



# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

**2008-1**

### **OUR HIKING GUIDES**

Our hiking club guides are volunteers who enjoy hiking and want to provide opportunities for SaddleBrooke residents to experience our southwest desert on foot. Our guides offer hikes in a range of difficulty from nature walks to mountain climbs. Our guides seek to help hikers select hikes that match their hiking experience and physical fitness. Our guides will let hikers know if the hike is exploratory with the possibility of some trail-finding and overgrowth. Our guides will modify the hike (slower pace, more breaks, etc.) if a hiker experiences a problem. If the hiker has a medical condition the hiker needs to inform the guide or another hiker of that condition before the hike begins. Our guides do not provide medical care, but will encourage hikers to stay hydrated, nourished and ask for breaks during the hike.

### **OUR HIKERS**

Approximately 400 residents of SaddleBrooke enjoy fitness walks and hikes led by our guides as well as social hours, trail maintenance days and special events. Newcomers to desert hiking are encouraged to attend orientation meetings and

start out on "D" or "C" hikes before signing up for the more challenging "B" and "A" hikes. Hikers are encouraged to ask the guides questions about the terrain of the hikes being considered as well as the anticipated pace. Even experienced desert hikers are surprised to learn how quickly they can lose the capacity for elevation gain after a month or two of not hiking.

Wise hikers are prepared for the unexpected, such as a hike lasting longer if a fellow hiker has a problem or the trail has overgrowth or the weather changes. Be prepared with extra water, extra snacks, extra clothing, electrolyte drinks or gels, and first aid supplies/medications.

Most important is that hikers bringing a sense of adventure to enjoy our explorations into our southwest desert and mountains.

### **ORIENTATION TO DESERT HIKING**

An orientation meeting for newcomers to desert hiking will be held on Wednesday, January 16, at 3 p.m. at the MountainView Clubhouse in the Saguaro Room. Come and learn from the experiences of SaddleBrooke hikers. The hiking club social hour will follow at 4 p.m. in the

Lounge.

## INTRODUCTION TO BACKPACKING

If you have ever thought you might like to backpack but don't know what to expect or what equipment is needed, come and learn from our experienced backpackers. This interactive meeting will be held Wednesday, January 23, 4 p.m. at the MountainView Clubhouse in the Saguaro Room. Samples of equipment will be displayed and experiences shared.

A "practice backpack" will be scheduled at a future date. Some equipment will be available for loan by our club backpackers. This will enable new backpackers to learn firsthand what will work best for them before they invest money in backpacking equipment.

### OFFICERS

**President:** Susan Robertshaw - 818-6727  
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**Vice-President:** Michael Reale - 825-8286  
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**Secretary:** Marjorie Herrmann - 818-9515  
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**Treasurer:** Jan Springer - 825-1451  
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**Chief Hiking Guide:** Elisabeth Wheeler - 818-1547  
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### VOLUNTEERS

**Chief Guide Asst.:** Cheryl Werstler - 825-9057  
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### NEWS YOU CAN USE

Social Hour	January 16th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	February 2nd	3:00 p.m.

Hiking Guide Meeting	February 2nd	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour	February 20th	4:00 p.m.

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

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at the MountainView Clubhouse and the SaddleBrooke Fitness Center. They are also available on our web page at [www.saddlebrooke.org](http://www.saddlebrooke.org).

### NEWS WE CAN USE

**New e-mail address:** You may update your e-mail address by notifying Bob Perez at azsun65@wbhsi.net.

**Renew your membership:** You may send your \$5.00 yearly membership dues to Bob Perez at 65187 E. Desert Sands Court. Make checks payable to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club.

