

# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

MARCH/APRIL

2012-2

### Hiking Club Picnic

The Hiking Club spring picnic will be held at Catalina State Park on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at the group day use area. Signs will be posted guiding you to our site. Entrance fee for the park is \$7 per car (max 4 persons) or a State Park Pass.

If you are interested in hiking before lunch check the newsletter for hike descriptions and contact the hiking guide. A brief business meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by a pot luck meal. The Club will provide fried and baked chicken, all paper goods and eating utensils. Bring a side dish to share and your own beverage. If you have a name tag please wear it.

RSVP to Beaver Simpson by March 24th @ 818-7839 or [wbsortho@aol.com](mailto:wbsortho@aol.com). Tell Beaver what side dish you will bring and the number of people attending. We look forward to seeing you at the picnic.

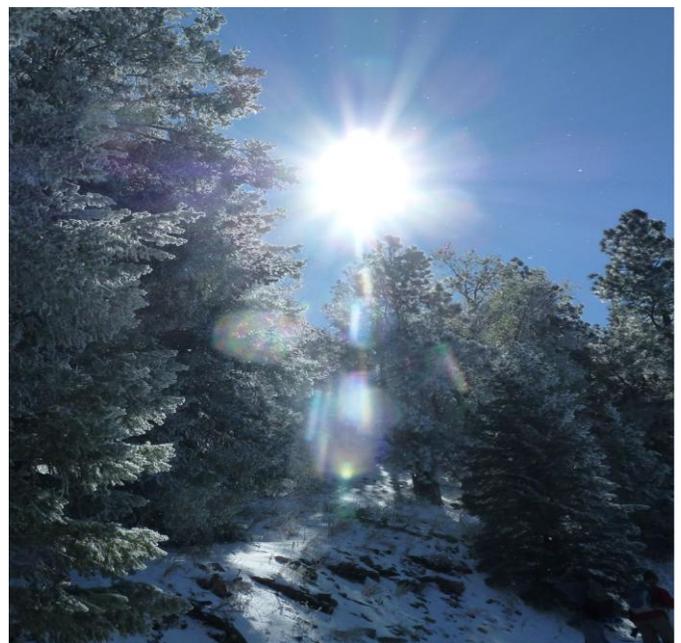
### Adventure Pictures of the Month

On November 7, 2011, southeast Arizona experienced snow at higher elevations, delaying the start of a 3-day hike to three wilderness areas near Safford, AZ. The first hike got underway early on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> on Blue Jay Ridge, which is on the northwest end of the Pinaleno Mountains (the Pinalenos include Mt. Graham). The higher the well trained Jeep climbed, the snowier it got. We stopped (at about 7700 feet) when snow got too deep for the Jeep, and began climbing to the lookout tower (about 8700 feet). Hiking in the snow, if you can get past the cold, is beautiful. At the top, the group made the (unauthorized) climb up the tower to spectacular views in every direction. The rest of the trip was on the north side of the ridge and involved hiking in 4-6 inches of snow for much of the way and considerable slip/sliding. This may not seem like much to our wintertime visitors to Saddlebrooke, but for six full timers (Cheryl and Dean Werstler, Cathy Gish, Elisabeth Wheeler, Kent Naugle and Roy Carter) in

summer-weight hiking shoes, it was a big deal, and an adventure not soon forgotten. Check out the pictures. Submit your "Adventure Pictures" to Dave Sorensen.



Elisabeth Wheeler in the fire tower with Mt. Graham in the background.



**SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Program:  
Trekking the Queen Charlotte Track in New Zealand  
Wednesday, March 21, 3 p.m.**

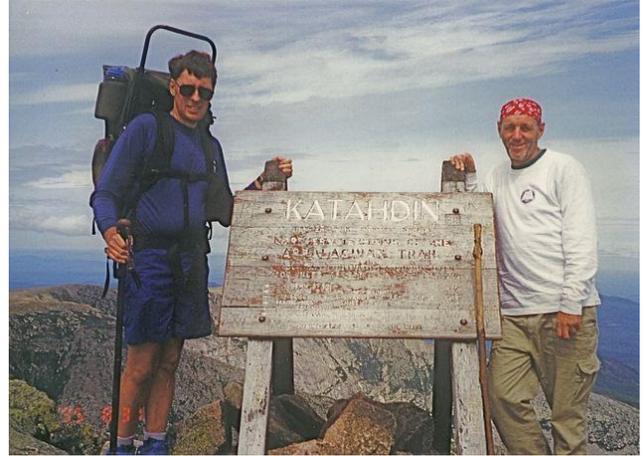
Jeanne and Michael Reale spent six weeks in February and March in Australia and New Zealand. One of the highlights of their trip was hiking the Queen Charlotte Track, a 71km (44.1 mile) track located at the top of New Zealand's South Island in the Marlborough Sounds. The track offers a spectacular trip through the Marlborough Sounds, from the historic Ship Cove, where Captain Cook first landed, through to Anakiwa in the Grove Arm and provides unsurpassed views of Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds. It stretches between the Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds and is renowned for its stunning views and contrasting landscape, historical landmarks and wonderful variety of native bush and wildlife. It is a unique walk as it passes through lush coastal rain forest, historic bays, and along skyline ridges with unsurpassed views of Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds on either side.

Jeanne and Michael, and Anne and Derek Hodge (Australian and SaddleBrooke residents who also did the trek) will share some photos of their trek, as well other photos of New Zealand and Australia.

A social hour will follow in the SaddleBrooke HOA1 Clubhouse Lounge.



**SaddleBrooke Hikers Conquer Appalachian Trail  
SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Program  
Wednesday, April 18 at 3 p.m.  
SaddleBrooke HOA1 Activity Center**



The Appalachian Trail runs 2173 miles from Springer Mountain in northeast Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine's Baxter State Park. Approximately two to three million visitors and hikers annually use some portion of the trail. Each year only a few thousand attempt to do a "thru hike," the entire trail in one calendar year. And only about a fifth of those hikers actually complete a thru hike. Bill Leightenheimer did his thru-hike in 1995 and Tom Geiger in 2004.

Designated a National Scenic Trail in 1968 the Appalachian Trail traverses fourteen states as it winds its way through numerous National Parks, National Forests, state parks, and even some private land where owners have granted easements. The AT does not have the dramatic views of "big sky" country like Arizona. But the AT has its own beauty: the views of grey mountains and low skies in late winter, the radiance of trillium, wild azaleas, and spring beauties in early spring, the mantel of white covering bare branches in surprise snow storms, the leafy 'green tunnel' of midsummer, and the hues of early fall in New England.

