

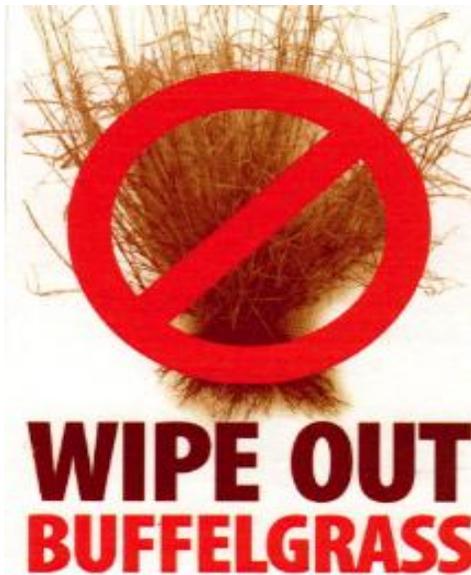
SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2008-6



CAN YOU IDENTIFY INVASIVE GRASSES?

Wednesday November 19th, in the Mountainview Ballroom at 4:00p.m, Marilyn Hanson, the volunteer coordinator for the Sonoran Desert Weedwackers in Tucson Mountain Park will present a program about how to identify buffelgrass and other invasive species. These grasses are impacting the native plants in the desert and creating a potential fire hazard.

Marilyn Hanson will describe the work done by the Weedwackers, a volunteer organization organized

under the auspices of the Native Plant Society with support from Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation. Since 2001 this group of volunteers has worked tirelessly to remove tons of invasive grasses. The results of their work is now starting to be seen, with wild flowers and native grasses growing where once there was dense growths of buffelgrass.

The idea for this program grew out of a conversation last spring when SaddleBrooke hikers were hiking in the Tucson Mountains. The question arose about identifying buffelgrass; hikers agreed they needed more information to positively identify invasive grasses.

There is a wealth of information available on the website for the Arizona Native Plant Society. You can find brochures, videos and other information which emphasize how serious the threat of these invasive grasses is to the health of the Sonoran Desert. If the growth and spread of invasive grasses are not controlled, the damage from potential wild fires and overgrowth of these grasses could significantly change the desert in the future.

All residents of SaddleBrooke are invited to hear about this timely topic at this SB Hiking Club sponsored program. You will learn about these invasive species, especially buffelgrass, and what the Weedwacker volunteers do each month. Perhaps, after hearing the presentation, you may even consider joining with these volunteers in helping to preserve our Sonoran desert.



ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Our club has recently contributed \$500 to the Arizona Trail Association (following a vote at the last picnic). We have received several personal thank-you notes and a plaque from Dave Hicks, the Executive Director. As most of you know, the 807 mile Arizona Trail goes from the Mexican Border near the Coronado National Monument to the Utah Border north of the Grand Canyon. If you have hiked into the Grand Canyon you have hiked on part of the Arizona Trail. Many of our club hikes in and around the Santa Catalinas include sections of the AZT. Four of our hikers have completed all 807 miles and a number of others have completed many miles. The beauty of the AZT is its huge variety of scenery and challenges. There are still a few sections that require extensive and expensive trail-building and hopefully we will be able to continue our financial and volunteer support. One day the AZT may have National Trail designation as well.

THANK YOU MARY RICHLING

We want to extend heartfelt thanks to Mary Richling, who has decided to “retire” as hiking guide and pursue other family interests. Our club started in October, 1999, and Mary was one of the charter members and a guide for these 9 years. She also served as President in 2003-04, and secretary in 2005. Among her favorite and very popular hikes were the Madera Canyon Nature Trail and the Tohono Chul birders walk and tea room. Mary extends her best wishes to the rest of the guides and club members for continued great hiking ahead. We’ll miss you Mary!

GUIDES FOR SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB

Volunteer guides lead approximately 25 hikes a month for our club members. Our guides are hikers who have enjoyed hiking the trails around SaddleBrooke and nearby mountains and want to share their enjoyment with others. Additional guides are most welcome, even if they lead just one favorite hike a month.

