracle Highway for 5 miles to the county line, then another 2 1/2 miles on another jeep road. We hike on an old road past an old stone wall that was a goat corral, and past a windmill. Then we hike down the wash to a drop-off point or water fall. From there we continue on a trail down past the water fall, continue on another 1 mile, descending to an old stone ruins of a house, water cistern, and "swimming pool". We exchange car keys part way through. We will have two groups, one hiking from the north end, and one from the south end. The group from the south will be going up hill. For this hike we will need 4 wheel drive vehicles. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 700 feet; starting elevation is 3000 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 20 miles (dirt); driver donation \$ 2.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

****Feb. 2 – Fri. Superstitions: Hermans Cave. Rating A-** The route to Hermans Cave is evidently the very same one taken by up to three different people in their attempt to follow Jacob Waltz into the mountains to find his Lost Dutchman's mine. Prospector Hermann Petrash spent many years searching in this area and located one of his camps on the north side of La Barge Canyon. From the Peralta Trailhead we take the Dutchman Trail through the beautiful Barkley Basin. As we approach the Coffee Flat Trail intersection we will be rewarded with some great views of Miners Needle and Cathedral Rock. Miner's Needle with its distinct "eye" has been a focus point for the Lost Dutch search in years past. It was at the base of Cathedral Rock that human bones thought to be those of Mexican miners possibly killed by Apaches were found in the 1930s. At the Coffee Flat intersection we bear left to begin a not too arduous climb to Miner's Summit, enjoying fine vistas along the way. We will go a mile or so through Upper La Barge Box Canyon until we reach the base of Hermans Mountain. Herman's Cave will suddenly loom large above to the left. The cave is high at the base of the Herman Mountain cliffs and one must scramble up a steep slope of scree and boulders to get there. (The ascent to the cave is optional.) The cave is very large, but its inaccessibility and the fact that the floor slopes out at a steep angle prevent it from ever having served as a useful shelter. We

return by the same route. Hike 14 miles; elevation change 1,000 ft. (cumulative change +/- 2,540 ft.); starting elevation 2,400 ft.; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$11.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Feb. 3 – Sat. Soldier Trail. Rating B. Start at mile 1.3 pullout on Catalina Highway to Prison Camp and return. The first 1/2 mile is very steep. The gorge in Soldier Basin may have water flowing below some rugged cliffs. Views of the Tucson area. This trail was used in the 1800s as a cavalry passage into the mountains. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1600 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 84 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

Feb. 7 – Wed. OSP East Loop. Rating C. This hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. We hike the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection we turn southeast and follow trail to the intersection with the Manzanita Trail. We follow this trail west and onto the Nature Trail that takes us back to the cars. This route is fairly level with little elevation change with wide open views and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. Hike 6 miles, elevation change 900 feet (gps); starting elevation 4350 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 40 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rosssof, 877-9262.

Feb. 7 - Wed. Hiking Club Board Meeting, 3:00 p.m.

Feb. 7 – Wed. Hiking Club Guide Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Feb. 8 - Thurs. Window Rock. Rating A. The most direct route is up Ventana Canyon. This is a difficult and steep hike. We start at the parking lot past the employees' parking lot and take the trail until it intersects with the Esperero Trail then follow that trail to the Window. Hike 13 miles; elevation change 4200 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 54 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Rick Phelps & Debbie Dyer, 825-2395.

