



# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2013/1

### Search and Rescue 3 p.m. , Wednesday, January 16 HOA1 Activity Center

**Southern Arizona Rescue Association, (SARA)**, is a non-profit, all-volunteer search and rescue organization serving southern Arizona and Pima County since 1958. SARA members are volunteers from all walks of life, donating their time, skills, and enthusiasm to provide a vital service to the public. Since its inception in 1958, SARA has conducted more than 4,000 searches and rescues and assisted 10,000 people.

Brooke Fawcett, Public Information Officer and medical instructor for SARA, joins us on January 16 at 3:00pm to answer your questions and provide some tips about how to enjoy our beautiful region safely.



### Guided Hike in French Joe Canyon, Whetstone Mountains-January 21st

Jessica Moreno, a wildlife biologist with the Sky Island Alliance, will lead us on a hike into French Joe Canyon in the rugged and little-visited Whetstone Mountains. The hike will begin south of Kartchner Caverns State Park. We will travel at a leisurely pace, making numerous stops during which Jessica

will talk with us about a variety of topics, such as wildlife tracks and scat, botany, and sky island cats. We will also check remote cameras for wildlife photos and visit an old mine site. Hikers should be prepared for rough trail, loose rock and some minor bouldering. The hike is rated C! **(Please refer to the hike descriptions for further information.)**

The Sky Island Alliance is a Tucson-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of wild lands and wildlife of the Sky Island region. The Sky Island Alliance works with volunteers, donors, scientists, land owners, public officials and government agencies to establish protected areas, restore healthy landscapes and promote public appreciation of the region's unique beauty and biological diversity. For more information, please go to [www.skyislandalliance.org](http://www.skyislandalliance.org).

Call Dick Krueger at 818-2671 to sign-up for this hike.

### Orientation to Hiking in the Desert Southwest 3 p.m. Wednesday, January 30th SaddleBrooke HOA1 Activity Center

If you are new to hiking in Arizona or haven't hiked recently you may want to learn about area trails, guided hikes, and recommendations for hiking in the desert southwest. Lead guide Walt Shields assisted by guides Michael Reale, Cheryl Werstler and Jan Wilson will share informative materials and helpful hiking tips. You will have an opportunity to meet additional guides and members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club, learn about early morning conditioning walks within SaddleBrooke, and hikes selected especially for those new to Arizona. For further information, call Walt (818-3439) or Cheryl (825-9057). We hope to see all those interesting in hiking in our desert southwest.



**Beginning Backpacking Wednesday, January 30th**

An information meeting about backpacking in the southwest will be held on Wednesday, January 30 at 4:15 p.m. in the Activity Center, following the Orientation to Hiking in the Desert Southwest with the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club from 3 - 4 p.m.

As a follow-up, an overnight backpacking trip will be held February 27-28 in the Superstition Mountains from the First Water/Second Water trailhead. Ten miles of backpacking will be spread over two days. Cooking stoves, water purification and other equipment can be shared. For further information contact Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547 or Michael Reale 825-8286.

**Hiking the Islands of Hawaii  
3 p.m. Wednesday, February 20  
SaddleBrooke HOA1 Activity Center**



Come and enjoy a pictorial journey of hiking in Hawaii. On the Big Island explore Mauna Kea,

Volcanoes National Park, Waipio Valley, and Green Sand Beach. On Maui visit Haleakala, La Perouse Bay and Pipiwai Trail. On Oahu see Maunawili Trail, Mariner's Ridge, and Aiea Loop. Finally on Kauai discover Waimea Canyon, Waialeale (Blue Hole), and the classic Kalalau Trail on the Na Pali Coast. This program will be presented by Dean and Cheryl Werstler.

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Social will be at 4 p.m. in the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse Lounge.

News You Can Use		
<b>SBHC Program</b>	1/16	3:00 p.m.
<b>Social Hour</b>	1/16	4:00 p.m.
<b>SBHC Program</b>	1/30	3:00 p.m.
<b>SBHC Program</b>	1/30	4:15 p.m.
<b>Board Meeting</b>	2/6	2:45 p.m.
<b>Guide Meeting</b>	2/6	4:00 p.m.
<b>SBHC Program</b>	2/20	3:00 p.m.
<b>Social Hour</b>	2/20	4:00 p.m.

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

Board Members	
<b>President</b>	Larry Allen 825-7864, allenlw70@gmail.com
<b>Vice-President</b>	Bob Kolenda 825-9972; rlkslt4@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Dave Sorenson 777-1994 iowaboy1950@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Virginia Brier 818-0493; virginiabrier@gmail.com
<b>Chief Hiking Guides</b>	Larry Linderman 303-6564; LLinderman13@gmail.com Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com

## 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@daveandpam.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
<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, and Dean Wilson.