An information meeting for hikers wanting to learn about becoming guides will be held Wednesday, November 19, 2:45 p.m. at Mountainview Clubhouse in the West Ballroom, preceding the special program by the Desert Weedwackers. Come and learn about guiding and the training/mentoring available. This is a rewarding way to “give back” to the SB Hiking Club.

OFFICERS

President: Michael Reale – 825-8286
mjreale@msn.com

Vice-President: Dave Hydeman – 825-7816
kuquilter@wbhsi.net

Secretary: Marjorie Herrmann – 818-9515
Mherrmann@wbhsi.com

Treasurer: Elisabeth Tancock – 825-7838
etancock@wbhsi.net

Chief Hiking Guide: Jim Strickler – 825-8735
sherabjim@wbhsi.net

VOLUNTEERS

Communications - Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547
elisarick@wbhsi.com

Newsletter - Carole Rossof, 877-9262
crandmr1@msn.com

Publicity - Lou Powers, 825-5508
loupowers11@aol.com

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

Statistics and Awards - Susan Hollis, 825-6819
slhollis@yahoo.com

Newsletter Copies - Martha Hackworth
818-2573, marthahackworth@comcast.net

Merchandise - Sandy Businger,
825-9294, usbusinger@wbhsi.net

Socials - Cheryl Straw
818-3631, cstraw@wbhsi.net

Work Days - Jim Strickler
825-8735, sherabjim@wbhsi.net

Catalina Hills Cleanup - Bill Leightenheimer
818-1465, whlaz@wbhsi.net

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Potential Guide Orientation	Nov. 19th	2:45 p.m.
Special Program	Nov. 19th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Dec. 3rd	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	Dec. 3rd	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour	Dec. 17 th	4:00p.m.

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.

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 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 four categories to describe our hikes. Unless otherwise specified, hikes will be done at a moderate pace.

- Leisurely Pace:** Average speed of hike < 1.5 MPH
- Slow Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥1.5 to <2.0 MPH
- Moderate Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥2.0 to <2.5 MPH
- Fast Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥ 2.5 MPH

Elevation: Three indicators are used, where available, in the hike descriptions to convey hike difficulty. **Elevation Change** is the net change in elevation obtained from subtracting the starting elevation from the highest point reached, in feet, obtained usually from USGS maps. **Elevation Gain** (gps) is the sum of all upward stretches of the hike as recorded by a global positioning system. This parameter is generally a more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation. **Elevation Loss** (gps), another measure of hike difficulty, useful for some hikes, is the sum of all downward stretches of the hike.

Symbols:

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

smooth trail surface.

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

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

FITNESS WALKS - FIVE DAYS A WEEK

Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. Enjoy the company of other hikers while perusing SaddleBrooke. The sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. No advanced signup is required to participate in these walks.

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. **Beginning December 1st Monday – Friday fitness walks will begin at 7:00 a.m.** If you have any questions please contact Michael at 825-8286 or Dean at 818-0299.

Judy's Tuesday, Thursday fitness walk will continue to begin at **6:30AM** for the month of November and will begin at **7:00AM** starting December 2nd. We will meet on Tuesday at the Mountain View Clubhouse parking lot and on Thursday at the SaddleBrooke Tennis club's parking lot. We will walk for about 1 hour covering approximately 3-4 miles. We have walkers of all levels walking, and we usually remain in the confines of SaddleBrooke. Join us for exercise and chatter and an all around goodtime.

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

Happy Walking!

HIKES OFFERED

Nov. 1 – Sat. Lime Falls, Saguaro NP-East. Rating C. This hike begins off of Cactus Forest Drive. The hike follows the Cactus Forest Trail and providing a wonderful example of the Sonoran Desert. Along the way we will stop to observe some old lime kilns that were operational from 1880-1920. We will turn onto a side trail that takes us up to a rock outcropping that produces a waterfall when there is enough rain or snow melt. We hike all the way to the loop drive and return the same way. Hike 5.8 miles; elevation change 300 feet; starting elevation 2700 ft; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 80 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