Feb. 8 - Thurs. Canyon Loop. Rating D. We will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; turn onto the Canyon Loop Trail then come back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. Hike may be done in reverse direction also. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 2.24 miles; elevation change 170 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

****Feb. 9 – Fri. Superstitions: Battleship Mountain-Black Mesa Loop. Rating A.** From First Water Trailhead we will take Second Water Trail to Boulder Canyon Trail where we will proceed south to a point parallel with the southern tip of Battleship Mountain. Here we depart the trail and climb the mountain from the southern tip along the ridge to the northern end. We encounter a lunar landscape surrounded by breathtaking sheer drops in all directions. The large plateau at the top is strikingly beautiful with eerie rock formations and colors. Although there is no technical climbing, this is a difficult hike for advanced hikers only. Scrambling and bouldering skills are a must. Those uncomfortable with heights

would probably not enjoy this hike. We will return by going south on Boulder Canyon Trail and taking a short side trip to view Aylors Arch and the rock formation “Horse’s Head with the Laid Back Ears. We will then join the Black Mesa Trail, hiking across the top of the mesa and return on Second Water Trail to the trailhead. Hike 11 miles; cumulative gain 3,100 ft; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$9.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Feb. 11 – Sun. Golden Gate Trail. Rating C. Ever wonder why there's a big parking lot just west of Gates Pass? Well, so did your guide who will lead a hike around the mountains used as the backdrop in many Hollywood horse operas. In Saguaro National Park – West, we will hike ½ mile along the David Yetman Trail and then take the Golden Gate Loop. This is an easy hike with moderate elevation gain. Some bushwhacking. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 70 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Feb. 13 – Tues. Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C-. We follow the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign then turn off at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks laid out in a row on the right (east) side of trail. The hike then veers to the right and follows a small canyon where there is a beautiful waterfall (depending on recent rains). Much of this part of the trail is sandy with several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Larry Dawson, 825-3480.

Feb. 13 – Tues. Rams Creek Pass. Rating C. We hike up the wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are some great views of Rancho Vistoso, Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere. We then continue on to a water fall where we will have lunch. Return via same route. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation 2600 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 21 miles; driver donation \$1.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Feb. 14 - Wed. OSP West Loop. Rating C. This hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. We hike the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection we turn west and hike toward Highway 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Trail that takes us back to the cars. The first third of the hike is fairly level, the second third is a series of up and down hills on rocky trail and the last third has gentle hills. Hike 6.5 miles, elevation change 1200 feet (gps); starting elevation 4350 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 40 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

****Feb. 16 – Fri. Superstitions: Weavers—Base of the Needle. Rating B (with scrambling & climbing).** Most hikers don’t want to undertake the technical climb to the top of Weavers Needle, so this hike is the next best thing. It’s for those who want the ultimate close-up view and to actually reach out and touch this most famous of all Superstition landmarks. The northern spire of this formation is a column of volcanic rock that rises a thousand feet to an elevation of 4,553 ft. and

dominates the landscape for miles around. A description and pictures from this hike can be found at www.hikearizona.com. We leave from Peralta Trailhead climbing the Bluff Spring Trail which gains 500 ft. elevation in the first half mile, levels off, then climbs 260 ft. in .25 miles. After 3 miles we leave the trail for “Weaver Cross Cut” at Bluff Saddle. We will follow cairns, “use” trails, and landmarks toward the “Notch” in the Needle. We will circumvent the base for about 270 degrees from the southern tip, counter-clockwise to the western face. From there we will descend to the Peralta Trail and return to the trailhead. Wear long pants and gloves. Hike 8.5 miles; elevation change 1,600 ft. (cumulative elevation gain/loss 3,000 ft.); starting elevation 2,400 ft.; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$11.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Feb. 17 – Sat. American Flag. Rating C. This hike begins at the American Flag trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. We take the American Flag/Cody Trail to the intersection of the Oracle Ridge Trail where we have great views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas to the west. On the return, we may swing by the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. (We may tour the unique stone house if the owner is home.) Hike 7.4 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 41 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