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.

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.

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

## Hikes Offered

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
1/3	Thurs	Rams Field Pass	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2
1/4	Fri	Honey Bee Canyon N.	C	Slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
1/5	Sat	Big Rock Dome	C		9:00	Bob Simpson Frank Brier	818-2610	\$1
1/6	Sun	Agua Caliente Hill	A		7:30	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$6
1/7	Mon	Hidden Canyon	C		9:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$2
1/8	Tues.	Tortolita mts.: Wild Burro Canyon to Stone House & back	C	slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4
1/9	Wed	Deer Camp	C		8:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$2
1/10	Thurs	Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail	B		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$5
1/11	Fri	Deer Camp/Baby Jesus Loop	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2
1/14	Mon	Romero Pools	C		8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$2+\$2
1/15	Tues	Bridal Wreath Falls	C		8:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$6
1/16	Wed	Phone line Trail-Round Trip	B		8:30	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$4
1/16	Wed	SBHC Program: Southern Arizona Search & Rescue			3:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	
1/16	Wed	SBHC Social - HOA1 Agave Lounge			4:00			
1/17	Thurs	Brown Mountain	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$6
1/17	Thurs	Canyon Loop/Birding Trail	D		8:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$2+\$2
1/18	Fri	Sweetwater Preserve	C		8:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$5
1/19	Sat	Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground	B		7:30	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$6
1/21	Mon	**French Joe Canyon	C!		8:00	Dick Krueger	818-2671	\$13
1/21	Mon	Bill Cody Loop	B		8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$3
1/22	Tues	Peralta Trail	C		8:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$14
1/22	Tues	Wasson Peak via Hugh Norris Trail	B		8:00	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$6
1/23	Wed	**Bridal Wreath Falls Loop	C		8:30	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$6
1/24	Thurs	Pontotoc Ridge	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$4
1/24	Thurs	Cochie Springs Loop	B		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
1/25	Fri.	Antelope Peak	C	slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$7
1/28	Mon	Blackett's Ridge	B		8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
1/28	Mon	Ventana Canyon-Lower Level	D		9:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
1/29	Tues.	Tortolita Trail	C	slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4
1/30	Wed	Newcomer Orientation to Desert Hiking			3:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	
1/30	Wed	Planning Meeting for Overnight Backpack			4:15	Elisabeth Wheeler Michael Reale	818-1547 825-8286	
2/1	Fri.	Tubac to Tumacacori Anza Trail	C	slow	7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$11
2/2	Sat	Tanque Verde Ridge Trail to Juniper Basin Campground	A		7:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$6
2/4	Mon	Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop	B		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
2/4	Mon	Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon (no Tram)	A		7:00	Margaret Valair	812-0019	\$4
2/5	Tues.	King Canyon Loop	C	slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$6
2/6	Wed	Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail	B		8:00	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$5
2/6	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			2:45 p.m.			
2/6	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			4:00 p.m.			
2/7	Thurs	Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista	B!		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$7 + \$2
2/8	Fri	Romero Pools	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
2/8	Fri.	Fifty Year Trail Area	D	slow	8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$1
2/10	Sun	Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang / Wild Burro Canyon Loop	B		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
2/11	Mon	Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop	B		6:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$14
2/12	Tues	Romero Falls	A		7:30	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$2+\$2
2/13	Wed	Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground	B		7:30	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$6
2/14	Thurs.	Linda Vista Loop	D	slow	8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
2/18	Mon	Tanque Verde Ridge Trail - Part Way	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$6
2/18	Mon	Window Rock Loop via Ventana and Esperero Trails	A		6:30	Margaret Valair	812-0019	\$4
2/18	Mon	Linda Vista Loop and Lunch at Tohono Chul	D		9:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$2
2/19	Tues	Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon with Tram	B		7:45	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$4 + tram
2/20	Wed	AZ Trail: Work Session	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$0
2/20	Wed	SBHC Program: Hiking the Islands of Hawaii			3:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
2/20	Wed	SBHC Social - HOA1 Agave Lounge			4:00			
2/21	Thurs	Alamo Canyon to Water Tanks	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
2/22	Fri	Blackett's Ridge	B		8:00	Margaret Valair	812-0019	\$4
2/25	Mon	Romero Springs	B		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$2 + \$2
2/25	Mon	Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness	C!		8:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$10+\$5
2/27	Wed	Wasson Peak via Sendero, Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails	B		7:30	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$6
2/27 2/28	Wed Thurs	Overnight Backpack Loop in Superstitions	B		9:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$15

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

**Agua Caliente Hill. Rating A.** The hike has great panoramic views of Tucson, and the Rincon and Santa Catalinas. The trail starts climbing immediately from the Camino Remuda Trailhead. The trail continues up and down for approximately two miles to a water hole. From here, the trail climbs and then drops into a wash. Next is a steep climb to a ridge and a junction with old jeep FS # 4445, about three miles from the trailhead. It is another 1.5 miles to the top of Aqua Caliente Hill. The return is via the same route. Hike 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2930 feet; net elevation change 2430 feet; accumulated gain 3045 feet; RTD 75 miles.

**Alamo Canyon to the Water Tank. Rating C.** The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Elevation change is gradual. The trail proceeds from the ruins through Alamo Canyon. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods. Hikers then go around, down, and up and down again to an unused, large water tank. Trail is rocky in some areas. The return is one of three ways of equal distance. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 1050 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Antelope Peak. Rating C.** The hike starts 1.5 miles off Freeman Road, which is 15 miles from Florence Hwy # 79. High clearance vehicles are required to reach the trailhead. The area offers great views of surrounding terrain and has numerous Hedgehog cacti. Native animals are often seen in this area. Be sure to bring sunscreen due to the exposure. Hike 4.5 miles; trailhead elevation 4100 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1008 feet; RTD 72 miles (dirt).

**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.

**Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version). Rating C!.** Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful and pristine canyon and a favorite for all who have been there. Hikers should expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Wear shorts, socks and shoes (that can get wet) with good traction (for wet rocks). Bring dry shoes/shorts/shirt for drive home, if desired (and a plastic bag for wet items). Aravaipa Canyon is a wilderness area with no trails, signs, or facilities. Hiking stick is recommended. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt).

**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.

**Big Rock Dome #2. Rating C!.** The hike begins from the 4WD road off Lago del Oro just outside of SaddleBrooke, or from the CDO Wash at Unit 21. The hike takes us up Charouleau Gap Road (a rocky jeep road) past a picturesque table rock and through desert area filled with huge granite boulders and outcroppings. The hike then continues with a short bushwhack to the Big Rock Dome where hikers have a great 360-degree view. The return uses same route. Charouleau Gap Road has loose, slippery rocks in some areas. Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3250 feet; net elevation change 800 feet; accumulated gain 1025 feet; RTD 2 miles.

**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 Blackett'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.

**Bridal Wreath Falls. 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. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1120 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 80 miles.

**\*\*Bridal Wreath Falls Loop. Rating C.** The hike description is the same as the Bridal Wreath Falls Hike except that we take a loop back to the trailhead. We walk .3 of a mile back to the Three Tanks Trail. From this point, there are two options for the loop back to the parking lot. The first is hiking 1.5 miles to where it joins the Carillo trail and continues .5 miles



to the Douglas Springs Trail with considerable elevation gain. Then we return back to our car at the trailhead. The second option is to continue on the Three Tanks Trail to the Garwood Trail that joins the Douglas Springs Trail only .3 of a mile from the trailhead to the parking lot. Hike 7.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ 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.

**Canyon Loop, Montrose Pools, and Birding Trail. Rating D.** Starting at the main trailhead at Catalina State Park, the hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We take the Sutherland Trail to the Canyon Loop Trail, then hike up to Montrose Pools via the Romero Canyon Trail. On the way back, we will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 320 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop. Rating C.** The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike easterly toward Deer Camp, and then take the Middle Tank Connecting Trail to the Baby Jesus Trail which leads back to the trailhead. The area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 993 feet; RTD 12 miles (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).

**Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating B.** Hikers drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the Douglas Spring Trailhead. The hike involves moderately some steep hiking on a well-used trail to

the campground. Coming back we may take the spur out and back to Bridal Wreath Falls, and follow Douglas Spring Trail back to the trailhead. The trails are mostly open, so bring sun protection. Bring lunch. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 2684 feet; RTD 80 miles.

**Fifty-Year Trail Area. Rating D.** The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area, and following a jeep road to Sutherland Wash from Golder Ranch Road. The trail loops back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. Hike 3.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 234 feet; RTD 10 miles (dirt).