Bill Bryson made the AT famous in his book, A Walk in the Woods. He started the trail on March 9th in Georgia. When he awoke in his tent on March 10th, his water bottle was frozen solid. And his sidekick (Katz) had pitched most of their food except for Little Debbie's and Snickers to lighten his pack! It is clear Katz had not attended the new hikers' orientation provided by the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club!

The elevation of Springer Mountain is 3782 feet and Mt. Katahdin 5267 feet, a net elevation gain of 1485 feet over 2173 miles, except for the 'ups and downs' in between. But the 'ups and downs' make the accumulated elevation gain 397,450 feet. This is just an estimate. No one knows for sure.

The AT touches much American history as it crosses famous landmarks. You will learn about Revolutionary war sites, paths taken by blacks via the Underground Railroad and much more. Please join Bill and Tom to learn more about the fascinating history on the AT and what it is like to hike it.



A social hour will follow the program at 4 p.m. in the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse Lounge.

For more information about this program or to learn about the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club contact Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756.

News You Can Use		
Special Program	3/21/12	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	3/21/12	4:00 p.m.
Picnic	3/29/12	11:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	4/4/12	2:45 p.m.
Guide Meeting	4/4/12	4:00 p.m.
Special Program	4/18/12	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	4/18/12	4:00 p.m.

**Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at the SaddleBrooke and Desert View Fitness Centers.**

Board Members	
<b>President</b>	Bill Leightenheimer - 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
<b>Vice-President</b>	Bob Kolenda 825-9972; rlkslt4@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Ken Wong; 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Virginia Brier 818-0493; virginiabrier@gmail.com
<b>Chief Hiking Guides</b>	Larry Linderman 303-6564; LLinderman13@gmail.com Cheryl Werstler-825-9057; dbwerst@wbhsi.net
Volunteers	
<b>Catalina Hills Cleanup</b>	Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
<b>Communications</b>	Ken Wong 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Programs</b>	Elisabeth Wheeler;818-1547 elisarick@wbhsi.net
<b>Membership Roster</b>	Karen Cusano , 468-2501 kdjcnp @yahoo.com
<b>Merchandise</b>	Pam Corrigan, 850- 8885 pam@pamanddave.com
<b>Newsletter Copies</b>	Martha Hackworth, 818-2573 marthahackworth@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	Carole Rossof, 877-9262; crandmr@q.com
<b>Publicity</b>	Dave Sorenson, 777-1994; iowaboy1950@yahoo.com
<b>Socials</b>	Beaver Simpson,818-7839; wbsortho@aol.com  Marge Wong 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Statistics and Awards</b>	Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com
<b>Work Days</b>	Jim Strickler, 825-8735; sherabjim@wbhsi.net

## General 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 a hike is 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 in the table of Hikes Offered. If there are two entries under driver donation, for example \$7 + \$2, the first is for the driver and the second for any required entry and/or parking fee. If a state park pass is used for entry, the second amount should be given to the pass holder (whether he/she is the driver or not). Other persons in the vehicle who also hold park passes would not be responsible for the second amount. Note, that 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. Since a driver may not have change, we would ask that, if you see two entries for the driver donation, you try to have the amounts for each. 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 walks in SaddleBrooke because of the 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.

## Hike Elevation, Ratings & Pace

**Elevation Change:** Three indicators are used in the hike descriptions to convey hike difficulty as it relates to elevation change.

- **Net Elevation Change** is the change in elevation obtained by subtracting the starting elevation from the highest (or lowest) point reached during the course of the hike, in feet. This estimate may be obtained from USGS maps or a global positioning system (GPS).
- **Accumulated Gain** is the sum of all upward stretches of a hike as recorded by a GPS device over the course of the entire hike. Accumulated elevation gain is generally a

more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation.

- **Accumulated Loss**, another measure of hike difficulty, is the sum of all downward stretches of a hike. Accumulated elevation loss is useful for some downhill hikes and is usually obtained with a GPS device

**Ratings:** Ratings are based on the following round trip distances and accumulated gains in elevation over the course of the hike. The hike rating is determined by one (or both) of the two values being exceeded. For example, if a hike exceeds the criterion for distance but not for corresponding elevation, the rating would be set for distance.

<u>Hike Rating</u>	<u>Distance (Mi.)</u>	<u>Accumulated Gain in Elevation (Ft.)</u>
A	>14	>3000
B	8 to 14	1500 to 3000
C	4 to 8	500 to 1500
D	<4	< 500

**Pace:** Pace is described in terms of average speed in miles per hour (MPH) over the course of a hike from start to finish (excluding lunch). Average speed is affected by speed and length of stride, number of rest stops, incline, type of terrain, and trail conditions. The following four categories are used to describe pace in the hike descriptions:

<u>Pace</u>	<u>Average Speed (MPH)</u>
Leisurely	<1.5
Slow	1.5 to 2.0
Moderate	2.0 to 2.5
Fast	>2.5

## **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. Please view the chart below for the start times for all the walking groups led by Bill Leightenheimer, Martha Hackworth, Judy Barenkopf and Dean Wilson.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
April 1st	6:30 a.m.
June 1st	6:00 a.m.
September 1st	6:30 a.m.
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 a.m.

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. If you have any questions please contact Martha at: 818-2573, or Bill at: 825-5756.

Judy's Tuesday walking group will start the Fitness Walk at the Mountain View Parking lot. On Thursday the walk begins at the SaddleBrooke Tennis parking lot. We walk for an hour and complete about 3 or 4 miles according to where we walk. Most of our walks are touring SaddleBrooke and the few times we leave the premises it is discussed amongst the walkers. We leave exactly at the time designated and wait for no one. For more information call Judy at 825-7077 or email at: [mbarenkopf@msn.com](mailto:mbarenkopf@msn.com)

Slower walks around SaddleBrooke two days a week (days are negotiable) are led by Dean Wilson. If interested in participating in these walks, please call Dean at 818-0299

