

# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

March/April 2005

2005 - 2

### TWO PROGRAMS SCHEDULED

*By John Robertshaw*

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club will be hosting two special programs. Doug Kreutz will be our guest on March 31<sup>st</sup> in the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse at 7 p.m. He will present a slide show and talk on the "Wonders of the Four Corners Region". Jeneiene Shaffer from the Friends of Saguaro National Park will present her program on April 8<sup>th</sup> in the MountainView Clubhouse at 1:00 p.m. Her slide show and talk is entitled "The Saguaro Saga: Our Once and Future Cactus". Admission to both programs is free and open to all of SaddleBrooke. Mark your calendars for these special programs!

Doug Kreutz is an experienced hiker and reporter for the Arizona Daily Star, Arizona Highways and the Desert Leaf. His presentation will include some or all of the following: the cliff dwellings of Navajo National Monument; the Hopi Mesas; backpacking to remote petroglyph sites in Wupatki National Monument; seeing the Grand Canyon from the rim; cross-canyon hiking trails; a raft trip on the Colorado River; trekking in Utah's Canyonlands; visiting drive-up and hike-in pueblo sites in Utah; climbing 14,000 foot peaks in Southwestern Colorado; visiting Mesa Verde National Park and touring the colorful regions of Taos and Santa Fe. This is a rich fascinating region in terms of scenic beauty, outdoor recreation and Native American culture.

Jeneiene Schaffer from the Friends of Saguaro National Park calls her talk "Cactus College" or "Saguaro Studies 101". It is an hour long course and slide show on the world-famous symbol of the desert: the saguaro cactus. Jeneiene Schaffer, development coordinator, presents the show which employs dramatic photographs to tell the story of the saguaro from its natural history to its starring role in Saguaro National Park. "You'll see healthy saguaros, saguaros that have been affected by disease or lightning, and saguaros with critters living in them. Viewers will also learn that saguaros are avid collectors of a precious resource in the desert: water. "A large cactus can accumulate 100 gallons at a time".

### AZT UPDATE

*By John Rendall*

We have received numerous comments from hikers and bikers on the Arizona Trail expressing their thanks for the fine condition of our segment of the trail. Last month we rebuilt 3 switch backs; built several large cairns; re-routed a small section and cleared 1.5 miles of trail. Thanks to all who have volunteered in helping out with the work on our selected days.

### SPECIAL TRIPS

*By Dean & Cheryl Werstler*

We are looking into the following special trips. Please let Cheryl & Dean know if interested in any of the following by e-mailing them at [dbwerst@earthlink.net](mailto:dbwerst@earthlink.net) or calling them at 825-9057.

May (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week): Trip to Bryce, Zion, and/or Capital Reef.



May (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week): Three days and two nights in a motel in Sedona. We will offer a variety of hikes at different difficulty levels. People can choose hikes they like and/or sightsee. We will get dinner reservations at area restaurants.

June (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week): Five days and four nights in motels with hikes to Keet Seel and Betatakin, and sightseeing and hiking in Monument Valley and the Bluff, Utah area.

July (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week): Hiking in Yosemite and Mt. Whitney.

Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>: Hiking the AZ Trail on the North Rim/Kaibab Plateau. We will stay at the Jacob Lake Lodge.

(Reservations need to be made soon.) Some have expressed interest in staying at a nearby campground.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

|                           |                        |            |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Spring Hiking Club Picnic | March 12 <sup>th</sup> | 11:00 a.m. |
| Hiking Club Social Hour   | March 16 <sup>th</sup> | 4:00 p.m.  |
| Speaker: Doug Kreutz      | March 31 <sup>st</sup> | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Slide Show: Saguaro       | April 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 1:00 p.m.  |
| Board Meeting             | April 13 <sup>th</sup> | 3:00 p.m.  |
| Hiking Guide Meeting      | April 13 <sup>th</sup> | 4:00 p.m.  |
| Hiking Club Social Hour   | April 20 <sup>th</sup> | 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. Membership is \$5.00 a year and applications should be located with the newsletters.

Send your completed application or renewal to Bob Perez at 65187 E. Desert Sands Court. **Make checks payable to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club.**

## NEWS WE CAN USE

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

**Becoming a hiking guide:** If you have gained experience hiking and are interested in becoming a hiking guide, contact the Chief Hiking Guide. It is a great way to help the Club and contribute to our great community.

**Request a hike:** If there is a special hike you would like to see included in our schedule of hikes, please feel free to send an e-mail to the Chief Hiking Guide. Provide a description of the hike and what time of year you would like to have it offered.