****Nov. 3 – Mon. Aspen Draw/Mint Spring Trail. Rating C+.** We will park in Summerhaven across from the Visitor Center, and begin our hike on Turkey Run Road. After about 1 mile, we will take the Aspen Draw Trail to Radio Ridge. From there we descend the Aspen Trail to Marshall Saddle, where we pick up the Mint Spring Trail. This will take us to Carter Canyon Road, where we will walk a short ¾ mile to our parking place. We have an option of having lunch in Summerhaven. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 1400 feet; starting elevation 8000 ft.;

leave time **6:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 130 miles; driver donation \$10.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286

Nov. 4 – Tues. Mule Ears via Charouleau Gap. Rating A. This is a difficult hike to a prominent point on the Samaniego Ridge with outstanding views in all directions. We lunch at a spot on the edge of cliffs just north of Mule Ears, viewing the "Reef of Rocks". The hike starts from SaddleBrooke along the 4-WD road, to the gap; then begins a rather steep uphill climb for 1.5 miles. Eventually, the trail levels off and continues along the ridge with moderate up/down hiking over to Mule Ears. Return using the same route. Hike 17.5 miles; elevation change 4000 feet; starting elevation 3270 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 5 miles; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Nov. 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). Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Nov. 7 – Fri. Pusch Ridge to First Overlook. Rating C+. From the trailhead at the East end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds part way up Pusch Ridge to a great overlook. The first mile of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 0.5 mile is difficult with stretches of slippery footing, rock scrambling, and exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. The trail passes four man-made dams. The overlook provides fantastic views north and west. Hike 3 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation is 2650 feet; leave at **8:00am**; round trip 28 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Nov. 8 – Sat. Sycamore Dam. Rating C. The hike begins at the old Prison Camp in the Santa Catalina Mountains. We follow a road to a saddle and hike down the trail to the dam and return. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 4800 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 94 miles; driver donation \$8.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 10 – Mon. Seven Falls With Tram. Rating C. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center we will take the Tram to lower Bear Canyon. Bring \$ for Tram Ride. We will hike the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls and return. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 6.4 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

****Nov. 11 - Tues. Rillito River Hike #4. Rating D (SLOW PACE.)** We park at the Mehl Foothills Park at River Road and Alvernon. We walk East along the Rillito River to Craycroft Road. We will cross the river at Craycroft Road, then walk back West along the South side of the river to Alvernon Way. We then cross back over the river on Alvernon to our cars. Hike 5 miles; elevation change minimal; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; Round trip 40 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

****Nov. 11 – Tues. Miller and Carr Peaks. Rating A-.** This potential key exchange features a multi-trail hike in the

Huachuca Mountains. If we have 2 cars going, one group will start at the Carr Canyon Trailhead, summit Carr Peak, proceed to and summit Miller Peak, and descend on the Lutz/Ash Canyon Trail (10 mi., 2,800 ft. gain, starting elevation 7,360 ft.). The other group will do this in reverse (10 mi., 3,900 ft. gain, starting elevation 5,940 ft.). If only 1 car goes, we will start from and return to the Carr Canyon Trailhead (12 miles, 3,600 gain, starting elevation 7,360 ft.). Leave at **6:00 a.m.**; Round trip drive 211 miles; driver donation \$19.00. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

Nov. 12 – 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.

Nov. 13 – Thurs. Hidden Canyon. Rating C. This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. Hike begins past the Golder Ranch Gate in the Fifty Year Trail area. Hike 7.8 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Nov. 14 – Fri. Picacho Peak to Saddle. Rating C. We will hike the Hunter Trail from the Barret Loop trailhead up to the saddle. Terrific views of surrounding area. Park entrance pass required. Hike <3 miles; elevation change 960 feet; starting elevation 2000 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 90 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Nov. 15 – Sat. Soldier Trail. Rating B. Start at mile 1.3 pullout on Catalina Highway to Prison Camp and return. The first ½ mile is very steep. The gorge in Soldier Basin may have water flowing below some rugged cliffs. Views of the Tucson area. This trail was used in the 1800s as a cavalry passage into the mountains. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1600 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 84 miles; driver donation \$6.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Nov. 17 – Mon. Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C. 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.