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
3/01	Thurs	Maiden Pools	C!		8:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$4
3/01-3/02	Thurs-Fri	**Galiuro/Santa Theresa Wilderness	B/A!		6:00	Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	TBA
3/02	Fri	Tortilla Mts: Wild Mustang	B for C hikers	Slow	8:00	Ruth and Paul DeBruine	818-3248	\$4
3/02	Fri	**Big Wash Tr.by Oro Valley Hosp.	D	Slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
3/03	Sat	Oracle State Park-East Loop	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
3/05	Mon	Finger Rock Tr. To Spring	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
3/05	Mon	Tanque Verde Peak	A		6:30	Tom Geiger	571-278-5809	\$6
3/05	Mon	Boyce -Thompson Arboretum	D	Slow	8:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$12
3/06	Tues	Sutherland Trail to Dripping Springs	C		8:00	Ruth and Paul DeBruine	818-3248	\$2+\$2
3/07	Wed	Wasson Peak via the Hugh Norris trail	B		7:30	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$6
3/07	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast	7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$0
3/07	Wed	Superstitions: Peralta Trail	C		7:30	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$14
3/8	Thurs	**BabyJesus/Madonna & Child/ Petroglyphs Loop	B		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
3/08	Thurs	Rams Field Pass	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2
3/08	Thurs	Alamo Canyon	D	Slow	12:30 p.m.	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$2+\$2
3/09	Fri	CDO/ Big Wash	D	Slow	8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
3/09	Fri	Bill Cody Loop	B	Slow	7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$3
3/10	Sat	Romero Pools	C		8:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$2+\$2
3/12	Mon	Romero Springs	B		8:00	Art Dees	818-3131	\$2+\$2
3/12	Mon	Sabino Cyn to Bear Cyn Loop	A		7:00	Margaret Valair	369-4486	\$4
3/12-3/15	Mon-Thurs	Superstitions: Peralta to Canyon Lake Backpack	A		TBA	Michael Reale	825-8286	TBA
3/13	Tues	Table Mountain	A!		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$3
3/13	Tues	Phoneline with Tram ride up	C	Slow	8:15	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4+ tram
3/14	Wed	Wasson Pk via Sendero, Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails	B		8:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$6
3/15	Thurs	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		8:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
3/15	Thurs	Sabino to Bear Canyon with Tram	B		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$4+Tram
3/16	Fri	Hidden Canyon	C		8:00	Ruth and Paul DeBruine	818-3248	\$2
3/16	Fri	Romero Pass	A		8:00	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$2+\$2

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
3/16	Fri	Rogers Canyon/JF Trail Loop (Actual miles=13); add'l. 4X4 needed	B		6:30	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	\$15
3/18-3/20	Sun-Tues	AZT: Pine Mt./Saddle Mtn.	A	Fast	TBA	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA
3/19	Mon	Sabino Canyon - Bear Cyn. Loop with Tram	B		8:00	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$4 + tram
3/20	Tues	Dripping Springs from Sutherland Tr.	C	Slow	8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2+\$2
3/20	Tues	Sutherland Trail	D	Slow	8:30	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$2+\$2
3/21	Wed	Deer Camp	C	Slow	8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$2
3/21	Wed	SBHC Program: Queen Charlotte Track in New Zealand			3:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	
3/21	Wed	SBHC Social Hour SB Clubhouse Lounge			4:00			
3/22	Thurs	Josephine Saddle	B for C hikers	Slow	7:30	Ruth and Paul DeBruine	818-3248	\$10
3/23	Fri	Sweetwater –Short	D		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$5
3/24	Sat	King Canyon Loop	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$6
3/25-27	Sun-Tues	AZT: Mazatzals:	A	Fast	TBA	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA
3/26	Mon	Tortolita Mtns: Alamo Sp/Wild Mustang Loop	B		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
3/27	Tues	Romero Springs	B		6:30	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$2+\$2
3/28	Wed	AZ Trail: Work Session	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$0
3/28	Wed	Brown Mountain	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$6
3/29	Thurs	Hiking Club Picnic				Bill Leightenheimer	825-8735	
3/29	Thurs	Fifty-Year Trail to Sutherland Trail	B		7:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$2 +\$2
3/30	Fri	Tortolita Mts.: S. Wild Burro Canyon Tr. (with changes)	D	Slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4
3/31	Sat	Oracle State Park-West Loop	C+		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
4/02	Mon	Esperaro Trail	B		7:30	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$14
4/03	Tues	Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk	D	Slow	7:45	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$0
4/03	Tues	Anza Tr.- Tubac to Tumacacori	C		7:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$11 +lunch \$
4/04	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			2:45 p.m.			
4/04	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			4:00 p.m.			
4/04	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast	7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$0
4/04	Wed	Romero Pools	C+		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
4/05	Thurs	**Pink Hill/Loma Verde	D		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$6

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
4/06	Fri	Pima Canyon to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dam	C		8:00	Ruth and Paul DeBruine	818-3248	\$3
4/06	Fri	Cochise Stronghold	B		6:30	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$20
4/09	Mon	Hutch's Pool Plus Sabino Canyon	B!		7:45	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$4+tram
4/09-4/10	Mon-Tues	AZT: Rincons (Full)	A	Fast	TBA	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA
4/10	Tues	Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon	A		6:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
4/12	Thurs	Peppersauce Canyon-	D	Slow	8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$5
4/12	Thurs	Romero Springs	B		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$2+\$2
4/13	Fri	Weavers Needle Loop	B!		7:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$11
4/13	Fri	Mt . Hopkins	A		7:00	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$10
4/14	Sat	Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$2+\$2
4/16	Mon	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Art Dees	818-3131	\$4
4/17	Tues	Alamo Canyon	D		9:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2+\$2
4/18	Wed	SBHC Program: Hiking the Appalachian Trail			3:00 p.m.	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	
4/18	Wed	SBHC Social Hour SB Clubhouse Lounge			4:00 p.m.			
4/18	Wed	Sutherland Trail	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
4/19	Thurs	Pima Canyon to 1 <sup>st</sup> Dam	D!		9:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$3
4/19-20	Thurs-Fri	AZT: Red Hills	A		TBA	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA
4/20	Fri	**Bridal Wreath Falls Loop	C		7:30	Elaine & Howie	818-9555	\$6
4/20	Fri	Bug Springs	B		8:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$7
4/23	Mon	Bridal Veil Falls	A		6:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
4/24	Tues	Wasson Peak via Kings Cyn	B		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$6
4/25	Wed	Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook	C		7:30	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$4
4/27-4/28	Fri-Sat	AZT: Huachucas	A	Fast	5:00	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA
4/28	Sat	Oracle State Park - West Loop	C+		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
4/30	Mon	Mt Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail	A		6:00	Margaret Valair	369-4486	\$10

a- New hikes not yet included in the Hike Database are indicated with "\*\*\*".

b - Hike ratings are based on round trip distance and accumulated elevation gain, where available. Ratings flagged with a "!" indicate special trail conditions that might be of concern to some hikers. Please read the hike descriptions before deciding whether to sign up.