### AWARDS

<b>10 Hikes</b>	Helen Pavlak	MaryAnn Dawson
	Melissa White	Bertie Litchfield
	Kathie Gedemer	Harriet Pearson
	Julie Davis	Litch Litchfield

<b>25 Hikes</b>	Jim McCarthy	Jackie McCarthy
	Fred Kennedy	Elaine Kline

<b>100 Hikes</b>	Larry Dukatz	Sharon Simpson
		Kelly Reil

**250 Hikes** Kathy Cotton

**750 Hikes** Ed Snyder

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

### 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

Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. Enjoy the company of other hikers while perusing SaddleBrooke. The sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. No advanced signup is required to participate in these walks. The walks will be led by Dean Wilson or Michael Reale. On the few occasions when both Dean and Michael have conflicts, other walkers may lead the walks, utilizing the SHC sign-in sheets to register walkers.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday the fitness walks will start at **7 a.m.** from the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the walks will also start at **7 a.m.**, but we will leave from Mountain View Clubhouse parking lot. If you have any questions please contact Michael at 825-8286 or Dean at 818-0299.

Judy's Tuesday, Thursday walking group will continue to walk starting at **7:00 a.m.** We will meet on Tuesday mornings at the Mountain View Clubhouse parking lot. On Thursday we will meet at the SaddleBrooke Tennis Center's parking lot. We walk for about 1 hour and cover about 3-4 miles. We have people of all levels walking and socializing.

For more information call Judy 825-7077, or e-mail at mbarenkopf@msn.com.

## HIKES OFFERED

**Jan. 2 – Wed. Sutherland Trail. Rating C.** This is a great wildflower hike after abundant winter rains. Along the way, we will observe many beautiful Saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are many photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the water falls are flowing. The route begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. We return using same route. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**Jan. 2 – Wed. Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C+/B.** This walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes through SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 – 10 miles; elevation change 500-600 ft; leave at **7 a.m.** (duration 2.5-3.0 hours; Optional: Breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted). Michael Reale, 825-8286.

**Jan 3 – Thurs. 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. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

**Jan. 4 – Fri. Pima Canyon – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dam. Rating B.** The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the first dam as we enter the beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again into the open. We will hike past a rocky open area in the canyon beyond the second dam near ancient grinding holes and continue on to the third dam. We return to the trailhead via the same route. Hike 8.1 miles; elevation change 2210 feet (gps); starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 42 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**\*\*Jan. 5 – Sat. Box Canyon Exploratory. Rating C.** We drive to Florence, AZ, then to Price Road and Box Canyon Road. Distance on dirt road is 14 miles requiring 4x4 vehicles. We hike into Box Canyon which has sheer rock walls. Depending on how hikers are doing we'll hike further to Martinez Mine. Hike approximately 6 miles; elevation change is minimal; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive ? (dirt, high clearance vehicle); driver donation TBA. Jan & Dean Wilson 818-0299.

**\*\*Jan. 7 – Mon. Wild Mustang/Wild Burro Canyon Loop Exploratory. Rating B+.** Over 25 miles of recently constructed trails beckon in the Western Tortolita Mountains. About a mile from the trailhead we will leave Wild Burro Trail, going a short distance to view some petroglyphs. We will then cut across to the Upper Javalina Trail and make our way up to the Wild Mustang Trail. This trail will lead us over the higher elevations of the mountains to the north past at least 3 crested saguaros. Near the upper end of Wild Mustang Trail we will take a connector trail down into Wild Burro Canyon and explore off-trail, up-canyon about a mile or so. We will then return down-canyon connecting with the official Wild Burro Trail. At this point the trail overlooks the narrow upper canyon which spreads wide with numerous side canyons and tributaries. As we continue down the trail, we will pass a crumbling stone structure and arrive at a boulder strewn falls which thunders with runoff from the upper side canyons and tributaries when it