Nov. 18 – Tues. Phoneline Trail with Tram Ride. Rating C. This requires purchase of a tram ticket at \$8.00. Start at the Visitor's Center, ride tram to Stop Number 9, hike up to the

Phone Line trail and then back to the Center. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road. It offers outstanding views of the canyon - an easy downhill with photo opportunities. This hike can also be done in the reverse. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 18 – Tues. Window Rock. Rating A. The most direct route is up Ventana Canyon. This is a difficult and steep hike. We start at the parking lot past the employees' parking lot and take the trail until it intersects with the Esperero Trail then follow that trail to the Window. Hike 13 miles; elevation change 4200 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 54 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Nov. 19 – Wed. Orientation For Potential Hiking Guides. 2:45 p.m. MountainView Clubhouse

Nov. 19 – Wed. Special Desert Weedwackers Program, 4:00 p.m., MountainView Clubhouse

Nov. 20 – Thurs. Brown Canyon – Ramsey Canyon Loop. Rating B- In the Huachuca Mountains, we hike up Brown Canyon Box trail to a ridge where we drop down into Ramsey Canyon and back to the Visitor Center. This is a great hike. In Brown Canyon, we see mining artifacts and two gravesites. Ramsey Canyon is always a delight with some of the largest Arizona Sycamore trees in Southern Arizona. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1800 feet; starting elevation 5000 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 211 miles; driver donation \$15.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

****Nov. 21 - Fri. Tanque Verde Falls - Upper and Lower. Rating D.** We drive to Redington Road to a parking area on the left for the lower falls. We will hike 2 miles round trip to lower Tanque Verde Falls and Creek and explore the falls and stream. We might even “play” in the water. Elevation change for the lower falls is 500 ft. Then we drive another 1.5 miles and park for the upper falls. Again, we hike about 2 miles round trip to the Upper Tanque Verde Falls. Elevation change is approximately 500 feet.; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip approx. 90 miles; driver donation \$6.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 24 – Mon. Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle. Rating B. This hike starts on level ground for about 1 mile then sharply climbs 2500 feet. Scrambling is necessary at some points, & coming down is just as difficult. We will enjoy the beautiful vistas as they spread out below and into the distance. Hike 5.8 miles; 2500 foot elevation change; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Nov. 25 – Tues. Bear Canyon to Sabino Canyon Loop. Rating A. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon parking lot. We hike up scenic Bear Canyon to Sycamore Canyon and turn left on the East Fork of Sabino Canyon to the Sabino Canyon Trail. We then turn left to the Phoneline Trail back to the parking lot. Hike 18 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **6:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-

9057.

Nov. 25 – Tues. Panther Peak. Rating B. The hike begins near Saguaro West National Park, with the first mile on old mining roads. Then, a steep, difficult climb begins and you may need to use your hands to climb the trail. The use of gloves, long pants, and a hiking stick is recommended. Enjoy outstanding views from the top, all the way to Picacho Peak. We will return by the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike 5.7 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.

****Nov. 25 - Tues. Blackett's Ridge with Tram Ride. Rating C+.** We take the Bear Canyon Tram (cost is \$3.00, round trip), to Blackett's Ridge trailhead. Then we hike 5.2 miles round trip up the ridge through several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas, to spectacular views at the top. We then return to the visitor center via the tram. Elevation gain is 1620 feet.; starting elevation is 2700 feet; leave at **7:15 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 26 – 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.

Nov. 28 – Fri. Romero Pools. Rating C+. (SLOW PACE) 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 **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Kathy & Philip Cotton, 825-2243.

****Nov. 30 - Sun. Sunset, "Mystery" Hike. Place to be Determined. Rating D.** Details will be decided once I determine which of two places to go. Leave approx. **4:00 p.m.**; driver donation TBD. Jan Wilson, 818-0299 *

Dec. 1 – Mon. Club Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating D. We cleanup trash along Catalina Hills drive into the Preserve which the club has adopted under the state Adopt A Highway Program. Please bring gloves and a pickup stick if you have one. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided by the Pinal County Highway Dept. The walk will last approximately 1 to 1 1/2 hours. We will meet in the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke CC Fitness Center at **8:00 a.m.** Your help is appreciated. Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756.

Dec. 2 – Tues. 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 **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 154 miles (dirt); driver donation \$14.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 2- Tues. 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 **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Fred Kennedy, 825-5310.

Dec. 2 – Tues. Tortolita Mountains - Wild Mustang/Wild Burro Canyon Loop. Rating B+. Over 25 miles of recently constructed trails beckon in the Western Tortolita Mountains. About a mile from the trailhead we will leave Wild Burro Trail, going a short distance to view some petroglyphs. We will then cut across to the Upper Javalina Trail and make our way up to the Wild Mustang Trail. This trail will lead us over the higher elevations of the mountains to the north past at least 3 crested saguaros. Near the upper end of Wild Mustang Trail we will take a connector trail down into Wild Burro Canyon and explore off-trail, up-canyon about a mile or so. We will then return down-canyon connecting with the official Wild Burro Trail. At this point the trail overlooks the narrow upper canyon which spreads wide with numerous side canyons and tributaries. As we continue down the trail, we will pass a crumbling stone structure and arrive at a boulder strewn falls which thunders with runoff from the upper side canyons and tributaries when it rains. A short distance later we will merge onto Lower Javalina Trail, quickly descending through hillsides covered with enormous boulders and a forest of saguaro cacti. We will then rejoin Wild Burro Trail to return to the trailhead. Hike 12.8 miles; elevation change 2700 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

Dec. 3 - 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 **7:00 a.m.** (duration 2.5-3.0 hours; Optional: Breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted). Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Dec. 3 – Wed. Hiking Club Board Meeting, 3:00 p.m. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Dec. 3 – Wed. Hiking Guides Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Dec. 3 – Wed. Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C+. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," this trail goes up the north side of Pontatoc Ridge to just below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area. This hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. Hike starts at north end of Alvernon Way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1500 feet (gps); starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Dec. 4 – Thurs. Picacho Peak – Hunter Trail. Rating B. From Barret Loop we hike the Hunter Trail to a saddle, then down to the Sunset Vista Trail and up to the top of Picacho Peak. We use the permanently installed guide cables to get to the top. Bring cotton or leather gloves for holding on to cables. This is a short, strenuous hike and a favorite among hikers. We return to the trailhead along the same route. Park entrance pass required. Hike 4.2 miles; elevation change 1770 feet (cumulative); starting elevation 2000 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 90 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Dec. 6 – 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 2300 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 160 miles (dirt); driver donation \$12.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Dec. 7 – Sun. Hidden Canyon - Starr Pass. Rating D. This is a loop on good trail with some elevation gain. There are lots of saguaros and jojoba bushes plus views of the city. After 1/4 mile you are out of sight of "civilization" and have views toward the northeast. By taking the loop trail counterclockwise the trail descends to a junction marked by a cairn. By turning right through a small wash, winding around cacti and mesquite trees, the trail joins a major wash on the left. We follow the wash to a brown wooden sign "Yetman" trail. We follow the arrow to a stone house built in the early 1930's by Mr. Sherry Bowen, a type setter & editor for the Arizona Daily Star. He and his wife, Ruby, lived in the house on 2000 acres. In 1983 this land became part of the Tucson Mountain Park. Hike 2-4 miles; elevation change is 400 ft; starting elevation is 2700 ft.; leave at **10:30 a.m.**; round trip drive approximately 71 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 8 – Mon. Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C. 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.

Dec. 9 – Tues. Baby Jesus/Petroglyph Loop. Rating B. We will start in the 50-Year Trail area and follow a jeep road to the Sutherland Wash Petroglyph area. We will hike up a trail on the hill north of the Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs that connects to the Baby Jesus Trail. At the intersection we will turn south until we reach the Sutherland Trail. We will hike west to a trail that leads to the petroglyphs, then on to our cars. This hike has beautiful saguaros, rock formations (including a window), oak woodlands, and ancient petroglyphs. This hike can be done in reverse. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 1200 feet, starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Fred Kennedy, 825-5310.