Ratings flagged with a "☺" indicate an easier, smoother trail than normal at that rating.

c - Pace is moderate unless otherwise stated.

## Hike Descriptions

**Alamo Canyon. Rating D.** The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is gradual. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no water crossings. Hikers will stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain 423 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Anza Trail / Tubac to Tumacacori. Rating C□.** The hike begins at the Tubac Presidio State Historical Park and ends at Tumacacori National Monument. More information about the Anza Trail is available at [www.anzatrail.com](http://www.anzatrail.com) and [www.solideas.com/DeAnsa/trailguide](http://www.solideas.com/DeAnsa/trailguide). Hikers will cross rivers, but there are wooden bridges (no hand rails) so we shouldn't get our feet wet. Sturdy walking shoes are fine (hiking shoes not required). We will lunch in Tumacacori at Wisdoms' Café. Bring \$ for lunch, shopping. Golden Age Pass is needed for entrance to Tumacacori Historic Park. Shopping will be after lunch, if your driver is willing. Hike 4.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 100 - 200 feet; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 144 miles.

**Arizona Trail: Huachuca Mountains (Passage 1). Rating A.** (See hike 40 for associated trail information.) The Yaqui Ridge Trail provides hiker-only access as it descends steeply to the international border. From Montezuma Pass the route follows the Crest Trail (#103) up into the Miller Peak Wilderness. After a steep and strenuous ascent, it passes a junction with the Lutz Trail and soon reaches the turnoff to Miller Peak. From here the trail follows a ridgeline over to Tub Spring and then goes left at the signed Miller Canyon/Crest Trail junction and left again at the Carr Peak/Crest Trail junction. The trail continues on past the Oversite Canyon Trail junction, past Bear Saddle and Granite Peak, and then goes left at the signed junction with the Sunnyside Canyon Trail near Pat Scott Peak. It follows this trail down into Sunnyside Canyon, passes the Copper Glimpse Trail junction, and runs downstream to the wilderness boundary. Here it joins a dirt road (FR 204) for a short distance and then

turns right at the AZT sign onto a trail again. It crosses FR 228 and then turns south into Scotia Canyon and works its way down to FR 48. After crossing this road the trail turns west and reaches the Parker Canyon Lake Trailhead on FR 194. The ATA advises that the AZT along the AZ/Mexico border continues to be heavily impacted by illegal border crossers and drug smugglers. Large accumulations of litter, trash, discarded clothing and new 'wildcat' trails are commonly encountered along the trail. Trail users may meet illegal border crossers and are advised to not hike alone in these areas. Also, overnight users are advised to camp away from the trail as far as possible. Hike 21.7 miles; trailhead elevations 5876 feet south and 5677 feet north; net elevation change 3616 feet; accumulated gains 5168 northward and 5366 southward; RTD \_\_ miles.

**Arizona Trail: Mazatzal Divide (Passage 23). Rating A.** This entire passage is on the Mazatzal Divide Trail (#23). From the junction with the Cornucopia Trail 0.5 miles from the Mt. Peely Trailhead the route works its way up and around Mt. Peely. It passes the wilderness boundary, gets around the head of a drainage and then turns to the north and follows a ridgeline. It circles counter-clockwise around an unnamed peak and then descends down to the Bear Spring turnoff and then the Fisher Spring turnoff. It climbs up and over the previous ridgeline and drops down to the Shake Tree Trail junction. From here the trail continues north and downhill, passing Mazatzal Peak. The trail climbs and then drops again down to the Barnhardt Trail junction. Turning west the trail continues downhill, passing Chilson Spring, contouring for a short ways and then climbs above the North Fork of Deadman Creek. It passes Horse Camp Seep, continues climbing and reaches Hopi Spring. The trail crosses the upper end of Deadman Creek, heads west and then turns north and begins descending along the east side of Maverick Basin. The trail continues northbound and then turns to the west and comes to The Park. Hike 22 miles; trailhead elevations 5726 feet south and 3279 feet north; net elevation change 1472 feet; accumulated gains 4160 feet northward and 3991 southward; RTD \_\_ miles

**Arizona Trail: Lone Pine TH to Roosevelt Lake.**

**Rating A.** The route follows the Arizona Trail from the Lone Pine Trailhead on FR 648 at Pigeon Spring south to the trailhead at Roosevelt Lake. This is one of the most scenic sections of the entire Arizona Trail through the breathtaking Four Peaks Wilderness Area. Hike 19.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5620 feet; net elevation change 2370 feet; accumulated gain 3560 feet; accumulated loss 7040 feet; RTD 240 miles.

**Arizona Trail: Red Hills (Passage 24). Rating B.**

This passage begins at The Park at the intersection of the North Peak Trail (#24) and the Mazatzal Divide Trail (#23). From here the trail heads northwest, crosses the upper ends of two City Creek side canyons, passes Knob Mountain, and drops down to the junction with the Brush Trail (#249). Following this trail it crosses a drainage, climbs up the other side and then curves around to the north and drops down to Houston Creek. After crossing several drainages the trail reaches a saddle on Bullfrog Ridge and then switchbacks down into Bullfrog Canyon. It climbs part way out, becomes an old two-track road and then begins descending along the side of the canyon. It turns to the right and becomes a trail again. The trail works its way past Copper Mountain and comes to a road. This is the entry to the LF Ranch. The trail loops around to the east of the ranch and then reaches the East Verde River. Hike 14.3 miles; trailhead elevations 3279 feet south and 3278 feet north; net elevation change 3004 feet; accumulated gains 2050 feet northward and 4665 feet southward; RTD \_\_ miles.