## OFFICERS:

**President:** Jim Strickler 825-8735  
sherabjim@robsoncom.net

**Vice-President:** Bob Wynne 825-2974  
bwynne@robsoncom.net

**Secretary:** Mary Richling 825-5238  
JMRichling@earthlink.net

**Treasurer:** Sherry Jacobson 825-4036  
louis.jacobson@ey.com

**Chief Hiking Guide:** Susan Robertshaw 818-6727  
jsrobertshaw@att.net

## NON OFFICER POSITIONS:

**Editor:** Carole Rossof 877-9262

**Publicity:** John Robertshaw 818-6727  
jsrobertshaw@att.net

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

**Statistics & Awards:** Art Cross 818-9288

**Newsletter Copies:** Sue Berman 818-1954

**AZT/CSP Work Sessions:** John Rendall 825-9395

**Social:** Volunteer needed

**Merchandise:** Sally Sample 825-0985

## NEW EDITOR

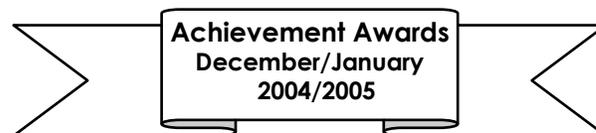
We want to thank Carole Rossof for volunteering to be our Editor. She will be in charge of publishing the newsletter and sending out e-mails. Welcome aboard Carole!

## THE SPRING HIKING CLUB PICNIC

The Spring Hiking Club Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and will be held once again at the YMCA Triangle Y Ranch in Oracle. It is nestled in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains and covers 400 acres within the Coronado National Forest.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lambert Woods, an author of children's books, originally settled on the land where the camp is now located. Here she raised cattle and horses and a small garden to help her live on while she wrote her books. She first lived in the two rooms in Hawkins Hall. In 1949, she donated the camp's 400 acres to the YMCA of Tucson to operate a children's camp. Mrs. Wood loved children and devoted her life to making them happy.

We will be offering hikes in both Oracle State Park and to the Buffalo Bill Cody's High Jinx mine at 8:00 a.m. If you want to hike in Oracle State Park please meet us in the park by the Kannally Ranch House. If you prefer to hike to the High Jinx mine please meet at the Triangle Y Ranch in front of the Dinning Hall. We will then car pool over to the trailhead.



**100 Hikes:** Sue Ayers

**50 Hikes:** Marcia Hill

**25 Hikes:** Marv Rossof

**10 Hikes:** Beverly Schulz, Bill Katz, Curt Hulteen, Lorraine Lachs, Jeanne George, Dave Hydeman, Marlene Olson

We are please to announce that we will have a **local group, 'Handpick Bluegrass', playing from 11:00 a.m. to Noon!**

**See you at the Picnic!**

## THANK YOU TO ART CROSS

We want to extend a big thank you to Art Cross who has been our Statistics and Awards volunteer for the past two years. Art has done a great job. Thanks for your time and effort, Art.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Statistics and Awards** – Need experience with spread sheets. You would enter the members' hikes into a data base and issue the awards.

**Social** – Plans the Hiking Club Picnics. You would need to reserve the location, order the food, and arrange for ticket sales.

Contact any of the hiking guides or officers if you would be able to help the Hiking Club by filling either of these positions.

## **WILDFLOWERS**

*By Susan Robertshaw*

We are expecting a wonderful wildflower year and our hiking guides have planned many of their hikes in areas that are known for their wildflowers. You may want to visit the following web page that I especially like. It not only has a variety of interesting subjects but also allows hikers to send in reports about areas that have wildflowers blooming. The following are excerpts from their web page: <http://www.desertusa.com>

### **When Will The Wildflowers Bloom?**

Although it is an annual event, the wildflower season is never the same from one year to the next. Weather conditions play an integral role in the outcome of each wildflower season. If the winter has too much or little rain, or if the temperature is too warm or cold, the seeds of desert annuals will remain dormant or bloom in fewer numbers. Only when the conditions are near-perfect will you witness a spectacular wildflower showing, a time when an abundance of aromatic colors fill each landscape with a breathtaking effect.

Due to the wet weather conditions in the desert, experts are predicting that the 2005 wildflower season may be early and above average, some wildflowers are in bloom already. A decade may pass with less than fruitful wildflower displays, but when the conditions are just right, the wildflowers fill the landscapes in a phenomenal riot of color.

The recent rain and warm weather has spurred an early bloom for some plant species. Be sure to check our Wildflower Updates (<http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html>) for current conditions.

### **Tips for taking pictures.**

**Wildflowers** - Flowers charm and enchant the eye with their dazzling colors and delightful shapes. Here are some tips to help make your flower pictures equally charming and enchanting.

**Use a simple background.** Find a position that provides a plain, non-competing background. Or place a black or pleasingly colored cardboard behind the flower.

**Get close.** If your camera has a close-up focusing mode, use it and get as close as the camera manual suggests. With a digital camera, use the display screen to compose the picture. Accessory close-up lenses are mandatory for dedicated flower photographers.

**Shoot at different angles.** Vary the level of your viewpoint. Shoot down to create attractive pinwheel patterns of daisies; kneel to the level of other flowers, such as tulips and daffodils.

**Use creative lighting.** Observe the lighting on your flowers. Backlighting shining through some flowers gives them an appealing glow. Cloudy-day lighting reveals subtle hues.

**Control the wind.** Is the wind tossing the wildflowers about? Use a piece of cardboard to block the wind. Choose your camera angle so the cardboard doesn't show in the picture. Or choose a colored board and position it to block the wind and to serve as the background.