****Feb. 18 – Sun. Deer Camp Loop. Rating C.** This hike starts in the 50-Year Trail Area. We hike up to Deer Camp then head southwest down a winding trail to connect with a trail that will take us up to a lookout on an “arm” of Samaniego Ridge. You will have a great view of SaddleBrooke, the Sutherland Wash, the Biosphere, the Tortolita Mountains and the Pusch Ridge series. We will follow this trail back down over slick rock, past an ancient cholla tree, then through an ocotillo grove. It then continues down a dry creek bed (watch for those cairns) and intersects with the Baby Jesus Trail. We pass through a grove of 100+ year old Saguaros on the way back to our cars. Hike 5.7 miles, elevation change 1400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 19 – Mon. Boyce-Thompson Arboretum. Rating D. Tour 35 acres of nature paths, towering trees, cacti, mountain cliffs, a streamside forest, a desert lake, and panoramic views. Located about 100 miles north or about 1 1/2 hours away from SaddleBrooke. Park is open 9am to 5pm. Bring lunch, camera, hiking stick optional. Hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes are recommended. There is a fee to enter the park. Hike < 4 miles; minimal elevation change; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 164 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Feb. 21 - Wed. Romero Pools. Rating C+. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. Trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down the canyon area where several pools are located. An option is a ¾ mile round-trip hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch there. Park entrance pass required. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Feb. 21 - Wed. Social Hour, 4:00 p.m.

Feb. 22 – Thurs. Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating B. We'll drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the trailhead and do some steep hiking to campground. Hiking back we'll possibly bushwhack over to Bridal Wreath Falls then follow trail back to the cars. Some variations in the trail. Mostly open, so bring minimum of two quarts of water, sun protection and lunch. Hike 12 miles; elevation change 2050 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 80 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Feb 23 – Fri. Wasson Peak/Hugh Norris Trail. Rating B. We will take the Hugh Norris Trail in both directions. This is the longest trail to Wasson Peak (incredible views at the top) but the climb is gradual and the trail is primarily a ridge trail with spectacular views. Hike 10 miles elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 73 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Chris Costello, 818-0368.

****Feb. 23 – Fri. Superstition Mountain Ridgeline. Rating A+.** This is a very demanding through hike that rewards energetic hikers with incredible views, sometimes in both directions, from the crest of Superstition Mountain. There is often no trail, but the hike on the rocky ridgeline is very enjoyable and remote, with the encounter of other hikers being unlikely. We will drop a car at Carney Springs Trailhead and drive to the Lost Dutchman State Park where we will begin on the Siphon Draw Trail, following the 1,540 GPS waypoints as posted to www.hikearizona.com. We will hike up the Flatiron, over to Superstition Peak, down to West Boulder Saddle, and end at Carney Springs. Have warm clothing in your pack and bring plenty of energy snacks and water in addition to lunch. Hike ~10 mi.; elevation change 2,750 ft. (cumulative gain=4,400 ft./loss=4,680 ft.); starting elevation 2,100 ft.; leave at **5:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$9.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

++Feb. 25 – Sun. Fifty-Year Area. Rating D. We will follow a jeep road to Sutherland Wash then loop back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. Hike 3+ miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 10 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 26 – Mon, Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating C. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. We start at 4500 foot elevation from the lower area and ascend 3.2 miles up the canyon to the 5400 foot Roundup Picnic Area. Along the way, we enjoy the shade of Apache Pines, Douglas Firs, Emory Oaks, Mexican Blue Oaks, Willows, Cottonwoods, and Sycamores. Our return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 4500 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 130 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Feb. 27 – Tues. Mt. Lemmon to Sabino Canyon via Romero Pass (with Tram). Rating A; We will hike from the top of Mt. Lemmon down to Romero Pass and from there, eastwards down the west fork of the Sabino Canyon Trail to Sabino Canyon. This is a beautiful hike with many great views. Bring \$7.50 for the tram. Hike 15.1 miles; elevation change 5807 feet; starting

elevation 9157 feet; leave at **5:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 131 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Feb. 28 – Wed. Rams Creek Pass. Rating C. We hike up the wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are some great views of Rancho Vistoso, Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. Return via same route. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation 2600 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 21 miles; driver donation \$1.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.