**Arizona Trail: Rincon Mountains. Rating A.** The top of the Rincons is a great place for solitude since there is no easy way to get there from a road. We will start this through hike in the Rincon Mountain Wilderness at Turkey Creek Trailhead on a ridge that separates Turkey Creek and Mesquite Canyons. We soon cross the Saguaro National Park –West boundary, enjoying views of Rincon Peak to the south and the Catalina Mountains to the north. We begin a steep climb at the boundary, gaining over 3000 feet in 3 miles. We pass through a number of plant communities beginning with rolling grasslands, transitioning to oak/juniper forests, and topping out with ponderosa pine forests. About 6.5 miles from the trailhead, we reach Manning Camp which is occasionally used by the National Park Service and has a restroom, water and campsites. Manning Camp was built in 1905 by General Levi Manning, Surveyor General of the Arizona Territory and later

mayor of Tucson, as a summer home. He abandoned the cabin in 1907 when the area was declared a National Forest Reserve and his homestead rights were revoked. We begin a steady descent, losing 5000 feet over 9.5 miles, passing through Grass Shack Campground and arriving at Madrona Ranger Station. From here we leave the park and walk 4 miles on a dirt road back to the trailhead. (The dirt road is on private property with no trespassing signs. A connector trail will be built in Saguaro National Park to the Madrona Ranger Station by the Arizona Trail Association in the future). We will need one 4WD vehicle and shuttle driver for every 3 hikers. Hike 20 miles; trailhead elevation 4630 feet; net elevation change 4010 feet; accumulated gain 4010 feet; accumulated loss 5450 feet; RTD 120 miles.

**Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating C.** This is one of the 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, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, and pruning, and for some, repairing cairns, adding erosion control devices and other trail work (depending on rains). Bring along gloves, hat, and hand clippers. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The session usually lasts about 4 hours, with a return to Saddlebrooke by 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring water and snacks. Hike 3 to 6 miles; RTD 50 miles (dirt). The club will pay drivers' expenses.

**\*\*Baby Jesus / Madonna and Child/ Petroglyph Loop. Rating B!** The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail parking area and proceeds to the Baby Jesus trail crossing the Sutherland Wash. Hikers follow the trail on the east side of the Baby Jesus Ridge 4 miles to a rock grouping which has the appearance of the Madonna and Child. Following a short backtrack, a spur at (N32 26 55.4 W110 51 24.2) begins a connecting trail over to a grouping of 1200-year old petroglyphs. This portion of the trail, about a mile, is unmaintained requiring moderate bushwhacking in places. Views south to the Catalinas are beautiful. A hike back along the Sutherland Wash trail system completes the loop. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3234 feet; net elevation change 527 feet; accumulated gain 1280 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

**Big Wash Trail by Oro Valley Hospital. Rating D.** The group will drive to the back side of Oro Valley Hospital and park. The hike will proceed over dirt and gravel to a pathway, which has a railing, along Big Wash. The hike will proceed north for 2 miles, then return the same way. Despite the nearby residential areas and Innovation Drive industries, the wash is quite beautiful and a nice desert hike. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change minimal; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 32 miles.

**Bridal Veil Falls. Rating A.** The trail begins at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center and reaches the falls via the Esperero Trail. It crosses the Cactus Picnic area, a heavily used trail, and Rattlesnake canyon. It then gains elevation fairly quickly as it proceeds to Bird Canyon, narrowly avoiding a section of private land. The trail is well maintained but there are some steep climbs interspersed with short switchbacks. It eventually leads to the ridge nicknamed ‘Cardiac Gap’. From the ‘Gap’, the trail then drops to the north side of the ridge and heads toward Cathedral Peak, circling the basin which leads to Geronimo Meadow. The last half mile to the falls is steep and may be overgrown, but is well worthwhile if there has been adequate rainfall to supply the falls. Hike 12.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 2640 feet; accumulated gain 3265 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Bridal Wreath Falls with Loop Returns: Rating C.** The Douglas Spring Trailhead is located at the east end of Speedway Blvd. The hike involves some relatively steep climbing up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles, before turning off on the 0.3 miles spur leading to the falls. The trail is well used and easy to follow. Bring sun protection. Water may be flowing over the falls if there has been sufficient rainfall. A loop will be followed on the return trip to the trailhead which incorporates a combination of several other local trails, including the Carillo Trail, Three Tanks Trail and the Garwood Trail. None of these options will increase the total distance to greater than the 7.1 miles listed below, but the accumulated elevation gains will be slightly different. Ask the guide about the exact elevations for the chosen route. Hike 7.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1120 to \_\_ feet; accumulated gain \_\_ to \_\_ feet; RTD 80 miles.

**Brown Mountain. Rating C.** The Brown Mountain Trail is along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts at a trailhead on McCain Loop

Road, just south of Kinney Road east of the Arizona Sonoran 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; trailhead elevation 2700 (trailheads at either end are 2640 and 2880) feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 1100 feet; RTD 73 miles.

**Bug Spring Trail # 1. Rating B.** From the Lower Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile up the Catalina Highway from Hirabayashi Campground), the hike proceeds southeast along a narrow ribbon of trail carved into the granite hillside. After an uphill set of switchbacks, the terrain mellows out with outstanding vistas and views of granite sculptures. The trail dives down the north side of the ridge into a heavily forested drainage. Upward to the highpoint of the trail, you can see a few big madrone trees and views of the Sierrita Mountains, Baboquivari and the mighty Rincons. The trail descends steeply to the Upper Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile south of General Hitchcock Campground), which is the turnaround point. Return is via the same trail. Hike 9.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change 1625 feet; accumulated gain 2520 feet; RTD 94 miles.

**Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating D.** Volunteers are needed for the Trash Cleanup Walk for Catalina Hills Drive which is part of the Arizona Adopt A Highway Program. This is a community service that our club provides for SaddleBrooke and for Arizona. The walk will only take an hour to an hour and a half of your time. Trash bags and safety vests are provided by the Pinal County Highway Dept. Volunteers should bring gloves and a pickup stick if they have one. Volunteers will meet in the parking lot just west of the Fitness Center at SaddleBrooke CC.

**Bill Cody Loop. Rating B.** The beautiful, historic Bill Cody loop begins at the American Flag trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers pass the 1877 adobe house at the trailhead, and then proceed up the Arizona Trail to the Oracle Ridge Trail. We then go south toward Apache Peak, and down FR # 639, through Camp Bonita Canyon past the old Patterson Diaz homestead site. Campo Bonito is a great place for lunch. From Campo Bonito, hikers swing northward past the “Yellow Cabin” and 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. Hikers return to the trailhead via the Arizona Trail. Hike 8.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 960 feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 41 miles.