rains. A short distance later we will merge onto Lower Javalina Trail, quickly descending through hillsides covered with enormous boulders and a forest of saguaro cacti. We will then rejoin Wild Burro Trail to return to the trailhead. Hike ~13 miles; elevation change 1,400 feet; starting elevation 2,700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Jan 8 – Tues. Picacho Peak - Sunset Vista Trail (short). Rating C.** From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the trail to the area that starts the steep climb to Picacho Peak. We will return by the same route. Hike 4.23 miles; elevation change 751 feet (gps); starting elevation 1500 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 90 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**Jan. 9 – 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 7 miles; elevation gain 1000 feet; starting elevation 4700 feet; leave at 9:00 a.m.; round trip drive 40 miles (dirt); driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**Jan. 10 – Thurs. Rice Peak. Rating A.** Hike up Peppersauce Canyon from the campground to the Oracle Ridge then follow part of the Arizona Trail to Rice Peak. Interesting "peppersauce conglomerate" in Peppersauce Canyon, great views along Oracle Ridge and interesting conglomerate rock on the peak. Superb views from the peak to the San Pedro River and the Galiuro Mountains beyond. Hike 10.0 miles; elevation change 3000 feet; starting elevation 4600 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 53 miles (dirt); driver donation \$5.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804.

**\*\*\*Jan. 11 – Fri. Blackett's Ridge. Rating B (Slower Pace).** 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 Phoneline 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 \$5.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**Jan. 12 - Sat. Phoneline Trail - Round Trip. Rating B.** The hike will begin in the Sabino Canyon parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phoneline Trail. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road. It offers outstanding views of the canyon. We will choose between three routes back, the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Sandy Businger, 825-9294.

**Jan. 13 - Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating C+.** This is a

picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We park at the Saguaro National Park East Trail. The hike is somewhat steep in parts. At 3 miles we view a crested saguaro. (This is a possible turn-around spot for a 6 mile hike with 1300 ft elevation change.) We will continue on another mile to lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some photo stops along the way. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1900 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 82 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**Jan 14 – Mon. Superstitions: Weavers Crosscut. Rating B.** 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 hike near the base of Weavers Needle, a column of volcanic rock that rises a thousand feet to an elevation of 4,553 ft. and dominates the landscape for miles around. On Weavers Cross Cut trail we go through fascinating rock formations, then descend to the Peralta Trail and return to the trailhead. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1,400 ft. (cumulative elevation gain/loss 2,025 ft.); starting elevation 2,400 ft.; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$11.00. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

**\*\*Jan. 15 – Tues. Tortolita Mountains And Wild Burro Canyon & Lower Javelina Trail. Rating C.** The trailhead is at the Wild Burro Canyon parking lot on Dove Mountain Blvd. We hike up Wild Burro Canyon, some in the arroyo and some on a compacted soil trail, winding through some trees and cacti. After approx. 2 miles we reach the ruins of an old stone house, which is where Wild Burro Canyon trail goes left and up along the ridge to the left. We pass this, finding another trail head on the right in about another 20-30 yards. This is the start of the Lower Javelina Trail. We climb some switchbacks, then come to a trail junction. We have good views here back down into a side canyon. At the junction we stay to the left, on Lower Javelina Trail. ( The fork to the right is Alamo Springs Trail.) We continue curving to our left around a small mountain. At the next junction, we again stay to our left. This gives us great views of Wild Burro Canyon & Avra Valley, leading us down into Wild Burro Canyon. (The right trail fork is a continuation of Lower Javelina Trail, which crosses Wild Burro Canyon, then circles around to the left, but on the opposite side of the canyon from where we were.) Once we reach Wild Burro Canyon, we walk in the arroyo until shortly before the lower waterfalls. Here we find the trail marker on the right side of the arroyo. We follow this part of the trail down the right side of the waterfall, to the old stone house ruins. Then we retrace our steps back down the arroyo to our car. Hike approx. 5-6 miles; elevation change approx 300 ft.; starting elevation is 3600 ft.; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive is 44 miles; driver donation is \$3.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**Jan. 16 – Wed. Rams Creek Basin. 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 **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 21 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**Jan 16 – Wed. Orientation for Newcomers to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. 3:00 p.m., Saguaro Room, MountainView Clubhouse.** Jan Wilson & Kent Naugle, 818-0299.

**Jan. 16 – Wed. Social Hour, 4:00 p.m., Saguaro Room, MountainView Clubhouse.**

**\*\*\*Jan. 17 – Thurs. Romero Pass. Rating A for B Hikers (Slower Pace).** This hike begins in Catalina State Park and follows an up and down trail past Romero Pools and Romero Springs to Romero Pass. There is a very steep uphill section the last 2 miles. Hike 15 miles (7.5 miles climbing and 7.5 miles descending); elevation change 3300 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Rick Phelps & Debbie Dyer, 825-2395.

**Jan 18 – Fri. 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 **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 70 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Jan. 19 – Sat. Pima Canyon. Rating C.** The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We will pass the first dam as we enter the beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. We will hike to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near Indian grinding holes and then return to the trailhead. Hike 6.2 miles; elevation change 977 feet (gps); starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 42 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Larry Dukatz, 825-7097.

**\*\*Jan. 21 – Mon. La Milagrosa Ridge/AZT from Redington Rd. Exploratory. Rating B.** This downhill car shuttle begins at Redington Rd. and traverses 7 miles of the Redington Pass segment of the Arizona Trail, an area of rolling hills with moderate up and down elevation changes. We leave the AZT (Bellota Trail) to join the trail going down the main ridge separating La Milagrosa (Spanish for “Miraculous”) and Agua Caliente Canyons. This trail had questionable access until recent years when Pima County acquired critical land parcels. This 4 ½ mile trail is now popular with mountain bikers who want a challenging ride and hikers who savor it for its moderate grades and the exhilarating views, including sheer rock walls and the wooded slopes of nearby Agua Caliente Hill. We end this hike at our waiting vehicle(s) on Horse Head Rd. Drivers will be needed to shuttle us to Redington Rd. Hike ~11.5 miles; elevation change 1,800 feet; starting elevation 4,340 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$8.00 for shuttle driver, \$3.00 for return drivers (Total=\$11.00). Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Jan. 22. Tues. 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. Trail is rocky and rough in places. Hike 5.64 miles; elevation change 1500 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Philip Cotton, 825-2243.

**Jan. 23 – 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 6.22 miles, elevation change 760 feet (gps); starting elevation 4350 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 40 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**Jan. 23 – 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 Phoneline 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 **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Jan 23 – Wed. Orientation to Backpacking, 4:00 p.m., Saguaro Room, MountainView Clubhouse.** Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Jan. 24 – Thurs. Hidden Canyon. Rating C.** This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. Hike begins past the Golder Ranch Gate in the Fifty Year Trail area. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Jan. 25 – Fri. Thimble Peak. Rating B.** We start at Prison Camp Road (now Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site), 7 miles up the Catalina Highway and take the beautiful Sycamore Reservoir Trail down to the abandoned reservoir, connect to the Bear Canyon Trail on the way to Thimble Flat then follow a faint trail to the base of Thimble Peak. Bring gloves to do the fairly easy scramble to the top of the east summit. Enjoy outstanding views from this prominent landmark. We will return by the same route. Hike 11 miles; elevation change 1500 feet; starting elevation 4850 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 94 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Frank Brier, 818-0493.

**\*\*Jan. 25 – Fri. Tortolita Mountains Exploratory. Rating C.** We hike from the south end of Wild Burro Canyon off of Dove Mt. Blvd. We hike up the wash to a trail that branches off to our right. This trail leads up a hill to a “pass” with views down onto the construction of the Ritz Carlton Hotel and golf course. Hike approximately 6 miles; elevation change approximately 400 ft; leave at **8 a.m.**; round trip drive approximately 44 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Jan & Dean

Wilson 818-0299.

**\*\* Jan. 28 – Mon. Agua Caliente Hill and Canyon Exploratory. Rating A-.** We will hike the Agua Caliente Trail from the Camino Remuda Trailhead to the saddle then climb to the summit of Agua Caliente Hill. From the saddle the climb to the summit starts in earnest and increases in intensity the last 1 ½ miles with loose rock, gravel, and small boulders. We reach a false summit about halfway up this section. From the true summit we will enjoy panoramic views in all directions, including the Catalinas, Rincons, Galiuros, and Pinalenos. We then ascend to the saddle, then head northeast on a merging trail toward Agua Caliente Canyon. Our return route will include about 1 ½ miles through Agua Caliente Canyon, beginning with high narrow walls and scrambling over boulders and dry waterfalls. There are likely to be pools of water beneath the dry waterfalls. From the mouth of the canyon we will walk on the road for about a mile to the Horsehead Rd. trailhead. Hike ~10 miles; elevation change 2,580 feet; starting elevation 2,920 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**\*\*Jan 29 – Tues. Canada del Oro from the Preserve. Rating C.** We will drive to the white water tank in the SaddleBrooke Preserve area and park. We walk down a short dirt road and go through the barbed wire fence. We walk north along the CDO, passing 2 old dams. We will continue up the CDO passing an old stone house, and hike further along the CDO. Return by same route. Hike approximately 4-6 miles; elevation gain is approx. 700 ft.; starting elevation is 3270 ft.; leave **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive is approx. 3 miles (some dirt); driver donation \$1.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299,

**Jan. 30 –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 6.8 miles, elevation change 1001 feet (gps); starting elevation 4350 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 40 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**\*\*Feb. 2 – Sat. King Canyon Trail to Mam-A-Gah Picnic Area. Rating D.** We will hike up an old 4WD road (King Canyon Trail) to where a trail crosses the canyon going up to Mam-A-Gah picnic area. The picnic area is named for the “deer dance” of the Tohono O’odham Indians. We return by hiking down the canyon viewing petroglyphs along the way. Hike approximately 4 miles; elevation change approximately 200 ft; leave at **8 a.m.** round trip drive 73 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Jan & Dean Wilson 818-0299

**Feb. 3 – 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 slickrock, 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 \$2.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**Feb. 4 – Mon. Bill Cody Loop. Rating B.** This beautiful, historic loop begins at the American Flag trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. We will view the 1877 adobe house at trailhead, then hike up the Arizona Trail to the Oracle Ridge Trail. We will go south toward Apache Peak, then down FR639 through Camp Bonita Canyon past the old Patterson Diaz homestead site and lunch at Campo Bonito. From there we swing northward past the “Yellow Cabin” through 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.) We will then return to the cars via the Arizona Trail. Hike 8.2 miles; elevation change 1500 feet (gps); starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 41 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

**Feb. 5 – Tues. Panther Peak. Rating B.** The hike begins near Saguaro West National Park, with the first mile on old mining roads. Then, a steep, difficult climb begins and you may need to use your hands to climb the trail. The use of gloves, long pants, and a hiking stick is recommended. Enjoy outstanding views from the top, all the way to Picacho Peak. We will return by the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 1135 feet; starting elevation 2300 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 60 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Feb. 6 – Wed. Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C+/B.** This walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes through SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 – 10 miles; elevation change 500-600 ft; leave at 7:00 a.m. (duration 2.5-3.0 hours; Optional: Breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted). Michael Reale 825-8286.

**.Feb. 6 – Wed. Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C+.** Sometimes called the “Old Spanish Mine Trail,” this trail goes up the north side of Pontatoc Ridge to just below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area. This hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. Hike starts at north end of Alvernon Way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1500 feet (gps); starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**Feb. 6 – Wed. Hiking Club Board Meeting, 3:00 p.m., Saguaro Room, MountainView Clubhouse.** Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

**Feb. 6 – Wed. Hiking Club Guide Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Saguaro Room, MountainView Clubhouse.** Elisabeth

Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Feb. 7 - Thurs. Cardiac Gulch. Rating B.** This is a hike to the saddle overlooking Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon parking lot over a few small foothills to "the Gulch". The hiking is initially steep... then it gets much steeper! We'll have lunch at the saddle while viewing the falls below, assuming that rain or a spring thaw supplies a rushing brook. Extra water is recommended. Hike 7.25 miles; elevation change 1898 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Rick Phelps & Debbie Dyer, 825-2395.

