



# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

MARCH/APRIL

2008-2

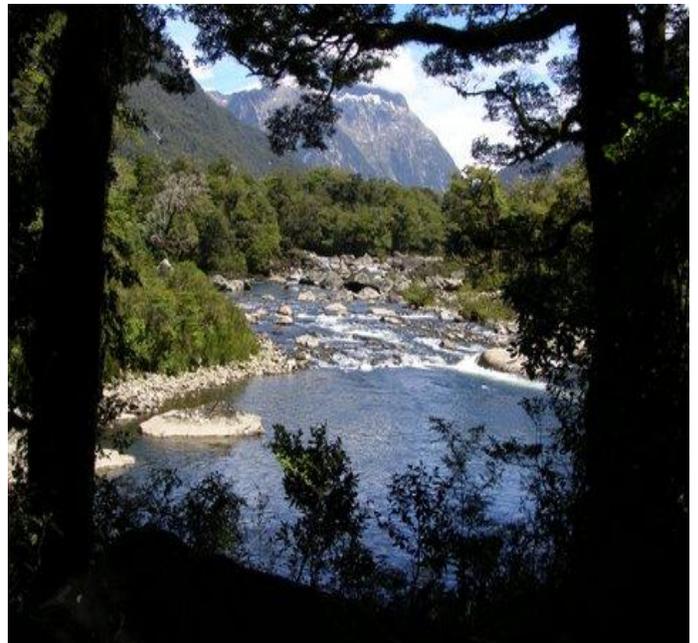
### NEW ZEALAND TRAVELOGUE PRESENTATION

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club member Larry Linderman recently spent three weeks hiking the South Island of New Zealand. He hiked the famed Milford Track and the less well known but equally beautiful Routeburn Track. He took boat tours of Milford and Doubtful sounds and stayed in the charming New Zealand towns of Te Anau and Queenstown. He then traveled up the west coast stopping to see the Franz Josef Glacier, the pancake rocks and blow-holes of Punakaiki, then turning inland to the town of Motueka which served as a base camp to explore the coastline of Abel Tasman National Park.

Larry did all this exploring with old hiking friends from his years living in California. In addition to hiking they rode jet boats in the Shotover River, kayaked in Tasman Bay, bungee jumped, collected seashells, ate delicious food and stayed in fancy hotels and youth hostels. They also saw lots and lots of sheep.

Along the way, Larry and his friends took many pictures of this beautiful country. He has pared them down to a 35-minute show and wants to share them with hiking club members and all

interested SaddleBrooke residents.



Larry's New Zealand adventure will be presented on **Wednesday, March 19** at the Coyote Room in the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse at 4 PM. The Hiking Club social hour will follow the presentation. Again, all SaddleBrooke residents are invited.

Note: This presentation will be held at the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse.

## HIKING CLUB PICNIC

Spring is around the corner and the **HIKING CLUB PICNIC** will be Wednesday, March 26, at Catalina State Park. Entrance Fee is \$6 per car or State Park Pass. After entering the park continue on the road past the picnic area sign to the group picnic area sign and turn left. This year the picnic will be on the right side of the road, not the left side.

**HIKES:** An early bird C- Hike to Dripping Springs starting at the Sutherland Trail, will meet at MountainView parking lot 7:30 a.m. Hike 4.81 miles; elevation change 460 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 ft. Driver donation \$3.00 (includes park entrance fee). Pre-register with Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

A **Geology Walk** will be led by Karen Gray from the group picnic area of Catalina State Park at 8:30 a.m. Pre-register for this hike with Karen Gray 818-0337.

**ORIENTATION TO DESERT HIKING:** At 10:00 am. Jan Wilson will lead a discussion of hiking wisdom for newcomers to desert hiking. Pre-register for this session with Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** A business meeting will be held at 11:30 am. New officers will be elected. Revised by-laws will be presented for approval. Club volunteers will be recognized.

**FOOD:** It will be a potluck-plus-chicken lunch at noon. The club will provide the chicken, plates,utensils, ice and cups. You will need to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share and your own beverage. The chicken will be provided by the club. PLEASE CALL CHERYL STRAW, 818-3631, PRIOR TO MARCH 19 TO LET HER KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BRING TO SHARE AND TO PROVIDE A COUNT FOR THE CHICKEN ORDER.

**MERCHANDISE:** Hiking shirts and patches

will be available at sale prices. Bring money or a check. Orders will be taken for new wicking club shirts, which will be on display.

We hope to see everyone there. We had 72 attend the Fall Picnic and hope more will attend this picnic. Mark your calendars now.

## OFFICERS

**President:** Susan Robertshaw - 818-6727

jsrobertshaw@wbhsi.net

**Vice-President:** Michael Reale -825-8286

mjreale@msn.com

**Secretary:** Marjorie Herrmann - 818-9515

Mherrmann@wbhsi.com

**Treasurer:** Jan Springer - 825-1451

Janet65673@msn.com

**Chief Hiking Guide:** Elisabeth Wheeler - 818-1547

elisarick@wbhsi.com

## VOLUNTEERS

**Chief Guide Asst.:** Cheryl Werstler - 825-9057

dbwerst@wbhsi.net

**Editor:** Carole Rossof - 877-9262

crandmr1@msn.com

**Membership Roster:** Bob Perez - 818-2111

azsun65@wbhsi.net

**Merchandise:** Sandy Businger - 825-9294

**Newsletter Copies:** Martha Hackworth - 818-2573

**Publicity:** Lou Powers - 825-5508

**Statistics & Awards:** Mary Hlushko - 825-9674

**Social:** Cheryl Straw - 818-3631

**Social Assistant:** Cyndee Jordan - 825-4640

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**\*Social Hour** March 19th 5:00 p.m.

**\*Board Meeting** March 31st 7:00 p.m.

**Hiking Guide Meeting** April 2nd 4:00 p.m.

**Social Hour** April 16th 4:00 p.m.

**\*Note: Social Hours are normally held at the MV Clubhouse in the lounge area. March 19<sup>th</sup> only, will be held at SB Clubhouse.**

**\*Special Board Meeting, transition of new officers**

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).

## AWARDS

### 10 HIKES

Jim Burke      Izetta Feeny      Mary Ganzel  
Richard Ganzel      Jerry Kiefer      Bill Martin  
Mary Pitrof

### 25 HIKES

Ray Gearhard      Bertie Litchfield

### 50 HIKES

Paul DeBruine      Ruth DeBruine      Curt Hulteen  
Elizabeth Tancock

### 100 HIKES

Virginia Brier      Susan Gleich

## 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 sign-up 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 **6:30 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 **6:30 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 Barenkopf's Tuesday, Thursday walks will start at **7:00 a.m.** Tuesday the walks start at the Mountain View Clubhouse parking lot. On Thursday we start at the SaddleBrooke Tennis Club's parking lot. The walks last for about 1 hour and are mostly "D" walks. We have walkers of all levels. Most of the walks are all around SaddleBrooke, for more information call Judy at 825-7077 or e-mail at mbarenkopf@msn.com. Happy walking!

### HIKES OFFERED

**Mar. 3 – Mon. Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C. (SLOW PACE)** This hike is a gradual hike through a mesquite bosque with 100+ year old saguaros, Arizona Poppies/Morning Glories in season, on the way to an area of many, many petroglyphs. Per the book Paradise Found by Kathy Alexander there are over 1400 petroglyphs in the area. Some rock scrambling is necessary to search for the petroglyphs. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Mar. 4 - Tues. Picacho Peak for "C" Hikers. Rating B.** THIS IS A SPECIAL HIKE FOR "C" HIKERS WANTING TO CONQUER THE PEAK. Pace will be modified to accommodate the group. 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 **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 90 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Chris Costello & Larry Dawson, 818-0368.

**\*\*Mar. 4 - Tues. Agua Caliente Hill and Canyon Exploratory. Rating B+.** 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 1½ 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 **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Mar. 5 - Wed. Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C+/B.** This walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes in or around SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 – 10 miles; elevation change 500-600 ft; leave at **6:30 a.m.** (duration 2.5-3.0 hours; Optional: Breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted). Dean Wilson 818-0299.

**Mar. 5 – 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.

**\*\*Mar. 5 – Wed. Rice Peak, with start at Oracle Ridge trail. Rating A** This hike begins in Oracle off the Cody Loop Rd at the water tank. It follows the Oracle Ridge Trail south past the junction with the American Flag/Cody trail and to a saddle on the southwest side of Apache Peak. We will continue on the single track Arizona Trail to a gate where we will then continue on the Oracle Ridge trail which becomes a forest service road. We will continue on the Arizona Trail/Oracle Ridge section to the very short steep, rocky climb to Rice Peak. Hike 15 miles; elevation change 2900 ft. starting elevation 4700 ft. leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 40 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804.

**Mar. 6 - Thurs. 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. Debbie Dyer & Rick Phelps, 825-2395.

**Mar. 6 – Thurs. 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 **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Greg Lindahl, 825-3679.

**Mar. 7 – Fri. Fifty-Year Loop. Rating C. (SLOW PACE)** We will start in the Fifty-Year Trail Area and go east to the Upper Loop Trail then hike north to a rock with a bench for viewing. We then will hike back on the Fifty-Year Trail. There are beautiful saguaros and rock formations in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. This hike can be done in reverse. Hike 6.11 miles; elevation change 878 feet (gps); starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Mar. 10 – Mon. 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 **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 42 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**\*\*Mar. 11 – Tues. Exploring SaddleBrooke's backyard-Part I. Rating B+.** We will leave from Dean & Cheryl's house, bushwhacking over State Land to reach and cross the Canada del Oro (CDO) and connect with Charouveau Gap Road. After reaching the cattle guard, we will leave Charouveau Gap Rd. for a brief bushwhack over to Big Dome and back. From there we will continue on to the junction of Road 4496, join this road going north, and eventually curve west to merge with the Canada del Oro. We will hike the CDO south back to our beginning at the Werstler's. Much of our hike will be on jeep roads with loose rocks in places, but the scenery is gorgeous with canyons, huge granite boulders, and outcroppings. There are a couple of miles of off-trail hiking to reach Charouveau Gap Rd. and Big Dome. (This will be brushy so dress accordingly.) We will be in the CDO which, at times, has water, for about 2.5 miles. (We will inform you ahead of time if there is water.) Hike 12+ miles; elevation change 1,045 feet; starting elevation 3,290 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.** Driver donation \$0. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Mar. 12 – 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.

**Mar. 12 – Wed. 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.

**Mar. 13 – Thurs. 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 **6:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 191 miles; driver donation \$13.00 plus State Park Fee \$7 per car Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**\*\*Mar. 13 – Thurs. Patagonia State Park – Coal Mine Spring Trail. Rating B.** A ranger or volunteer will lead us on guided hike through seven vegetation time zones and interesting geology to Coal Mine Springs, a perennial spring where the endangered Gila Topminnow thrives. Hike 11 miles. Minimal elevation change.; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 191 miles; driver donation \$13 plus State Park Fee \$7 per car. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Mar. 14 – Fri. Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating A.** Hike up the Old Baldy Trail to the summit and come down the same way. This is the shortest route to the top (9453') of Mt. Wrightson. At the top are 360-degree views from Tucson to Mexico. This is a shady all day hike to an outstanding mountain. Hike 11.1 miles; elevation change 4029 feet (gps); starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 130 miles; driver donation \$10.00. Larry Linderman, 818-1977.

**Mar. 18 – Tues. 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.

**\*\*Mar. 18 – Exploring SaddleBrooke's backyard-Part II. Rating B+.** We will leave from Dean & Cheryl's house, bushwhacking over State Land to reach and cross the Canada del Oro (CDO) and connect with Charouveau Gap Road. After about 1 ½ miles we will come to a Y and follow that spur about .3 mile to a beautiful overlook of Dodge Canyon. After returning to Charouveau Gap Rd., we will continue to the intersection with Road 4432, proceeding on this road southwest for less than a mile. Road 4432 continues southeast, but we will leave the road going southwest for a bushwhack which crosses an existing horse trail and climbs gently up the north side of "Hidden Canyon Peak." We will then come down the east side of the peak to the Hidden Canyon "Lunch Rock." On our return we will look for a trail going east that leads to a pond that we

would have reached had we earlier continued to the end of Road 4432. If we find this trail we will return on Road 4432 to the junction with Charouleau Gap Rd. and retrace our steps back to the Werstler's. Otherwise we will return on the existing horse trail heading north, leaving this to repeat our bushwhack in reverse to our original exiting point from Road 4432. Much of our hike will be on jeep roads with loose rocks in places, but the scenery is gorgeous with canyons, huge granite boulders, and outcroppings. There are a couple of miles of off-trail hiking to reach Charouleau Gap Rd., Hidden Canyon Peak, and the Lunch Rock. (This will be brushy so dress accordingly.) Hike 10½ -12 miles; elevation change 1,000 feet; starting elevation 3,290 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.** Driver donation \$0. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Mar. 19 - Wed. Arizona Trail Work Session. Rating C.** This is one of our Hiking Club work days. Come join the fun - it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain and report conditions for the section of the Arizona Trail called, "Black Hills/South," for which our club is responsible. This 6-mile section starts on Tiger Mine Road, off Hwy 77, just north of the Oracle State Park. Generally, the work is light, involving some clipping, brushing, raking, and pruning, and for some, buiding up cairns, adding erosion control devices and other trail work (depending on the rains.) Bring along gloves, hat, and hand clippers, Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The session usually lasts about 4 hours, so bring water and snacks. Hike 3-6 miles. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**, round trip 50 miles(dirt.) The club will pay drivers' expenses. Jim Strickler 825-8735.

**Mar. 19 – Wed. New Zealand Hiking Program – SaddleBooke Clubhouse – Coyote Room, 4:00 p.m.** Larry Linderman, 818-1977.

**Mar. 19 – Wed. Social Hour SaddleBrooke Clubhouse, 5:00 p.m.**

**Mar. 20 - Thurs. Sweetwater Trail (short version). Rating D+.** We start from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the East Side of the Tucson Mountains and hike about ½ the distance to the saddle. Bring at least 2 quarts of water, a snack, a hat and sunscreen. Hiking boots and stick recommended. Bring camera and binoculars. Hike <4 miles; elevation change 350 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 60 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

**Mar. 20 – Thurs. Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C+.** Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," this trail goes up the north side of Pontatoc Ridge to j 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 **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Greg Lindahl, 825-3679.

**Mar. 24 – Mon. 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 **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Mar. 24 – Mon. Deer Camp Loop. Rating C. (SLOWER PACE )** This hike starts in the 50-Year Trail Area. We hike up to Deer Camp then head southwest down a winding trail to connect with a trail that will take us up to a lookout on an arm of Samaniego Ridge. You will have a great view of SaddleBrooke, the Sutherland Wash, the Biosphere, the Tortolita Mountains and the Pusch Ridge series. We will follow this trail back down over slick rock, past an ancient cholla tree, then through an ocotillo grove. It then continues down a dry creek bed (watch for those cairns) and intersects with the Baby Jesus Trail. We pass through a grove of 100+ year old Saguaros on the way back to our cars. Hike 5.7 miles, elevation change 1400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

**Mar. 25 – Tues. Canyon Loop and Birding Trail. Rating D.** We will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; follow the Canyon Loop Trail and then 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 he Birding Trail. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 3.43 miles; elevation change 270 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

**March 25 - Tues. Tortolitas: Wild Mustang/Wild Burro Canyon Loop. Rating B.** Over 25 miles of recently constructed trails beckon in the Western Tortolita Mountains. From the trailhead we will take the Cottonwood Path to the Lower Javalina Trail which ascends through hillsides covered with enormous boulders and a forest of saguaro cacti. We then join the Wild Burro Trail which passes an old stone house and concrete tank. As we climb this trail, we overlook the narrow upper Wild Burro canyon which spreads wide with numerous side canyons and tributaries. At the top of the trail system we connect with the Wild Mustang Trail which leads us over the higher elevations of the mountains to the north. We then join with the Upper Javalina Trail and follow this trail out to its trailhead. From there we will return cross country to the parking lot. We will see several crested saguaro on this hike. Hike 11 miles; elevation change 1,400 feet; starting elevation 2,700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Mar 26 – Wed. Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C-.** We follow the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign then turn off at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks laid out in a row on the right (east) side of trail. The hike then veers to the right and follows a small canyon where there is a beautiful waterfall (depending on recent rains). Much of this part of the trail is sandy with several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Hike 4.81 miles; elevation change 460 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Mar. 26 – Geology Walk** led by Karen Gray from the group picnic area of Catalina State Park at **8:30 a.m.** Pre-register for this hike with Karen Gray 818-0337.

**Mar. 26 – Wed. Orientation for Newcomers, Picnic Area, 10:00 a.m., Jan Wilson**

**Mar. 26 – Wed. Hiking Club Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.**

**Mar. 26 – Wed. Hiking Club Picnic, 12:00, Cheryl Straw, 818-3631.**

**\*\*Mar. 28 – Fri. Arizona Trail/La Milagrosa Ridge Trail. Rating B-**. The hike begins at Molino Basin Campground on the Catalina Highway. We hike south on the Arizona Trail, traversing 600 ft. up the Molino Ridge (high point 4,800 ft.) Then, it is mostly down-hill as we reach the junction for the Milagrosa Ridge trail, and continue along an up and down ridge to the waiting vehicles at Horsehead Road (near Soldier Trail Road.) There are great views all along the way of the valley and sheer rock walls of Milagrosa and Agua Caliente Canyons. The trail is mostly good with a few rocky areas. Cars will need to be left at Horsehead Road and driven back to Molino Basin, 7 miles away. Hike 7.8 miles, elevation gain 900 ft., loss 2,500 ft. (GPS). Starting elevation 4,300 ft. leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip 88 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**Mar. 31 – Mon. 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. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Mar. 31 – Mon. Board Meeting, SaddleBrooke Clubhouse, Coyote Room, 7:00 p.m.**

**April 1 – Tues. Aravaipa Canyon. Rating B+.** This is a wilderness hike, by permit only, in a primitive preserve in the Galiuro Mountains. This hike, which changed when much of the vegetation was flooded out two years ago, follows the perennial Aravaipa Creek through 400-600 foot canyon walls. The riparian oasis that surrounds the creek contrasts with the desert vegetation that lines the dry canyon walls. We will go about 4 miles into the 11-mile canyon exploring side canyons as time permits. Expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings with dense riparian brush. We will be hiking in ankle to knee-deep water about 50% of the time. There is boulder hopping in the side canyons. Wear shorts and good-traction shoes that can get wet, and bring hiking sticks. Bring dry shoes/clothes for the drive home and a plastic bag for wet items. Hike limited to 8 people; \$5 per person permits must be reserved in advance and are nonrefundable. Must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Hike ~12 miles; elevation change ~ 600 feet; starting elevation 2,600 feet; leave at **5:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00 (plus \$5 permit fee). Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**Apr.2 - Wed. Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C+/B.** This walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes in or around SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 – 10 miles; elevation change 500-600

ft; leave at **6:30 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.

**Apr. 2 – 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.

**Apr. 2 - Wed. Guide Meeting, SaddleBrooke Clubhouse, Coyote Room, 4:00 p.m., Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.**

**Apr. 4 – Fri. Phonline 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 Phonline 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. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Apr. 5 – Sat. Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating D.** We will meet in the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke Fitness Center. Bring gloves and a bottle of water. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided by the Pinal County Transportation Dept. Leave at **7:00 a.m.** The cleanup walk will last approximately an hour and a half. Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756.

**\*\*Apr. 7 – Apr. 9. Mon. Tues, Wed. Fossil Spring Backpack Trip. Rating B.** Fossil Creek and Fossil Springs are little-known wonders of the "rim country" of central Arizona. As this scenic canyon approaches the base of the Mogollon Rim, it suddenly transforms from a rather typical high desert canyon to an amazing water wonderland. The environment is pinyon pine and juniper plus the ubiquitous cactus. The small perennial stream and many springs provide a lush green riparian area in the canyon bottom. In the early 1900's two hydroelectric power plants were built on Fossil Creek to provide electricity to local mines, the mining district of Jerome and the city of Phoenix. A flume was built from a dam below the springs to bring water 4 miles downstream to the Irving Power Plant. In the early 1900's these plants represented an incredible engineering accomplishment. Environmental and economic concerns brought about a decision in 1999 to decommission the hydroelectric project and to return full flow to Fossil Creek in 2005. The antique Irving power plant is being preserved as an historic structure. Fossil Springs produces a constant

supply of water that is approximately 70 degrees Fahrenheit; the creek is known for its travertine pools. A slideshow of the history of hydroelectric power at Fossil Creek may be viewed at: [www.pinestrawhs.org/waterpower/slideindex](http://www.pinestrawhs.org/waterpower/slideindex).

The Fossil Springs trailhead is 4 miles west of Strawberry on Fossil Springs Rd. The 4 mile trail was once a rough wagon road. Hike 8 miles round-trip; elevation change -1280 ft and +1280 ft; starting elevation 5600 ft.; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip mileage ~350 miles; driver donation is \$25.00. Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547.

**Day 1** – Drive to Payson, have lunch, view exhibit of history of Fossil Creek power plants, tour oldest schoolhouse in AZ, backpack to Fossil Springs, a riparian area with plenty of shade. Camp overnight. Filter water from springs for cooking and drinking.

**Day 2** – Explore Fossil Creek riparian area, limestone caves, swimming hole with rope swing. Camp overnight.

**Day 3** – Backpack to trailhead, drive back to SaddleBrooke. Option: Lunch in Payson. 2<sup>nd</sup> Option: Zane Grey museum & cabin.

Some backpacking gear may be available for loan from SaddleBrooke backpackers. Water filters and stoves may be shared. Each backpacker is responsible for their own camp food – 2 dinners, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, snacks & other beverages.

**Apr. 9 – Wed. Tohono Chul Park and Tea Room, Birds and breakfast. Rating D.** Join a Tohono Chul docent for a guided bird observation walk in beautiful Tohono Chul Park. We can continue strolling through the park at our leisure and end with breakfast at the Tohono Chul Tea Room. Bring binoculars. There is an admission fee of \$5.00. Hike 1.5 miles; elevation change 50 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:45 a.m.**; round trip drive 36 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

**Apr. 9 – Wed. Fifty Year Trail/Sutherland Cutoff Trail Loop. Rating C.** We will start at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park and hike north to a stream terrace that gives a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area and the Santa Catalina Mountains. We will then hike down to the Sutherland Wash, take the Sutherland Cutoff Trail to the Sutherland Trail and head back to Catalina State Park. Hike 7.6 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804.

**Apr 9 – Wed. Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C-.** We follow the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign then turn off at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks laid out in a row on the right (east) side of trail. The hike then veers to the right and follows a small canyon where there is a beautiful waterfall (depending on recent rains). Much of this part of the trail is sandy with several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area the trail is somewhat rocky. An old

abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Hike 4.81 miles; elevation change 460 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.

**Apr. 11 – Fri. Picacho Peak - Sunset Vista Trail. Rating B.** From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the lower route to the climb up to Picacho Peak. The climb to the top of Picacho Peak employs the use of cables (bring gloves!) to get to the top. This is a short, acrophobic, strenuous hike. Park entrance pass required. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 1500 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 90 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Sandy Businger, 825-9294.

**Apr 15 – Tues. David Yetman Trail. Rating C.** This hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. This trail has two trailheads – one at Camino de Oeste and one near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. We can leave cars at one end and drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, then down a wash with a short but steep climb back up to the ridge. We pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that is a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick, if you wish. Hike 5.4 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 75 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Larry Dawson & Chris Costello, 818-0368.

**\*\*Apr. 15, Apr. 16, Apr. 17 – Tues., Wed., Thurs. Ft. Bowie, Chiricahuas and Amerind Foundation with 2 overnights at Chiricahua Foothills B&B. Ratings B & C.** Leave at **7:00 a.m.** Round trip drive is over 360 miles; driver donation is \$25. Other charges are listed below. Sandra Sowell 818--0995

**Apr. 15 - Tues. Ft. Bowie National Historic Site (Apache Pass Trailhead). Rating C.** The 1.5 mile foot trail to the fort/visitor's center passes a number of historic features and the upper Sonoran life zone of natural features. Elevation change 180'. Ridge trail from visitor's center back to junction ascends 300' and to Apache position of the Battle of Apache Pass. This overlook offers spectacular vistas albeit a fairly steep descent. We'll eat our lunch at the visitor's center and then be led by a ranger in a tour of the fort before we return to the trailhead. Hike 3-4 miles; elevation change 480 ft; starting elevation 5000 ft.; leave at **7:00 a.m.**

We'll continue on to Chiricahua Foothills B&B near the entrance of Chiricahua National Monument for a 2 night stay. Arriving 4PM. We'll have dinner at the B&B.

**Apr. 16 - Wed.. Chiricahua Heart of Rocks Loop. Rating B.** A loop hike through spectacular rock formations. Hike 9 miles; elevation change 2,500 ft (gps), starting elevation 6,570 ft.; leave from B&B **8:00 a.m.** Led by Jim Strickler.

**Or**

**Apr 16 - Wed. Chiricahua Echo Canyon to Visitor's Center. Rating C.** A nearly all down hill hike through remarkable pillars and rock formations from Echo Canyon Trailhead to the Visitor's Center. Hike 4.5 miles; elevation change -1,380 ft; starting elevation 6,780 ft; leave from

B&B 8:00 a.m. Led by Sandra Sowell.

**Apr. 17 – Thurs. 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 7:00 a.m.; round trip drive 41 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

**Apr. 17 - Thurs. Chiricahua Natural Bridge & Amerind Foundation. Rating C** This trail reaches a small stone bridge formed by erosion of bedrock. The trailhead is 1.3 miles past the Visitor Center. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 700 ft; starting elevation 5,300 ft. Leave from B&B 7:30 a.m.. Led by Jim Strickler and Sandra Sowell. We'll continue on by 11:30AM to The Amerind Foundation. We will have our sack lunch at the picnic area there and then have a docent-led tour of the museum. Return to SaddleBrooke after tour.

**Additional Costs:** \$85.00 per room per night double occupancy, includes breakfast

\$14.00 per person per night for dinner at the B&B

\$6.00 per person per day for sack lunch from B&B, optional

Monument fee \$5.00/person or Golden Age pass/per person

Amerind Foundation entrance fee-\$3.00/person

Additional accommodations in Willcox about 35 miles, and the campground in Chiricahua National Monument (24 sites.. first come first serve basis, for tents, trailers to 24 ft. and RV's to 29 ft.). Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

**Apr 16 – 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.

**Apr. 16 – Hiking Club Social, 4:00 p.m., MountainView Clubhouse**

**Apr 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 7:00 a.m.; round trip drive 24 miles; driver

donation \$3.00. Debbie Dyer & Rick Phelps, 825-2395.

**Apr. 21 – Mon. 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 7:30 a.m.; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Apr 22 - Tues. Wildflower Hike TBA. Rating D.** Leave at 7:00 a.m. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Apr 23 – Wed. Wasson Peak Loop, Rating B.** Start at King Canyon Trailhead. From King Canyon Trail, hike Sendero Esperanza Trail over to Hugh Norris Trail, up to Wasson Peak, then back down King Canyon wash to trailhead. We will have stops for lots of different views and a variety of scenery. Hike 9.5 miles; elevation change 1900 feet, starting elevation 2800; leave at 7:00 a.m.; round trip drive 73 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**Apr 23 – Wed. 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.

**Apr 25 – 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 Canyon. 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 8:00 a.m.; round trip drive 42 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Frank Brier, 818-0493.

**Apr. 26 – 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. 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.

**Apr. 28 – Mon. Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C.**

**(SLOWER PACE)** This hike is a gradual hike through a mesquite bosque with 100+ year old saguaros, Arizona Poppies/Morning Glories in season, on the way to an area of many, many petroglyphs. Per the book Paradise Found by Kathy Alexander there are over 1400 petroglyphs in the area. Some rock scrambling is necessary to search for the petroglyphs. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

**Apr. 29 – Tues. Deer Camp Loop. Rating C.** This hike starts in the 50-Year Trail Area. We hike up to Deer Camp then head southwest down a winding trail to connect with a trail that will take us up to a lookout on an arm of Samaniego Ridge. You will have a great view of SaddleBrooke, the Sutherland Wash, the Biosphere, the Tortolita Mountains and the Pusch Ridge series. We will follow this trail back down over slick rock, past an ancient cholla tree, then through an ocotillo grove. It then continues down a dry creek bed (watch for those cairns) and intersects with the Baby Jesus Trail. We pass through a grove of 100+ year old Saguaros on the way back to our cars. Hike 5.7 miles, elevation change 1400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Chris Costello & Larry Dawson, 818-0368.

**Apr 30 – Wed. 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.