**Blackett's Ridge. Rating B.** The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blakett's Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1689 feet; accumulated gain >1735 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Boyce-Thompson Arboretum. Rating D□.** The arboretum (fee required) features 35 acres of nature paths, towering trees, cacti, mountain cliffs, a streamside forest, a desert lake, and panoramic views. It is located about 100 miles north of SaddleBrooke off U.S. 60 between Florence Junction and Superior. The park is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring lunch, camera, hiking stick optional. Hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes are recommended, although the paved trail is relatively level. Call the hike guide for more details. Hike is under 4 miles; trailhead elevation \_\_ feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 164 miles.

**CDO/Big Wash Walk. Rating D.** The hike will start at a parking area near the In and Out Burger Restaurant in Oro Valley Market Place. We access the path here, then cross over the Canada del Oro via the new footbridge and continue along the wash on a paved path that parallels the Big Wash & CDO. The trail goes behind several stores, and behind the old Steam Pump Ranch property. The group will turn around near Home Depot, and return via the same route. There are some lovely cliffs across the wash at one point. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change and accumulated gain are minimal; RTD 20 miles.

**Cochise Stronghold to End of Trail. Rating B.** Hikers travel from west to east through the Dragoon Mountains along a spine of granite where the legendary Apache War Chief Cochise kept his many

enemies at bay during the Indian wars. There are several beautiful rock formations along the way. Cochise is buried in a hidden location in the area. Hike 11 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 1500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 221 miles (some dirt).

**Deer Camp. Rating C.** The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike east up and out of Sutherland Wash, through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Samaniego Peak. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 825 feet; accumulated gain 980 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

**Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C.** From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be 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. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain 460 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Esperero Trail. Rating B.** The hike reaches a saddle known locally as Cardiac Gap, which overlooks Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot, through the Cactus Picnic Area and over a few small foothills to "the Gulch". The hiking is initially steep... then it gets much steeper. We'll have lunch at the saddle (el. 4400 feet) while viewing the falls below, and return to the Visitor Center. Depending on season, there may be water in the falls. Extra drinking water is recommended. Hike 7.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1898 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C/B.** The walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes in and around SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 to 10 miles; elevation change 500 to 600 feet. Hike duration is 2.5 to 3 hours. Optional breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted).

**Fifty-Year Trail to Sutherland Trail. Rating B.**

The hike begins at the Catalina State Park Equestrian Center and proceeds north along the Fifty-Year Trail. Hikers turn left onto an unmarked trail and proceed along ridges and across the wash until connecting again with the Fifty-Year Trail. There is a sign at the intersection. The hike continues along the Fifty-Year Trail to the intersection of the Sutherland Trail Link. There is a good place to take a break at the wash. The return trip stays on the Fifty-Year Trail back to the wash. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook. Rating C.**

The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike covers level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs up the canyon. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up and coming down, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. From the overlook, hikers will enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, Finger Rock, and the steep Finger Rock Canyon, then return. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain >1000 feet; RTD 44 miles.

**Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating D.**

The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Taking the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads to Mt. Kimball, we will only go as far as Finger Rock Spring. The trail passes some beautiful rock formations and native desert plant life along the way. The trail is relatively level but there are some ups and downs along the way. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 44 miles.

**\*\*Galiuro and Santa Teresa Wilderness Areas.** A two-day outing to Safford, AZ is planned to hike two gorgeous areas in southeast Arizona's Coronado National Forest. The Monday hike to Bassett Peak will take place on the way to Safford and the Tuesday hike to Holdout Canyon along the Grand Enchantment Trail will take place before returning to Saddlebrooke that evening. The group will stay in a Safford motel on Monday night. The home base will be the Best Western Desert Inn, 1391 W. Thatcher Blvd, Safford (928-428-0521, 800-780-7234 or www.bestwestern.com). Rates are \$70 for one or two (\$66.74 for over 55), as low as \$60 for 30-day advance purchase). An alternative is the Days Inn, 520 E. Hwy 70, Safford (866-538-2371 or

www.daysinn.com). Rates are \$70 for one or two, as low as \$56 for early booking, non-refundable. Check for senior discounts. Departure time from Mountain View is 6:00 a.m. **Remember that overnight parking is not allowed at MountainView.**

• **Mon., March 1, Bassett Peak. Rating B.**

The trail to Bassett Peak, the highpoint of the Galiuros, has very little elevation gain for the first 2.5 miles. Beyond the 2.5 mile point, the trail gets steeper and the aspens are left behind. Upon reaching the ridgeline, there are outstanding views of the Pinalenos, the Catalinas, and the Rincons. As you approach the switchbacks, a few hundred feet from the trail is the remains of a B-24 bomber that crashed in 1943. The trail stops 200 yards from the top, but the peak (7650 feet) can be accessed by a moderate bushwhack. Views go as far west as Baboquivari Peak and east into the mountains of New Mexico. Dress in layers and bring gloves and hats. Hike 12-14 miles (2-wheel drive vehicles require additional 2-mile walk); trailhead elevation 5040 feet; net elevation change 2600 feet; accumulated gain 2700 feet.

• **Tues., March 2, Holdout Canyon Exploratory. Rating A!.**

Part of the Grand Enchantment Trail that runs through the Santa Teresas, Holdout Canyon is a wonderland of oddly shaped pinnacles, fins, and domes. It is known among the rock climbing community for such features as Holdout Tower, Zorro, Great Wide Face and the Shmoo. Legend has it that old west outlaws once eluded justice among the maze of boulders here. Our goal is to reach Holdout Creek where the amazing rock formations, along with views of Pinnacle Ridge, stretch for miles. Vehicular access to Holdout Canyon is very difficult, so the group will begin hiking from a point about 2 miles north of Klondyke, AZ and proceed northwesterly along an old jeep road to Reef Tank. About 1 mile before reaching Reef Tank, the trail becomes difficult to follow and increasingly involves bushwhacking. Depending on where the group turns around, up to half the hike will be off trail. The highest point reached is about 5150 feet. The trailhead is about 35 miles along good gravel road from Hwy 70, north of Pima, AZ. Hike 16-17 miles; trailhead elevation 3390 feet; net elevation change 1860 feet; accumulated gain 3600 feet.

**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. The hike begins past the Golder Ranch Road gate in the Fifty-Year Trail area. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 640 feet; accumulated gain 880 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

**Hutch's Pool. Rating C!.** Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram (fee required) to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon (fee required). After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon, the trail is mostly level but involves several stream crossings along the East and West Forks before reaching the pool. Some boulder hopping may be necessary depending on seasonal rains and winter snow melt on Mt. Lemmon. During periods of heavy rain or significant snow melt, the crossings can be difficult. Ask the guide about current stream flow conditions. This lovely hike will take the group to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees, which is great place for a snack or lunch. The return is via the same route to the trailhead to catch the tram. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Josephine Saddle. Rating B.** The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Hikers will rest at the Saddle and return via the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse, going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1890 feet; RTD 130 miles.