****Dec. 9 - Tues. Garwood Dam to Little Wild Horse Tank. C+.** This hike is in Saguaro National Park East. We hike in the cactus forest to Garwood Dam, then go another 200 yards to Little Wild Horse Tank, which is a lovely pool of water. We then retrace our route back past the dam and back to our cars. Hike 6.5 miles; elevation change approximately 350 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 80 miles; driver donation \$6.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 10 – Wed. Pusch Ridge to Second Overlook. Rating C+. From the trailhead at the East end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds part way up Pusch Ridge to a great overlook with views to the north, west, and southwest. The first mile of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 0.75 mile is difficult with slippery footing, rock scrambling, and exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. The trail passes four man-made dams and a lower but extraordinary overlook with fantastic views north and west. Hike 3.5 miles; elevation change 1350 feet; starting elevation is 2650 feet; leave at **8:30 am**; round trip 28 miles; driver donation \$2.00. 818-8137.

Dec. 11- Thurs. Pima Canyon to the Saddle. Rating A. 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. It then enters a 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 past a small dam to a springs and saddle to give a superb view of the entire Montrose and Romero canyon drainage, the most inaccessible region of the entire Catalina Mountains. Hike 11.2 miles; elevation change 3450 feet; starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 42 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

****Dec. 12 - Fri. Tanque Verde Ridge - Part Way. C+.** This hike starts in Saguaro National Park East. We will hike up to and along a ridge and turn around at 3 miles (by a crested saguaro.) Hike 6 miles; elevation gain 1300 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 82 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 15 – Mon. Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating D+. Santa Catalina Mountains. Taking the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads to the top of Mt. Kimball, we will only go as far as Finger Rock Spring. Hike 3 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

****Dec. 16 – Tues. Agua Caliente Hill/La Milagrosa Ridge/Molino Basin. Rating A.** In this key exchange one group will start at the Camino Remuda Trailhead, climb to the saddle, then summit Agua Caliente Hill. The group will then descend back to the saddle, merge with a trail going north to Agua Caliente Canyon, connect with La Milagrosa Trail, hike northeast to the intersection with the AZT, then head northwest toward Molino Basin (14 miles; elevation gain 4,600 feet; starting elevation 2,920 feet). The other group will do the reverse starting at Molino Basin (14 miles, 3,160 feet gain, starting elevation 4,360 feet. Leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$8.00. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

****Dec. 16 - Tues. Saguaro NP East - Ringtail, Cactus Canyon, Gila Monster, & Coyote Pass Trails. C.** This is a 6 mile loop trail off Picture Rocks Road. We'll see beautiful stands of ironwood trees, saguaros, and other cactus. We'll eat lunch by a windmill. Elevation gain is 400 feet; starting elevation 2200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 60 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 16 – Tues. 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.

Dec. 17 – 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, building 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.

Dec. 17 – 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.

Dec. 17 – Wed. Hiking Club Social, 4:00 p.m., MountainView Clubhouse

Dec. 18 – Thurs. 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 King Canyon trail. The King 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 **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 60 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

++Dec. 23 – Tues. Linda Vista Loop Trails. Rating C. Drive to trailhead, 15 minutes from the MountainView parking lot. We will hike the trails in this area that skirt the base of Pusch Ridge. There are great views out onto Oracle Road and environs. Hiking stick recommended as trail is rocky in places. Hike 4 to 6 miles; elevation change 400 to 500 feet; starting elevation 2680 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 28 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Dec. 27 – Sat. Brown Mountain. Rating C. (SLOW PACE) Brown Mountain Trail is a trek along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts in a picnic area near the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Along this "ridge ramble" are excellent views of the mountains, valleys and desert vegetation. The route has many up and downs. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 73 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Dec. 30 – Sun. 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 **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

New Members

To join the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club you need to fill out a Membership Application and Release Form available online at saddlebrooke.org or with the SBHC newsletters at Mountainview Clubhouse or the SaddleBrooke Fitness Center. To receive the Newcomer Packet (Patch, Information Sheet, Hiker's Log) please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your membership application and membership dues.

Renewing Members

To renew your membership in the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club for 2009 please fill out the attached renewal form and mail it with your membership dues to Bob Perez at the address below.

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2009

NAME (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** _____

Your name and phone number will be added to the membership list provided to the club officers and guides. Your email address will be used to send you the hiking club newsletter and notices of events.

\$5.00 Annual Dues must accompany this Renewal Form. Please make out check to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. Mail To: Bob Perez, 65187 E Desert Sand Court, Tucson, AZ 85739.