### **Wildflowers and other Flowering Desert Plants**

Desert plants have adapted to the extremes of heat and aridity by developing a lifestyle in conformance with the seasons of greatest moisture and/or coolest temperatures. These types of plants are usually (and inaccurately) referred to as **annuals** -- plants that live for only a season -- and **perennials** -- plants that live for several years. The term "annuals" implies blooming yearly, but since this is not always the case, desert annuals are more accurately referred to as **ephemerals**. Most annual desert plants germinate only after heavy seasonal rains, then complete their reproductive cycle very quickly. They bloom prodigiously for a few weeks in the spring, accounting for most of the annual wildflower explosions of the deserts. Quickly pollinated, their heat- and drought-resistant seeds are broadcast by the winds.

## **WILDFLOWER QUIZ FROM SUSAN**

The following wildflowers are common in our area. We have already seen many of them this year. See if you can match the description of the flower with its name below. Answers: Page 10.

1. Invasive exotic plant with small purple blossoms. The plant develops fruit with long tails. When matured and dried, the tails stay attached to a seed and twist in a tight spiral that unwinds when wet and drives the seed into the ground.
2. Also known as sore eye poppy because the hairs on the leaves of this plant can irritate the eyes if accidental contact occurs.
3. Upper petal has yellow spot that changes to purplish red when bees contact it. Root nodules, with the aid of certain bacteria, absorb free nitrogen from the air, thus enriching the soil.
4. Has a powerful self-defense system against livestock and herbivores. It contains toxic alkaloids and delphinine, which make it one of the most poisonous plants in the desert.
5. This purple-flowered plant is often confused with Heliotrope, another phacelia that displays blue (purple) flowers. It has a bad smell similar to onions.
6. This showy annual (ephemeral) responds to and requires full sunlight to open completely. The best time to view them is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
7. Appears with other species of wildflowers because of its parasitic nature. It connects to the roots of the host plant to suck water and minerals. However, its green leaves manufacture their own food.
8. This plant, with its red stems, resembles rhubarb. Mexicans thought the tastes were similar enough to use as a rhubarb replacement and even called the plant wild rhubarb.
9. Europeans used the leaves and flowers as a pot herb. It has a water chestnut flavor and high vitamin C content.
10. Lesser goldfinches relish the seeding plants. These vegetarian birds never switch to insects in the summer like other species and converge on this plant when they have gone to seed.
11. As part of the mint family, the leaves of the shrub make a flavorful tea. Also one of the most popular aromatherapy scents, it has a refreshing effect said to ease tension and feelings of

depression.

12. This plant has an onion like bulb that anchors the long-stemmed flower. The Native American Indians ate the bulbs, as did early settlers.

- |                         |                    |                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| a. Fiddleneck,<br>Poppy | b. Larkspur        | c. Mexican Gold     |
| d. Lavender             | e. Miner's Lettuce | f. Scorpionweed     |
| g. Blue Dicks           | h. Globemallow     | i. Coulter's Lupine |
| j. Owl Clover           | k. Filaree         | l. Canaigre         |

## 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. Assume that the hike will proceed as scheduled unless the guide calls you. If you are unable to go on the hike after making a reservation, call the guide to cancel.

**Arrival Time:** The time listed for the hike is the departure time. It is important to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time.

**Departure Area:** 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:** A SaddleBrooke resident, whether year-round or part-time, must be a club member in order to join a hike. On hikes with limited participants, members have priority over guests. 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** can refer 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. Occasionally, the Tuesday/Thursday group plans a 3-4 hour hike outside the SaddleBrooke boundaries. One-week advance notice is given. Wear comfortable walking/athletic shoes. Remember sunblock, a hat and water.

### Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri Group - 6:30 a.m.

Meet at SaddleBrooke CC by basketball court.

Bill Leightenheimer 818-1953

### Tues/Thurs Group - 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday: Meet at MountainView Clubhouse parking lot.

Thursday: Meet at SaddleBrooke Tennis Center parking lot.



Judy Barenkopf 825-7077

**March 1 - Tues. Sutherland Trail from Catalina State Park. Rating C.** A nice trail ending in a very scenic, flat, rocky area, with views. We start at the Catalina State Park trailhead. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**March 1 - Tues. Superstition Mountains - East Boulder/Needle Canyon Loop. Rating B+.** This hike has more views of Weaver's Needle than any other hike in the Superstition Mountains. The trails are well defined and the views are superb. We will hike this loop clockwise from the Peralta TH. We will hike north up the Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle for a spectacular view of Weaver's Needle. Hike 12.4 miles; elevation gain is 2646 feet. Limited to eight hikers; leave at 5:30 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953

**++March 2 - Wed. Tohono Chul Park and Tea Room, "birders walk" and breakfast. Rating D.** Join a Tohono Chul docent for a guided bird observation walk in beautiful Tohono Chul Park. Pace slow. 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.; driver donation \$1.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

**March 2 - Wed. Sutherland Trail from Catalina State Park. Rating C.** A nice trail ending in a very scenic, flat, rocky area, with views. We start at the Catalina State Park trailhead. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**March 2 - Wed. Cochise Stronghold to the Saddle. Rating C.** This is a beautiful hike through the area (Dragoon Mountains) that Cochise hid in during the Indian wars. He is buried in this area in a hidden location. There is an extension of this hike that expands it to 10 miles for the more advanced hiker. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation about 4500 feet; leave at 6:30 a.m.; driver donation \$10.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804 (Co-leader is Sandra Sowell).