**King Canyon Loop. Rating C.** The hike begins from a parking area across from the Desert Museum and proceeds up the Kings Canyon Trail to the Sweetwater Saddle. The return is either down the trail to the Mam-a Gah picnic area or down an old mining road to the wash, then along the dry wash where petroglyphs can be viewed. The wash is interesting and wildlife can sometimes be seen. Bring a camera, lunch, water, and hiking stick if you have one. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 1398 feet; RTD 73 miles.

**Mt. Hopkins. Rating A.** Mount Hopkins in the Santa Ritas is the home of the Whipple Observatory. The hike starts from the Madera Canyon Trail

parking area (upper). The hike goes up numerous steep switchbacks via the Vault Mine Trail to the Aqua Caliente Saddle, and then continues up a faint "lung bursting" route through pine forest that hugs the ridgeline to the top. The views include mountain ranges in all directions. We will lunch at the top then hike part way down the road, drop down a steep decent to Josephine Saddle and finally down Old Baldy Trail. This is a tough hike due to route conditions and steepness. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 5400 feet; net elevation change 3185 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 130 miles.

**Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon. Rating A.** Starting from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way, this rocky trail climbs steadily and follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail passes Linda Vista Saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball," and onto the Pima Canyon Trail. A half mile further and hikers arrive at the top of Mt. Kimball. The return hike is down the same trails. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 4138 feet; accumulated gain 4148 feet; RTD 44 miles.

**Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating A.** The hike begins in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows the Old Baldy Trail to Mt Wrightson. The return is via the same route. This trail provides the shortest route to the top (el. 9453 feet) of Mt. Wrightson. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. There is shade along the way. Hike 11.1 miles; trailhead elevation 5540 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain 4029 feet; RTD 130 miles.

**OSP East Loop. Rating C.** The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. Hikers follow the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection, we turn southeast and follow trail to the intersection with the Manzanita Trail. We follow this trail west and onto the Nature Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. This route is fairly level with little elevation change with wide open views and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. Hike 6.2 miles, trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 760 feet; RTD 40 miles.

**OSP West Loop. Rating C.** The 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 Hwy # 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. 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; trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain 1001 feet; RTD 40 miles.

**Peppersauce Canyon (short version). Rating D.** From the Peppersauce Canyon Campground, the hike proceeds up Peppersauce Canyon approximately 1.5 miles and returns. There is a good mixture of vegetation to study. Some views, depending on how far we go. Bring lunch. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated elevation \_\_ feet; RTD 53 miles (dirt).

**Phone Line Trail with Tram Ride Up. Rating C.** The hike begins from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After the ride up Sabino Canyon to tram stop # 9, we hike up to the Phone Line Trail and then back down the trail to the Center. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road and provides outstanding views and photo opportunities of the canyon. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change minus 1035 feet; accumulated loss minus \_\_ feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Pima Canyon to 1<sup>st</sup> Dam. Rating D!.** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. There are pools of water at the dam most of the year. The trail is rocky at some points and involves some steps-up and steps-down but is not difficult. Hike 2.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain 470 feet; RTD 42 miles.

**Pima Canyon to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dam. Rating C.** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small 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. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian

grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain 977 feet; RTD 42 miles.

**Rams Creek Basin. Rating C.** From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision, we hike up a wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are great views of Rancho Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere along the way. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 780 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles.

**Romero Pass. Rating A.** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows an up and down trail past Romero Pools and Romero Springs to Romero Pass. The last 2 miles before reaching the pass is very steep and involves continual climbing. The return is via the same route. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way and of Cathedral Peak at the top. Rincon Peak is visible to the east. Hike 15 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 3380 feet; accumulated gain 4040 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Pink Hill/ Loma Verde/ Cholla/ Cactus Forest Loop Trails. Rating D.** The group will drive to the east end of Broadway Blvd and park. The hike takes place along a clockwise loop in Saguaro National Park-East, and involves a number of trails, turns, and distances: Shantz Trail for 0.3 miles, Pink Hill Trail for 0.8 miles, Loma Verde Trail for 0.7 miles, Cholla Trail for 0.7 miles, and Cactus Forest Trail for 0.6 miles, which returns us to the parking lot. The trails are mostly flat and there is no climbing over large rocks. There are lots of beautiful Arizona native cactus plants along the way. Hike distance 3.3 miles, trailhead elevation 2720 feet, net elevation gain is minimal, accumulated gain is minimal, RTD 80 miles.

**Romero Pools. Rating C.** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike

to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Romero Springs. Rating B.** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. The spring is located about 2 miles past the Romero pools in a very scenic section of the canyon. It has been known to have quite a bit of wildlife. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. Lunch will be at the spring. The return is via the same route. Hike 10.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1960 feet; accumulated gain 2720 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Superstitions: Weavers Needle Loop. Rating B!.** The hike is beautiful, steep, and rocky and passes through areas of huge boulders in the Superstition Mountains. The hike begins at the Peralta Trailhead on the Bluff Spring Trail and proceeds via various connecting trails north and northwest to the east side of the very prominent Weavers Needle, passing through Barks Canyon and Terrapin pass along the way. The trail then loops around the north side and returns through Boulder Canyon to the west side of Weavers Needle via the Peralta trail, continuing up and over Fremont Saddle to the Peralta Trailhead parking area on FR # 77. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 2600 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

**Sutherland Trail. Rating C.** The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Sweetwater Trail (short version). Rating D.** The hike begins from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson Mountains and covers about half the distance to the saddle where the Kings Canyon and Sweetwater

Trails meet. The return is via the same route. The trail passes through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there are good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. Hiking boots and stick are recommended. Bring binoculars. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 60 miles.