**Feb. 8 – Fri. Wasson Peak/Sweetwater Trail. Rating B.** We start from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the East side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike up through some of the prettiest Saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue on up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Little shade. Hike 9.43 miles; elevation change 2424 feet (gps); starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 60 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804.

**Feb. 9 - Sat. 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 4029 feet; starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 130 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Sandy Businger, 825-9294.

**\*\*Feb. 12 – Tues. Safford Peak Exploratory. Rating A.** Safford Peak, known to locals as Sombrero Peak, is the distinctive bell-shaped peak in the northern-most district of the Tucson Mountains in Saguaro West National Park. We will start at the end of Scenic Drive from a little chapel called Sanctuary Cove. There is no official trail, but use trails, sometimes faint and with loose footing, can be taken to the top. As we climb Panther Peak will become visible as well as excellent views of the foothills and higher peaks of the Tucson Mountains and Saguaro National Park. We climb severely on the final ascent with narrow traverses and significant exposure. (If you do not like exposed heights, this hike is not for you.) We will sign the register at the summit where there are great views in all directions and descend the way we came. Hike ~3-3 ½ miles; elevation change 1,320 feet; starting elevation 2,240 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Feb. 13 – 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. Trail is rocky and rough in places. Hike 5.64 miles; elevation change 1500 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**Feb. 13 – Wed. Pima Canyon – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dam. Rating B.** The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of

trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the first dam as we enter the beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again into the open. We will hike past a rocky open area in the canyon beyond the second dam near ancient grinding holes and continue on to the third dam. We return to the trailhead via the same route. Hike 8.1 miles; elevation change 2210 feet (gps); starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 42 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Feb. 14 – Thurs. Arizona Trail- Rincon Valley. Rating B.** From Pistol Hill Road the Arizona Trail continues 10 miles to Marsh Station. This is a very scenic section through limestone outcroppings, lush vegetation, uplifted fossilized coral, magnificent mountain views ending with railroad bridges over Cienega Creek. Often trains are seen here. This will be a key exchange hike. Starting elevation is 3,660 or 3,280 with elevation change of 990 or 1,375 ft. depending on the hike direction. Leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive is 130 miles (dirt) to Marsh Station; driver donation \$9.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Feb. 15 – Fri. Phoneline Trail - Round Trip. Rating B.** The hike will begin in the Sabino Canyon parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phoneline Trail. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road. It offers outstanding views of the canyon. We will choose between three routes back, the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Larry Dukatz, 825-9057.

**Feb. 16 – Sat. Seven Falls. Rating C+.** Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center hike from the parking lot to lower Bear Canyon. Then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls and return. There are seven stream crossings in each direction. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 8.7 miles; elevation change 1550 feet (gps); starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**Feb. 18 – Mon. Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C+.** The hike begins at Peppersauce Campground on the northeast side of the Catalinas. It follows the old Mt. Lemmon Road up to the Nugget Canyon turnoff. There we will stop to see Peppersauce Cave. Bring a flashlight. We then travel up the canyon, follow jeep roads, view an old mine, then come down Peppersauce Canyon. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills. This is a strenuous hike for this level due to a steep incline in one area and loose rocks in another. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 4600; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 53 miles (dirt); driver donation \$5.00. Frank Brier, 818-0493.

**\*\*Feb. 19 – Tues. Copper Creek Ghost Town Exploratory. Rating B.** Copper Creek, in the Galiuro Mountains, was established by E. R. Sibley to serve Bunker Hill Mining District. Because it is in a canyon, the town was built in tiers. By 1910 there were over 200 residents. There was a stage line, a

physician, and about 50 buildings including a school house, a general store, and a three-story 20-room mansion, home of the Sibley family. The ruins include mine buildings, an iron bridge, various foundations, and the mostly collapsed Sibley Mansion about 1 ½ miles upstream from the mining area. The mines declined quickly and closed in 1917. A post office operated from 1906 to 1947 after which all the buildings were abandoned. Further descriptions can be read in the April, 2006 Desert Leaf, at [www.americansouthwest.net](http://www.americansouthwest.net) under ghost towns, and at [www.expeditionswest.com](http://www.expeditionswest.com) under Sibley Mansion. Copper Creek is reached from Mammoth via a 10-mile high-clearance road. The rocky road eventually gains about 1,800 feet then deteriorates as it drops down steeply toward the narrow canyon of Copper Creek, through which a stream flows year-round. The goal is to locate Sibley Mansion and further research will be done before the hike date. However, we will at least go to the town center and do a 5-mile loop hike on jeep roads past some ruins and mine sites. High clearance vehicles will be required. Hike 5-8+ miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3,880 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**\*\*Feb. 19 – Tues. Hidden Canyon - Starr Pass. Rating D.** This is a loop on good trail with some elevation gain. There are lots of saguaros and jojoba bushes plus views of the city. After 1/4 mile you are out of sight of "civilization" and have views toward the northeast. By taking the loop trail counterclockwise the trail descends to a junction marked by a cairn. By turning right through a small wash, winding around cacti and mesquite trees, the trail joins a major wash on the left. We follow the wash to a brown wooden sign "Yetman" trail. We follow the arrow to a stone house built in the early 1930's by Mr. Sherry Bowen, a type-setter & editor for the Arizona Daily Star. He and his wife, Ruby, lived in the house on 2000 acres. In 1983 this land became part of the Tucson Mountain Park. Hike 2-4 miles; elevation change; leave at **8 a.m.**; Round trip drive approximately ? miles; driver donation \$TBA. Jan & Dean Wilson 818-0299.

**Feb. 20 - Wed. Arizona Trail - Oracle State Park Work Session. Rating C.** This is our Hiking Club workday. 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 to OSP; driver donation \$4.00 or round trip drive 50 miles (dirt) for AZT; driver donation \$5.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**Feb. 20 – Wed. Social Hour, 4:00 p.m., Saguardo Room, MountainView Clubhouse.**

**Feb. 21 – Thurs. 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 6.5 miles; elevation change 1050 feet (gps). Leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**\*\*Feb. 23 - Sat. Tortilla Mountains Segment (short). Rating C.** This segment of the Arizona Trail starts from Freeman Road and follows a series of old roads, dry washes and single track trail. Interesting boulders. Hike 4-6 miles; elevation change approximately 400 ft; leave at **8 a.m.**; round trip drive 72 miles (dirt, high clearance vehicle); driver donation \$6.00. Jan & Dean Wilson 818-0299.

**Feb. 25 – Mon. Phoneline Trail - Round Trip. Rating B.** The hike will begin in the Sabino Canyon parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phoneline Trail. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road. It offers outstanding views of the canyon. We will choose between three routes back, the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**\*\*Feb. 26 – Tues. Agua Caliente Hill from Redington Pass Road. Rating B.** Drive out Redington Pass Road for 4.8 miles (dirt). Park near some corrals. We will go under the fence and hike up an old 4WD road (#4441) about 4 miles. Hike 8 miles; elevation change approximately 200 ft.; leave at **7 a.m.**; round trip drive 96 miles (dirt, high clearance vehicle); driver donation \$7.00. Jan & Dean Wilson 818-0299.

**Feb. 27 – Wed. Fifty-Year Trail to SaddleBrooke. Rating B.** This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. Hike begins past the Golder Ranch Gate in the Fifty Year Trail area. After reaching Hidden Canyon we will follow a trail that goes east by a pond then connects to Road 4432. We then will come down Charouleau Gap Road to SaddleBrooke. This hike can be done in reverse also. A car shuttle will need to be arranged. Hike 11 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**\*\*Feb. 29 – Fri. Arizona Trail – Going to the Lake. Rating C.** Drive up Redington Pass Road 9.8 miles (dirt) passing Bellota Ranch road to the left, past milepost #12 to a sign for FR#37 and parking area. We will take the Arizona Trail north to The Lake. Hike approximately 6 miles; elevation change approximately 400 ft; leave at **7 a.m.**; round trip drive approximately 100 miles (dirt, high clearance vehicle); driver donation \$7. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.