**\*\*French Joe Canyon, Whetstone Mountains Rating C!** A wildlife biologist with the Sky Island Alliance will lead us on a hike into French Joe Canyon in the rugged and little-visited Whetstone Mountains. The hike will begin south of Kartchner Caverns State Park. We will travel at a leisurely pace, making numerous stops during which our guide will talk with us about a variety of topics, such as wildlife tracks and scat, botany, and sky island cats. We will also check remote cameras for wildlife photos and visit an old mine site. Hikers should be prepared for rough trail, loose rock and some minor bouldering. Hike approximately 3.5 miles (the length of hike will increase to 7.5 miles, if the 4-wheel drive road to the canyon is not passable); trailhead elevation 5100 feet; net elevation change approximately 600 feet; accumulated elevation gain \_\_\_; RTD 166 miles with approx. 4 miles on 4-wheel drive road.

**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).

**Honey Bee Canyon North Plus. Rating C.** The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs and grinding holes, and end at a fence cross the wash. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time, this is a real eye opener. Hike 4-5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 300 feet; accumulated gain 300 feet; RTD 26 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.

**Linda Vista Loop. Rating D.** The Linda Vista Trailhead and parking lot is one block east of Oracle Road on Linda Vista Blvd. The hike proceeds into the foothills of Pusch Ridge and is an excellent introduction to desert hiking. The trail gradually ascends to provide excellent views of Oro Valley. Poles may be helpful for rocky steps-up and steps-down. The trail passes through a riparian area and ascends to a rocky outcropping which is a good place for a snack break. There are magnificent saguaros throughout the drainage from Pusch Ridge. Hike 3 miles (mileage may be extended by doing an extra loop – ask the guide); trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 28 miles.

**Pete Mountain. Rating B.** We follow the Agua Caliente Trail off Smithsonian Observatory Road in the Santa Rita Mountains up to Agua Caliente Saddle and then turn north to Pete Mountain. On some maps it is shown as Santa Rita Peak. After leaving Agua Caliente Saddle, we take a little used route to the Peak past one of the area's largest hedgehog cacti with at least 200 individual heads per Betty Leavengood. Good cooler hike for the summer. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 4800 feet; net elevation change 2920 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 142 miles (dirt).

**Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail. Rating B!.** From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the lower route to Picacho Peak. The climb to the top involves the use of cables to get to the top, which provides 360-degree views of the area. This is a short, strenuous climb, but less so than from the Hunter Trailhead at Barret Loop. Bring leather or rubber tipped gloves and ample water. There are several areas of climbing where the trail is slippery due to loose rock and where the trail is exposed to sharp drop-offs. Park entrance fee required. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change

1494 feet; accumulated gain > 1500 feet; RTD 90 miles.

**Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C!.** The hike starts at the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," the trail goes up the northwest side of Pontatoc Ridge to just below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area from a saddle along the way. The hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. There are short stretches of exposed trail near the old mines. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 3100 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 44 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 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 Falls. Rating A.** 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 Romero pools are located. The falls are about 30 feet high and consist of water flowing down a steeply sloped rock face, and are a very unique feature in southern Arizona. The falls are located about 2.6 miles past the Romero pools and about 0.6 miles (and a little less than 500 feet additional elevation gain) past Romero Springs. The springs

and falls are located in a very scenic section of the canyon, and have been known to attract quite a bit of wildlife. Lunch will be at the falls. The return is via the same route. Hike 11.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 2420 feet; accumulated gain >3140 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.

**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: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating B.** The hike starts at the Peralta Trailhead off Hwy # 60 in the Superstitions and follows the Dutchman Trail through Barkley Basin. From the basin, the trail climbs past Miners Needle (smaller sister of Weavers Needle) to Miners Summit, then descends along the Bluff Springs Trail to Bluff Spring (has seasonal water). There are netleaf hackberry and oak shade trees along the way. Hikers then continue back to the trailhead with superb views of Weavers Needle. Hike 9.1 miles;

trailhead elevation 2415 feet; net elevation change 895 feet; accumulated gain 1360 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

**Superstitions: First Water - Second Water Trail Loop. Rating B.** Hikers start on the Dutchman Trail from the First Water Creek Trailhead, 3 miles of dirt road off Hwy #88, north of Apache Junction, in the Superstition Wilderness Area. 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 and Weavers Needle. The hike then continues to the Second Water Trail and back to the trailhead. There are numerous water crossings and boulders along the trails, and wonderful scenery. Hike 9.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2300 feet; net elevation change 800 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 160 miles (dirt).

**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).

**Tanque Verde Ridge Trail to Juniper Basin Campground. Rating A.** The hike begins at the Javelina Picnic Area in Saguaro National Park – East. An interesting feature of this hike is the opportunity to observe changing vegetation that accompanies the increase in elevation. The trail occasionally tops out along the ridge, levels out for a distance and then drops to the north or south side of the ridge. The views are amazing and this is one of the best parts of the trail, because it has views in all directions. Hike 13.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 2880 feet; accumulated gain 3761 feet; RTD 82 miles.

**Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating B.** The hike begins at the Javalina Picnic Area in Saguaro National Park – East off the Cactus Forest Drive loop road, and is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. The hike is somewhat steep in

parts as it proceeds up Tanque Verde Ridge. At three miles into the hike, we will view a crested saguaro, but continue on another mile to lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some great photo stops along the way. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1900 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 82 miles.

**Tortolita Mountains - S. End Wild Burro Canyon & Lower Javelina Trail. Rating C.** The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. We hike up Wild Burro Canyon, sometimes in the arroyo and sometimes on a compacted soil trail, winding through some trees and cacti. After 2 miles, we reach the ruins of an old stone house, which is where Wild Burro Trail goes left and up along the ridge to the left. We pass this and take the Spur Trail which is on the right 20-30 yards ahead, to the Alamo Spring Trail. There are great views of Wild Burro Canyon and the Avra Valley, as we descend into Wild Burro Canyon. Once we return to Wild Burro Canyon, we walk in the arroyo until shortly before the lower waterfalls. Here we find a trail marker on the right side of the arroyo. We follow this part of the trail down the right side of the waterfall to the old stone house ruins. The return is via the same route. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 960 feet; accumulated gain 1090 feet; (hike data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD is 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.

**Tortolita Trail. Rating D.** The trailhead is at the end of W. Moore Road about 1.5 miles off Dove Mountain Blvd. The hike involves a portion of the multipurpose Tortolita Trail located on the Tortolita Preserve. It took outdoorsman and amateur trail designer Chuck Boyer, age 66, more than two years to carve out the 9-mile recreational trail using only hand tools. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change <500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 44 miles.

**Sweetwater Preserve. Rating C.** The trailhead is at the end of Tortolita Road, one mile off El Camino del Cerro. The 703-acre preserve is in the Tucson Mountains (this is not the Sweetwater Trail which leads to Wasson Peak.) There is a system of trails within the park made in 2008 by a crew of Piima County trail builders. It consists of 12 distinct loops and paths that interconnect so they can be linked together. Each trail is 0.5 to 1.5 miles in length, for 10.4 miles total. A map of the area may be found on the website ([www.sdmb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html](http://www.sdmb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html)). Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change <1000 feet; accumulated gain <1000 feet; RTD 60 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 Javalina 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 - Cochie Spring Trail. Rating B.** From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, hikers go 1.5 miles on the flat Wild Burro Trail to the Upper Javalina Trail. The Upper Javalina Trail provides views of the Tucson Mtns and Boboquiveri Peak to the south. After a short hike on the Wild Mustang Trail, hikers join the Cochie Spring Trail

and continue several miles to the remains of a dam past a windmill. Hikers will experience a quiet mountain wilderness. The return is by the same route. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; (data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles.

**Ventana Canyon - Lower Level. Rating D.** The hike begins from a parking lot at the Ventana Canyon Resort and proceeds gradually up Ventana Canyon for a mile or so. Several stream crossings are involved and there may be water depending on recent rains which require some boulder hopping. At the turnaround point, the trail starts a steep climb through the beautiful canyon which leads eventually to Maiden Pools and, much further along, Window Rock. The trail passes through massive cliffs of metamorphic stone slanting skyward to sharp points above the canyon floor. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 400 feet; RTD 54 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 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).

**Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail. Rating B.** The hike begins at the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro (the west extension of Ruthruff Road) on the east side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike on the Sweetwater Trail through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. There is little shade along the way. Bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 9.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 1887; accumulated gain 2424 feet; RTD 60 miles.

**Window Rock Loop via Ventana and Esperero Trails. Rating A.** This is a classic, strenuous hike to the unique Window, a large opening through a rock face on the crest of the front range of the Catalinas. The trail is a very long loop, and takes one from saguaros to ponderosas and back again. The hike starts at the Ventana Canyon Trailhead, proceeds past the Maiden Pools to the ridge at the top of Ventana Canyon. At a junction near the saddle, the Esperero Trail goes eastward to the Window for a superb view of Tucson and surrounding mountains. The hike continues on the Esperero Trail past Window Peak (optional side trip) to Esperero Cyn, and descends past Bridal Veil Falls and Cardiac Gulch to Esperero Creek. The Esperero Trail crosses the ridges of Bird Cyn and Rattlesnake Canyon to the Cactus Picnic area and continues down the road to the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. A car shuttle will be required. Hike 15.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2850 feet; net elevation change 4450 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 56 miles.