**March 3 - Thurs. Lost Dutchman State Park/Fried Chicken Potluck. Ratings D, C, and B.** Come join us as we explore the Lost Dutchman State Park. The park is named after the fabled lost gold mine. It offers a variety of hiking trails and nature trails. We will have three different hikes, all with different Ratings for you to choose from. After finishing our hikes, we will enjoy a potluck picnic. You will have a choice of bringing a "dish" or contributing to the cost of the chicken. When you call to make your reservation, you will need to state which hike you would like to participate in and what type of dish you would like to bring (Or that you would like to contribute to the chicken). Hike distance and elevation will be typical for Rating category, starting elevation 2000 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00; Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727

**March 4 - Fri. Charouleau Gap Road to the Gap. Rating B. FOR "B- or C+" HIKERS, pace moderate.** Starting from

below Unit 9, we will hike along the wash to the jeep road and then climb this road to the gap, which overlooks SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Tortolitas. The hike will be through desert area and then a steep climb with switchbacks to the gap. Return on the same road. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; altitude at the start 3200 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; should be back by 4 pm. Bring extra shoes or something to wade the Canada del Oro at the beginning of the hike. We can leave wader shoes on the other side and change to hiking boots; driver donation \$1.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**++March 5 - Sat. Canyon Loop Trail and the Birding Trail. Rating D.** We will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; follow the Canyon Loop Trail and come back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. Following this we will hike the Birding Trail. Hike 3.5 miles; elevation change 450 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:30 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**March 5 - Sat. 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 7.25 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3200; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**March 6 - Sun. Buster Spring/Buster Mountain. Rating B. For "C" hikers.** This is a moderately difficult bushwack for the adventurous fit hiker from Catalina State park. This hike will go to Buster Spring (4150 feet) which was rebuilt by the forest service in 1994 and is a reliable source of water year round. >From the spring, we will climb to the summit of Buster Mountain (4595 feet). The summit offers magnificent views of upper Alamo Canyon and the tremendous cliffs and outcroppings there and around Table Mountain. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1895 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

**March 7 - Mon. 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 1150 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at 9:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

**\*\*March 8 - Tues. Superstition Mts. - 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 Weaver's 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. We should also see a lot of Spring wildflowers. Hike 8.5 miles; elevation gain 800 feet; leave at 6:00 a.m.; driver fee \$8.00. Limited to eight hikers. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**March 9 - Wed. Arizona Trail (AZT)-Oracle State Park (OSP) Work Session. Rating C.** This is our Hiking Club committed work day in helping to develop, maintain and report condition of the trails for which we have responsibility. We will be working on the AZT. Generally the work is light in nature and may involve brushing, hoeing, raking, trimming, pruning and usually requires some bending and lifting/carrying tools. On rare occasion we must rebuild water bars, design and develop new trails, build small bridges, erosion control devices and other special projects. All tools are supplied and kept at OSP. Gloves, hat and long pants are always recommended. For the most part it requires a 4-6 hour block of time, therefore you should bring snacks/lunch/water. We are responsible for all the trails in OSP and the 13.5 mile section of the AZT described as "Segment 14A - Black Hills/south". This segment is just north of OSP with the trailhead on Tiger Mine Road. 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. Leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$ 2.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**March 10 - Thurs. Ironwood Forest National Monument. Rating D.** We will drive west towards the West Silverbell Mountains. We will drive through the Ironwood Forest, stopping to see an old cemetery for the original town of Silverbell. Final stop will be at the Sasco Ruins. Bring lunch, camera, hiking boots. Hike <4 miles; minimal elevation change; starting elevation 2900; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**March 12 - Sat. Hiking Club Picnic**

**March 14 - 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 6:30 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Mary Richling. 825-5238.

**March 14 - Mon. Superstition Mts. Rogers Canyon Cliff Dwellings. Rating B+.** We will hike to the Rogers Canyon Cliff Dwellings by a new route. We will follow the JF Trail up and over Tortilla Pass. These ancient cliff dwellings were built by the Salado Indians around A.D. 1150 to A.D. 1250. These ruins are in very good shape and present a nice opportunity for the photographer to get good photos. We also should see good wildflowers on this hike from the Woodbury TH. Limited to eight hikers. Hike 10.6 miles; elevation change 29260 feet; leave at 5:00 a.m.; driver fee \$10.00. Bill Leightenheimer 818-1953.

**\*\*March 14 - 16, Mon. - Wed. Dragoon and Whetstone Mountains. Rating C, B & A.** This is a 3 day-2 night outing. You may camp out in the Dragoons or make reservations at a nearby motel in Tombstone, AZ. for two nights. If staying in motel, the drive back and forth will be about 16 miles (one

way). There will be 2 hikes each day; always one "C" rated or "B" for "C" hikers and the other will be "B" or "A" rated. The hikes will be led by John Rendall and Susan Robertshaw.

**Day One** -- Drive to Dragoon Mts. and set up camp. The "B" hike for "C" hikers will go to Cochise Stronghold from the west side at a slow to moderate pace. We will continue to the campground and then return. The "B+" hike will explore the northern end of the Dragoons from Cochise Trail to the north, mostly bushwhacking. Both hikes may be shortened or lengthened depending on the wishes of the group. Return to campsite for dinner and campfire.

**Day Two** -- The "C" hike will venture along the west side of the Dragoon Mts. taking in the beautiful boulder mountain range, including the adobe ruins, Council Rocks, and down to the base of Slavin Gulch (8 miles- round trip). The "A" rated hike will begin by heading south along the range to Slavin Gulch, up the gulch to the mine, then bushwhacking over the top of the mountain range eventually joining up with Cochise Trail and looping back to campsite via the Trail (15- 16 miles). Prepare dinner and campfire.

**Day Three** --Take down campsite and drive to our trailhead in Karchner State Park located on the east flank of the Whetstone Mts. (about 30 miles away). The "C" hike will take the Foothills Loop Trail (2.5mi.) which completely loops around and over the caverns at a slow pace. As an option: at the saddle there is a short side trail (.4mi) that is rather steep but well worth the climb as you view the Rincons, Winchesters, Huachucas and Dragoon Mountains. To the southeast you can see Mule Mt. in Bisbee and San Jose Peak in Mexico. The "B" hike is a 4.2 mile loop on Guindani Trail which will gain approx. 1000 feet over 2 miles. The trail will take us near the top of the range with 360 degree views. We will then all meet in the parking lot and stop in Benson for lunch as we return home. Bring appropriate gear, food and snacks for 3 days. Leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$12.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**March 16 - Wed. Sutherland Trail from Catalina State Park. Rating C.** A nice trail ending in a very scenic, flat, rocky area, with views. We start at the Catalina State Park trailhead. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**March 16 - Wed. Social Hour, 4:00 p.m.**

**March 18 - Fri. 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 8:30 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**March 19 - Sat. First Water/ Second Water Trail Loop. Rating B-.** We start on the Dutchman Trail from the First Water Creek trailhead, north of Apache Junction, in the Superstition Wilderness. After 4.2 miles, we turn onto the Black Mesa Trail. After another 1.5 miles, up a hill, we'll have lunch on a bluff, overlooking the heart of the Superstitions. Then on to the Second Water Trail and back to our trailhead. Numerous water

crossings and boulders all along these trails, wonderful scenery. Hike 9.2 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 2,300 feet; leave 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735

**March 19 - Sat. Tonto National Monument -Upper Cliff Dwellings/ Roosevelt Dam/ Apache Trail. Rating C.** This is normally a Park Ranger guided tour (open for only 4 months/year by reservation only) hike of the upper dwellings. However, since this date is a once-a-year open house, we will tour the dwelling on our own, stopping along the way to talk with the rangers. The tour is approx. 3 miles on unpaved, moderate trail with a gain of 600 ft. at a slow pace. We will allow time for those wanting to also visit the lower cliff dwellings (open year round). This will be an educational experience regarding the life of the Salado Indians (People of the Salt River). Next, we will drive to the nearby Roosevelt Dam Visitors Center for a quick visit and return home via the beautiful Apache Trail (normally a good 25 mi. dirt road) viewing the Salt River Lakes and stopping at Tortilla Flats for a snack. The monument is approx. 110 miles one way on good roads-total round trip approx. 230 mi. Limit 12 (3 cars required). MUST SIGN UP AT LEAST 3 DAYS PRIOR TO HIKE. Bring lunch/snacks, ample water, hat. Leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$10.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**\*\*March 21 - 22, Mon. - Tues. Superstition Mts. Backpack Peralta to Canyon Lake. Rating A.** We will follow trails through Bluff Springs and La Barge Canyons and camp in the area near Charlebois Spring. While there we will search for the petroglyphs south of Charlebois Spring. On the second day, we will follow trails through Marsh Valley and on to Canyon Lake where our transportation will pick us up. On this backpack, we will see the giant saguaro cactus, ancient petroglyphs, and many wildflowers. Hike 16.1 miles; elevation gain 1,060 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver fee \$18.00. Bill Leightenheimer 818-1953.

**March 23 - Wed. Peralta Trail. Rating C+.** Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle viewing Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains. This may be the area's most beautiful canyon. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver's Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge, thought-provoking boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. It's a steep, rocky trail most of the way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1360 feet; starting elevation 2500 feet; leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. Bob Wynne, 825-2974

**March 24 - Thurs. Arizona Trail/Antelope Mountain. Rating D+.** This hike starts 1.5 miles off Freeman Road, northwest of Oracle. This area has great views of surrounding terrain and has numerous Hedgehog cactus. Native animals are often seen in this area. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and hat. High clearance vehicles are required. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 300 feet; starting elevation 4100 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**March 24 - Thurs. Sutherland Trail from Catalina State Park. Rating C.** A nice trail ending in a very scenic, flat, rocky area, with views. We start at the Catalina State Park

trailhead. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00 Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**March 24 - Thurs. Picacho Peak Rating B. For B- or C+ hikers. Pace slow to moderate.** From the Barret Loop trailhead we hike up to a saddle, down to Sunset Vista Trail, then to the top of Picacho Peak using permanently installed guide cables to reach the summit. BRING COTTON OR LEATHER GLOVES for holding onto the cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short strenuous hike and a favorite among hikers. Park entrance pass required. Hike 4.2 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 1500 feet; leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Should be back by 4 pm, depending on the desire to stop at Dairy Queen. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**\*\*March 25 - Fri. . Arizona Trail through the Rincons. Rating A+.** Hiking the higher reaches of the Rincons is a true wilderness experience because its extensive trail system gets comparatively little use. Levi Manning, a former mayor of Tucson, built a cabin at 8,000 feet, an area now known as Manning Camp. This hike will be a key exchange with one group starting at Reddington Rd. and the other starting at the Miller Creek trailhead, the two groups meeting at Manning Camp. From Reddington Rd. we will hike the Italian Spring Trail to the Fire Loop Trail which leads to Mica Mountain, the highest point in the Rincons at 8,666 feet. From there we will go to Manning Camp eventually intersecting with Heartbreak Ridge and Miller Creek Trails. The second group will follow these trails in reverse. This is a very strenuous, fast-paced hike. Hike 21 miles; elevation change 4,500 feet; starting elevation 4,200 feet; leave 5:00 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**March 26 - Sat. Sweetwater Trail to the Saddle. Rating C+.** 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. We end at the saddle where the trail joins the Kings Canyon trail. The Kings Canyon trail goes down to the Desert Museum or up to Wasson Peak. We will have lunch at the saddle before heading back to the trailhead. Hike 6.8 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735

**March 29 - Tues. Pusch Peak. Rating A.** The first mile of the trail is mostly level then a steep, difficult climb begins. In a few places you may want to use your hands to climb the trail. Bring gloves. Hiking stick desirable. One and one-half miles more and we reach the top. The views of Oro Valley and Tucson are fantastic. This is a very strenuous hike. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 2700 feet; starting elevation 2650 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**March 30 - Wed. Sutherland Trail from Catalina State Park. Rating C.** A nice trail ending in a very scenic, flat, rocky area, with views. We start at the Catalina State Park trailhead. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00, Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**\*\*March 30 - Wed. Patagonia State Park Birding Walk. Rating D.** We will take a two hour birding walk along Sonoita Creek in Patagonia State Park near Patagonia, AZ. It will be led by a naturalist. We'll lunch in picnic area afterwards and also have an opportunity to browse in the visitor's center. Bring your lunch for sure, binoculars and bird books if you like. Hike <4 miles; elevation change minimal; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. Sandra Sowell 818-0995.

**March 31 - Thurs. Doug Kreutz Talk, 7:00 p.m.**

**April 1 - Fri. Rincon Peak. Rating A+.** Betty Leavengood refers to this hike as the PHD of hiking. Rincon Peak is the second highest peak in the Rincon Mountains located east of Tucson. An enormous rock cairn graces the summit. The views from the summit are worth the rigorous trek. Hike 16.2 miles, elevation change 4194 feet; starting elevation 4288 feet; leave at 5:30 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**April 2 - Sat. Anza Trail - Tubac to Tumacacori. Rating C.** The hike will commence at Tubac Presidio State Historical Park and terminate at Tumacacori National Monument. We will be making river crossings, but there are wooden bridges (no hand rails), so we shouldn't get wet feet. Sneakers are okay for this hike. Lunch in Tumacacori at Wisdoms' Cafe. (Written up in April, 2003 Arizona Highway Magazine, page 4.) Bring \$ for lunch, shopping, and \$3 or Golden Age Pass for entrance to Tumacacori Historic Park. Shopping will be after lunch, if your driver is willing. Hike 4.5 miles; minimal elevation change; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**April 4 - Mon. American Flag Trail. Rating C.** This hike begins on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. We take the American Flag Trail to Oracle Ridge where we have interesting views to the west. We then hike south to a saddle below Apache Peak where we will have lunch and then return. Hike 8 miles; we will hike through an area affected by the Aspen fire; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

**April 5 - Tues. Pena Blanca Lake. Rating C.** The lake is a little over a mile long and offers a lush quiet setting where you can go birding watching and hike the trail around the shoreline. Some parts of the trail are rocky and not well maintained. It is located 9.3 miles off Interstate 19, on State Route 289 west of Rio Rico. Hike 4+ miles; elevation change < 500 feet, starting elevation 3832 feet; leave 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**April 6 - Wed. Art and History in downtown Tucson. Rating D.** Walk in Tucson's past by exploring El Presidio neighborhood. Hike led by Phil McArthur, a 50 yr. Tucson resident. Highlights include Stevens, Fish, and Corbett houses, Pioneer Hotel, Fox Theater, Old County Courthouse, Owl's Club, glimpse of Rio Nuevo Project and much more. Stop & Go walking for about 2 1/2 hrs. This followed by 1/2 hr. for browsing in Tucson Museum of Art gift shop and/or viewing exhibit of "Tucson 7" (\$4 senior admission or museum membership for latter.) Near 1:00 p.m. we will gather at Cafe

A La C'Art for no-host lunch. There is a \$7/person tour, tip, and parking fee to be collected at time of departure. Bring \$\$ for lunch. Hike < 4 miles; elevation change minimal; starting elevation 2483; leave 8:45 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

**April 7 - Thurs. 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 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804 (Co-leader is Sandra Sowell).

**++April 8 - Fri. Canyon Loop Trail and the Birding Trail. Rating D++.** We will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; follow the Canyon Loop Trail and come back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. Following this we will hike the Birding Trail. Hike 3.5 miles; elevation change 450 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

**April 8 - Fri. Friends of Saguaro Slide Show, 1:00 p.m.**

**April 9 - Sat. GPS Navigation to Black Mountain. Rating B.** This will be a bushwhack hike utilizing recently gained GPS skills in unfamiliar territory. Hikers without GPS receivers may also come along to gain experience. Black Mountain is approx. 17 miles north of Oracle Junction using Willow Springs Rd. (excellent graded dirt road) to access our starting point. We will hike in 2 person groups starting out 5-10 minutes apart, eventually joining up at a Bench Mark Survey Pin. Destination waypoints will be given out prior to starting and you will be asked to track and establish waypoints as you travel. Time permitting; we will explore other parts of the mountain together gaining valuable GPS skills in new territory. Limit 12. Three vehicles required. Hike distance will range between 7 to 9 miles total; elevation change approx. 1100 feet; starting elevation 5050 feet; bring snacks & lunch. Leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$4.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**April 10 - Sun. Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail. Rating B. For "C" Hikers. Pace Slow to Moderate.** We hike from the parking lot near the Bog Springs Campground entrance in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains). We hike past three different spring areas which are home to bamboo, huge Arizona sycamore, walnut, and fir trees. There are great views of Madera Canyon, Green Valley, Kitt peak, and Baboquivari from this trail. The trail has strenuous, steep climbs in spots. Limit 15 hikers. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 5000 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

**April 11- Mon. Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon (with Tram). Rating B.** We take the Sabino Tram (\$7.50) to Stop 9. Hike starts with a short series of switchbacks that takes us up to the intersection of the Sabino Canyon Trail and the Phoneline Trail. We follow the Sabino Canyon Trail to Sabino Basin where we take the East Fork Trail to the Bear Canyon Trail. We travel south on the Bear Canyon Trail for 6.2 miles to the Bear Canyon

trailhead. From there it's 1.7 miles to the parking lot. Hike 12.8 miles; elevation change 1800 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

**April 11 - Mon. Arizona Trail from the Pigeon Springs TH to Roosevelt Lake. Rating A+.** We will hike the route of the Arizona Trail from the Pigeon Springs TH south to the TH at Roosevelt Lake. This is one of the most scenic sections of the entire Arizona Trail through the breathtaking Four Peaks Wilderness Area. Hike 19 miles; elevation loss 4140 feet; elevation gain 2160 feet; leave at 4:00 a.m.; driver donation \$12.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**April 13 - Wed. Arizona Trail (AZT)-Oracle State Park (OSP) Work Session. Rating C.** This is our Hiking Club committed work day in helping to develop, maintain and report condition of the trails for which we have responsibility. Generally the work is light in nature and may involve brushing, hoeing, raking, trimming, pruning and usually requires some bending and lifting/carrying tools. On rare occasion we must rebuild water bars, design and develop new trails, build small bridges, erosion control devices and other special projects. All tools are supplied and kept at OSP. Gloves, hat and long pants are always recommended. For the most part it requires a 4-6 hour block of time, therefore you should bring snacks/lunch/water. We are responsible for all the trails in OSP and the 13.5 mile section of the AZT described as "Segment 14A - Black Hills/south". This segment is just north of OSP with the trailhead on Tiger Mine Road. 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. Leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$ 2.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**April 13 - Wed. Guide & Board Meeting, 3:00 & 4:00 p.m.**

**April 14 - 21, Thurs. – Thurs. Grand Staircase Escalante and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Rating B and A.** This is an eight day excursion in remote country filled with beautiful canyons and mountains of southern Utah. The first and last day will be our travel days as the drive takes 7-8 hours. All hikes will be long day packs, returning to campsite each night. The first, fourth and seventh nights we will be staying in a motel (showers and dinner) in the town of Escalante. The first 3 days will be spent in the southern portion of Escalante with hikes to and through the river canyons into Glen Canyon Recreation Area. The next 3 days will include the wild canyons of northern Escalante near the old Burr Trail. Most all hikes will require GPS navigation skills as there are very few trails or landmarks to follow. The hikes will be led by Cheryl and Dean Werstler and John Rendall.

**Day One** —Drive to Escalante, Utah and visit the new headquarters of the BLM-Interagency; obtain permits and weather information. Check-in to motel and have dinner.

**Day Two-Three-Four** —Drive to our campsite somewhere near the historic "Hole in the Rock Road". Set up camp for the next two nights/ three days. Hikes will include Neon and Coyote Canyons—cross country loops, canyons and arches.

**Day Four** —At the end of the day, drive back to our motel in

Escalante.

**Day Five-Six-Seven** —Drive to Boulder, Utah and continue down the "Burr Trail" to a campsite nearby where we will be hiking the next three days. We will hike both the north and south portions of "The Gulch" and Deer Creek; both offering fantastic scenery within nature preserves.

**Day Seven** —Return to motel in Escalante at end of day.

**Day Eight** —Return home.

Required: Back country skills, tents, clothing, food and water for multiple days. Leave at 6:00 a.m.; driver donation- TBD during the trip-Approx \$40. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057 or John Rendall, 825-9395

**April 15 - Fri. Guthrie Mountain - Santa Catalina Mountains. Rating C+.** The hike will start at the General Hitchcock Campground. We will go up the Green Mountain trail to the saddle at the head of Bear Canyon. Then on to Guthrie Mountain and return. The trail along the top from the saddle to Guthrie Mountain gives great views of the Catalinas and the San Pedro Valley. The last quarter mile to the trail end over the mountaintop requires some rock climbing. Some hikers may not wish to do that portion of the hike. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 6000 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

**April 18 - Mon. Elephant Head. Rating B+.** A hike to climb the craggy massive rock on the west side of the Santa Ritas. The rock is mentioned in Apache legend of the area. The hike starts out along a gentle mountain road but after about 2 miles there is some tough bushwhacking across Chino canyon and then rock scrambling to get to the top. On the way back we must cross Chino canyon again! Dress defensively and bring gloves. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; starting elevation 4600 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$5.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

**April 20 - Wed. Social Hour, 4:00 p.m.**

**\*\*April 20 - 22, Wed. - Fri. . Sierra Ancha Wilderness & Tonto National Forest. Rating D+ and C.** The Sierra Ancha Wilderness offers some of the most scenic hiking in central Arizona, as well as a variety of vegetation. We will hike in the higher areas around Aztec Peak within the Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests. We will stay 2 nights at Pleasant Valley Inn in Young, AZ which is northeast of Roosevelt Lake in a valley below the Sierra Ancha Wilderness. The inn offers separate motel rooms at \$60 per room/per night (plan 2 people per room). All rooms have refrigerator with freezer section, microwave and coffee pot. Estimate on food is \$60. Plan on packing your lunch for the first day. High clearance vehicles needed. Hikes 4 to 8 miles each; elevation change appropriate for rating; starting elevation 5100'; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$20.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**April 23 - Sat. 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 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00.

Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**April 24 - Sun. Josephine Peak. Rating B+. For "C" Hikers. Pace Slow to Moderate.** We will hike the Super Trail in Madera Canyon of the Santa Ritas, up to Josephine Saddle, and beyond, to Josephine Peak, and back. We leave the trail to reach Josephine Peak. This peak sits in the shadow of Mt. Wrightson. On return we may take Old Baldy Trail down from Josephine Saddle. Hike 12 miles; elevation change 3000 feet; starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

**April 25 - Mon. Arizona Trail from the Pigeon Springs TH to Sunflower. Rating A+.** We will hike the route of the Arizona Trail from the Pigeon Springs TH north to Sunflower. This is one of the most scenic sections of the entire Arizona Trail through the breathtaking Four Peaks Wilderness Area. Hike 18 miles; elevation gain 2720 feet; elevation loss 4470 feet; leave at 4:00 a.m.; driver donations are \$12.00 and \$14.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**April 26 - Tues. 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.; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

### **ANSWERS TO WILDFLOWERS QUIZ**

1. – k. Filaree
2. – h. Globemallow
3. – i. Coulter's Lupine
4. – b. Larkspur
5. – f. Scorpionweed
6. – c. Mexican Gold Poppy
7. – j. Owl Clover
8. – l. Canaigre
9. – e. Miner's Lettuce
10. – a. Fiddleneck
11. – d. Lavender
12. – g. Blue Dicks

### **SUNRISE/SUNSET**

| Month     | Average<br>Sunrise | Average<br>Sunset |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January   | 7:22               | 5:43              |
| February  | 7:10               | 6:09              |
| March     | 6:32               | 6:33              |
| April     | 5:55               | 6:54              |
| May       | 5:28               | 7:15              |
| June      | 5:19               | 7:30              |
| July      | 5:30               | 7:28              |
| August    | 5:49               | 7:05              |
| September | 6:08               | 6:28              |
| October   | 6:29               | 5:51              |
| November  | 6:54               | 5:26              |
| December  | 7:16               | 5:24              |