**Sabino Canyon - Bear Canyon Loop (no Trams). Rating A.** Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, hikers follow the Phone Line and Sabino Canyon Trails to the East Fork intersection, the East Fork to the Bear/Sycamore intersection and then the Bear Canyon Trail past Seven Falls, back to the Visitor Center. We may have to revise the route if the stream is high in Bear Canyon. This is a very scenic hike on good trails. Hike 17.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 2110 feet; accumulated gain 4155 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Sabino Canyon - Bear Canyon Loop (with Trams). Rating B.** We take the Sabino Canyon tram to its uppermost stop and follow the Sabino Canyon, the East Fork, and finally the Bear Canyon Trails to the Bear Canyon Trailhead. From there, it's 1.6 miles to the Visitor Center. Tram fee required. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3320 feet; net elevation change 1800 feet; accumulated gain/loss 2620/3220 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Superstitions: Peralta to Canyon Lake Backpack. Rating A.** We will follow trails through Bluff Springs and La Barge Canyons and camp near Charlebois Spring. While there, we will search for petroglyphs south of Charlebois Spring. On the second day, we will follow trails through Marsh Valley and on to Canyon Lake where our transportation will pick us up. Hikers will see a giant saguaro cactus, ancient petroglyphs, and many wildflowers. Hike 16.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2450 feet; net elevation change 1060 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD Peralta 154 miles (dirt), plus Canyon Lake 190 miles.

**Superstitions: Peralta Trail. Rating C.** The hike follows the Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle in the Superstition Mountains. There are excellent views of Weavers Needle at the Saddle. 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 Weavers Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge boulders that have tumbled from the

cliffs above. The trail is steep and rocky for most of the way. Hike 5.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2410 feet; net elevation change 1360 feet; accumulated gain 1410 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

**Superstitions: Roger's Canyon Cliff Dwellings Plus. Rating B.** The hike is deep in a wilderness area of the Superstition Mountains. The trailhead is reached via Florence to Hwy # 60 east and then northeast on 19 miles of scenic, rough unimproved Forest Service roads that require 4WD vehicles with adequate clearance. The trail may be slippery in places during rainy seasons. We will hike to the cliff dwellings by a new route which follows the JF Trail up and over Tortilla Pass. The ancient cliff dwellings were built by the Salado Indians around A.D. 1150 to A.D. 1250. The ruins are in very good shape and present a nice opportunity for the photographer to get good photos. Entering the ruins is possible but involves some rock scrambling. Care should be taken not to damage 700 years of history. We should see good wildflowers on this hike from the Woodbury Trailhead, depending on the season. Hike 10.6 miles; trailhead elevation 4800 feet; net elevation change 1550 feet; accumulated gain 2540 feet; RTD 166 miles (dirt).

**Table Mountain. Rating A!.** From the parking lot at the Pima Canyon trailhead we travel 3.2 miles up to where a steep, rocky gully comes in from the north. The "route" is a bushwhack climbing steeply up the rocky drainage to the flat grassy slope that leads northeast to Table Mountain. Suggest defensive clothing and gloves if desired. The vegetation is a mixture of shin dagger, prickly pear, oak, pinion and juniper. The view is spectacular and well earned. The return will either be via Bighorn Mountain or back the same way. Hike 10.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change 3350 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 42 miles.

**Tanque Verde Peak. Rating A.** Tanque Verde Peak is located in Saguaro National Park - East. The hike begins at the Javelina Picnic Area on the Tanque Verde Ridge Trail, off the Cactus Forest Drive loop road. The trail passes through Juniper Basin at 6.9 miles, and reaches the Peak at 9 miles. Erik Molvar's guidebook says, "From this lofty perch, fantastic views stretch in all directions." Hike 18 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 3900 feet; accumulated gain 4330 feet; RTD 82 miles.

**Tortolita Mountains – Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating B.** This hike travels the outer rim of the area. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, to Lower Javalina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail. After ascending the first part, we take a short side trail to a high point overlooking the area to the west. We then continue on the Alamo Springs Trail to our lunch spot in Wild Burro Canyon. We then proceed on a short connector trail to the Wild Mustang Trail until we connect with the Upper Javelina Trail and return to the trailhead via the Wild Burro Wash. The hike offers remote hiking with great views of the Tortolita Mountains and passes several crested saguaros. Hike 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 2780 feet; (hike data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles.

**Tortolita Mountains: S. Wild Burro Canyon Trail. Rating D.** The trailhead is near the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, off Dove Mtn. Blvd. The hike proceeds up Wild Burro Canyon, crisscrossing the canyon wash. The group will walk some in sand and some on compacted dirt. We hike two miles up the canyon to an old stone house which was used in the early 1900's by goat herders. There is also a cistern and a large water catch basin dubbed "the swimming pool". From here we return via the same route to the trailhead. Hike distance 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 44 miles.

**Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang / Wild Burro Canyon Loop. Rating B.** The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, connect with the Upper Javalina Trail, and make their way up to the Wild Mustang Trail. The trail will lead the group 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 take a connector trail southeast down to the Wild Burro Canyon Trail. The trail overlooks the narrow upper canyon which spreads wide with numerous side canyons and tributaries. As we continue down Wild Burro Canyon, we 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 10.7

miles; trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 1150 feet; accumulated gain 1630 feet; (hike data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles.

**Wasson Peak via Hugh Norris Trail. Rating B.**

From the trailhead near Hohokum Road (off N. Kinney Road past Red Hills Visitor Center), the hike follows the Hugh Norris Trail to and from Wasson Peak. Hugh Norris is the longest trail to Wasson Peak, but the climb is gradual along a ridge with spectacular views. There are excellent 360-degree views from the top. There is little shade; bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 2640 feet; net elevation change 2124 feet; accumulated gain 2400 feet; RTD 73 miles.

**Wasson Peak via King Canyon Trail. Rating B.**

The hike begins at the trailhead across from the Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum and goes up the King Canyon Trail. We pass the Mam-A-Gah picnic area and continue to the Sweetwater Saddle, the junction with the Sweetwater Trail. For the next mile or so, it's a steep climb to the junction with the Hugh Norris Trail and a short uphill climb to the summit. The 360-degree views from the top include Tucson to the east, Green Valley to the south, Picacho Peak to the north and Sells to the west. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 1807 feet; accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 73 miles.

**Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating B.**

The hike begins at Sendero Esperanza Trailhead off Golden Gate Road. The route follows the Esperanza Trail (1.8 miles) to the Hugh Norris Trail and on to Wasson Peak (2.2 miles). The climb is gradual and the Hugh Norris section is primarily a ridge trail with spectacular views. The 360-degree views from Wasson Peak include Tucson and Santa Catalinas to the east, Green Valley/Santa Ritas to the south, Sells to the west, and Picacho to the north. We will lunch on top of the Peak and return the same way. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1727 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt).