



# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

2015

### THE COALITION OF THE SONORAN DESERT PROTECTION AGENCY Wednesday, October 21



Do we really need a wildlife crossing bridge and tunnel on Oracle Road? How many times have you heard that question since the road construction began many months ago? Come learn why we do need these crossings and much more when featured speaker Hannah Stitzer, Program and Outreach Associate for the Coalition of the Sonoran Desert Protection, discusses conservation topics at the hiking club meeting on Wednesday, October 21.

The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the HOA #1 Activity Center. Members and guests will have the opportunity to learn about the Coalition which has been involved for over sixteen years in the implementation of Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. This includes protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of open space with much of it connected to federally protected lands. In partnering with other local, state and federal agencies, the Coalition has helped develop science based Habitat Conservation Plans to protect wildlife species and their habitat. They have coordinated and advocated for the construction of wildlife crossings across roadways. This program is particularly timely because of the implementation of the wildlife underpass and vegetated wildlife bridge being built on SR 77. These crossings are crucial to connect

habitat from the Catalina to Tortolita Mountains, provide safe passages for native wildlife, and increase highway safety for motorists.

To gather more information about this wildlife linkage, a wildlife camera project was started in 2012 with four cameras and has expanded to seventeen in the Oro Valley area. The goal is to document wildlife activity and gather data about the current state of the wildlife linkage. Since its implementation, the project has been successful in documenting thousands of pictures of local Sonoran Desert wildlife. Many of the pictures will be shared during the presentation, highlighting the variety of animals in this area. The project is largely driven by volunteers and has been a great way for nearby residents to get involved in wildlife documentation.

This program is open to all SaddleBrooke and SaddleBrooke Ranch residents whether they are members of the Hiking club or not. Afterwards attendees are encouraged to attend a social hour in the Agave Lounge. For more information about programs, contact Mary Croft at 825-3804.  
By Jan Springer

#### AZ TRAIL WORK DAYS:

**OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2015 8:00-11:30 a.m.**

We would like to continue the work that was started almost a year ago, when the SB hiking club began maintaining the AZ Trail section designated as the "Oracle Passage." Each month last winter, we had very successful workdays with a group of very diligent workers. We were guided by Trail Director, Shawn Redfield, and our Regional Steward, Don Washco. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back and support the amazing work that has been done to create the AZ National Scenic Trail. The Oracle Passage is a great introduction to the trail and a short drive from SB.

Tools are provided, but if you have a favorite hand clipper you may want to bring that. Work gloves are essential. There will be a short

review of proper use of tools and then we break into small work groups of 2-4 in order to cover as much of the trail as possible. When the work is completed for the morning, we will take a short break for refreshments and review of work done for the morning.

Please call Mary Croft (651-270-1160) or e-mail at [mbcroft45@mac.com](mailto:mbcroft45@mac.com) to sign up to volunteer. We will meet at the Mountain View Parking lot at 7:30 and will return by noon.

**LAS VEGAS WILL BE THE DESTINATION FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL TRIP**

The Board voted in August to approve Las Vegas, Nevada, as the location of the 2016 Annual Trip. Las Vegas has Red Canyon, the Lake Mead area, Mt Charleston, and Valley of Fire as hiking destinations. More information will follow in future bulletins and newsletters.

The hike schedule is in the early stages of being determined. Las Vegas is 400 miles from SaddleBrooke.

By Dave Sorenson

News You Can Use		
SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North	10/7 Wed.	2:30 – 4:00 P.M.
SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North	10/7 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Fall Picnic Catalina State Park	10/16 Fri.	11:30 A.M.
AZ Trail Work Session	10/21 Wed.	7:30 – 11:30 A.M.
The Coalition of the Sonoran Desert Protection Agency HOA #1 Activity Center	10/21 Wed.	3:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	10/21 Wed.	4:00 P.M.
AZ Trail Work Session	11/18 Wed.	8:00 – 11:30 A.M.

**Club Calendar (posted on club website)**

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar				Sep 2015 (Mountain Time - Arizona)			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11 B Butterfly Trail	12	
13	14	15	16 C- Sunset/Marshall	17	18	19	
20	21 C Sabino Canyon	22	23 C 50 yr N Trail >	24	25 C Sunset / Marshall	26 C-OSP EAST LOOP	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6 B Pontatoc Peak	7 Board Meeting Guides Meeting	8	9 C-Deer Camp / Baby	10
11	12	13 D FingerRockSpring	14	15 A Mt Wrightson	16 C Sutherland Trail C-Fifty Year Trail via Fall Picnic Catalina	17
18	19 C Sutherland	20 C Finger Rock	21 C Arizona Trail Work Program- Sonoran	22 D Alamo Canyon	23 A I FingerRock Guard C Hidden Canyon	24 D OSP American Ave
25	26 C Sedona Munda D Cathedral Rock	27 C Sedona Brins C West Fork of Oak	28	29 B Sutherland Wash	30	31

### Hikes Offered

**Friday, September 11, 2015, Butterfly Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [129, 7:00 AM, \$9].** From the trailhead near Soldier Camp on Catalina Hwy, we hike down Butterfly Trail # 16 to the Novio Spring area in Alder Canyon, and lunch in the vicinity of a 1957 F-86 plane crash (UTM 526435E, 3587511N). The entire steady climb is on the way out. Hikers will be in the shade of very tall Douglas firs and ponderosa pines up to a saddle and to the exit at Palisade Ranger Station. A car will need to be left here to shuttle back to the upper trailhead. Along the way are views of San Manuel to the east. Butterfly Peak is to the north. The northerly route is very similar. Hike 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 7700 feet; net elevation change 1830 feet; accumulated gain 2230 feet; RTD 125 miles. Susan Hollis 825-6819 or SLHOLLIS@YAHOO.COM"

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015, Sunset / Marshall Gulch / Aspen Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [394, 7:00 AM, \$10].** The hike begins at Soldier Camp on the Sunset Trail, which starts on the Catalina Highway before reaching Summerhaven. It proceeds along the Marshall Gulch Trail to the Marshall Saddle, then down the Aspen Trail and Sunset Trail to the trailhead. There are great views of the Catalinas along the way, hiking mostly in forest shade. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 7640 feet; net elevation change 707 feet; accumulated gain 1343 feet; RTD 130 miles. Howie and Elaine Fagan, 818-9555, howieandelaine@q.com

**Monday, September 21, 2015, Extended Fitness Walk. Rating: C . Pace: Moderate [179, 07:00 AM, \$4].** The walk begins at the Sabino Canyon parking lot and travels up the Upper Sabino Canyon Road (the tram road) and returns the same way. . Carry at least one quart of water. Walk 7 miles; elevation change 600 feet. A beautiful early morning walk. Dave Sorenson 777-1994.

**Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 50 yr N Trail - Middlegate, Rating C, Pace Moderate [NEW, 7:00AM, \$1]**

Park cars at the Corral one-half mile from the end of Golders Ranch Rd. Hike jeep trails and cycle trails to Middlegate. Cross Sutherland Wash and return S via Deer Camp Trail. This hike is on State Trust Land. Hike 5 miles; accumulated gain ~600 feet; RTD 4 miles. Rob Simms, Spartan7375@gmail.com or 517-410-9031

**Friday, September 25, 2015, Sunset / Marshall Gulch / Aspen Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [394, 8:00 AM, \$10].**

The hike begins at Soldier Camp on the Sunset Trail, which starts on the Catalina Highway before reaching Summerhaven. It proceeds along the Marshall Gulch Trail to the Marshall Saddle, then down the Aspen Trail and Sunset Trail to the trailhead. There are great views of the Catalinas along the way, hiking mostly in forest shade. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 7640 feet; net elevation change 707 feet; accumulated gain 1343 feet; RTD 130 miles. Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com.

**Saturday, September 26, 2015 OSP East Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [307, 8:00 AM, \$3 + \$2].**

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. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

**Tuesday, October 06, 2015 Pontatoc Peak. Rating B!. Pace: Moderate [New, 7:30 AM, \$4].**

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 a faint trail junction that leads right and straight uphill. The junction is a little over 2 miles from the trailhead and clearly visible due to increased recent use. Continuing along this faint, steep, rocky trail for another half mile and 900 feet vertically will get you to the peak, but there is significant boulder scrambling required along the way. The peak is not identified on USGS topo maps, but is located at 12S 510674, 3578685 and is about 5080 feet high. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area at the top and along the way. The hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline, rocky path, and scrambling. At the junction on the way down, a right turn will take you to just below the old mines. Including this short side trip adds 0.2 miles and 100 feet of climbing but allows hikers to reach the destination of the Pontatoc Ridge hike also. There are short stretches of exposed trail near the old mines and along the steep climb to the ridge leading to the peak. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3100 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain 2400 feet; RTD 44 miles. Roy Carter, 818-3137

**Wednesday, October 07, 2015, Board Meeting** 2:30 to 4:00 PM Coyote Room North at SaddleBrooke Clubhouse

**Wednesday, October 07, 2015, Guide Meeting** 4:00 -5:00 PM Coyote Room North at SaddleBrooke Clubhouse

**Friday, October 09, 2015, Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [167, 8:00 AM, \$2].**

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 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 667 feet; accumulated gain 1166 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). Tim Butler, 825-0193, [tucsontimmer@gmail.com](mailto:tucsontimmer@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, October 13, 2015, Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [191, 7:30 AM, \$4].** 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 relatively rocky. There are some fairly significant ups and downs along the way. Hike 2.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 44 miles. Roy Carter, 818-3137

**Thursday, October 15, 2015, Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy and return via the Super Trail. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [294, 6:00 AM, \$10].** Join Aaron on his inaugural guided hike for the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. The hike begins in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows Old Baldy Trail to Old Baldy Saddle where we take the Super Trail to Mt. Wrightson. This provides a more gradual ascent to Baldy Saddle, but the last 0.9 mile to the summit is steep and rocky with moderate exposure. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. The return is via the Super Trail passing Josephine Saddle (where we cross the Old Baldy Trail) to the Madera Canyon trailhead. There is abundant shade along the way. Hike 13.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain >4100 feet. RTD 132 miles. Aaron Schoenberg, askus3@centurylink.net or 825-2060.

**Friday, October 16, 2015 Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating C. [ New, 8:00 AM, \$2+\$2]** The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. After starting on the Fifty-Year Trail hikers will turn left onto an unmarked trail and hike along a rugged, scenic ridge line trail for about 2 miles. At the junction with the Fifty-Year Trail we return to the Equestrian Center via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike about 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_\_feet. RTD 24 miles. Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547.

**Friday, October 16, 2015 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** 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 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. Dave Sorenson 777-1994

**Friday, October 16, 2015, Fall Picnic** 11:30 AM at Catalina State Park

**Monday, October 19, 2015, Sutherland – Cargodera – Cabin Loop. Rating: C, Pace: Moderate [New, 8:00 AM, \$2+\$2]** Park at main trailhead in Catalina State Park. Take Sutherland Trail to Cargodera canyon rocks. Take the Sutherland Link trail W-NW (rocky jeep road) down to mid-gate in Sutherland wash. Enter CSP and go south to the stone cabin at the N end of the Park. This spot is the location of the original Sutherland Ranch. Return to trailhead via side trails & Sutherland Trail. Hike 7.0 miles. Trailhead elevation 2,700 ft.; net elevation gain 720 ft.; accumulated gain 900 ft. RTD 24 miles. Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com

**Tuesday, October 20, 2015, Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [190, 7:30 AM, \$4].** 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 3.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 922 feet; accumulated gain 1325 feet; RTD 44 miles. Mike Wolters 719-530-1039.

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015, Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [87, 7:30 AM, \$3 Paid by club].** Come and join the fun — it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain the "Oracle Passage" section of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. This 6.5 mile section starts at the American Flag TH, ambles through washes and across low ridges speckled with high desert plants just east of Oracle State Park south to Highway 77. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, pruning, building cairns and developing/clearing erosion control devices. Bring along gloves, hat, water, and hand clippers. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 2-4 hours. Hike 3-6 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$3 driver donation. Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547.

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015, Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Program.** A program that will cover the protections of wildlife on Oracle Road and other areas. The presenter is Hannah Stitzer of the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection. 3:00 PM Activity Center

**Thursday, October 22, 2015, Alamo Canyon Loop Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is generally gradual. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods. At canyon precipice, cross over to south side. Continue east (up) ~300 yards to flat rock amphitheater area with season stream. Return via south-side route following trails and washes. Several short but moderately steep/rocky sections on descent trail. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 435 feet; RTD 24 miles. Rob Simms, Spartan7375@gmail.com or 517-410-9031

**Friday, October 23, 2015, Hidden Canyon Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [219, 8:00 AM, \$2].** This is a beautiful hike, practically in our ""back yard," to a secluded canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti along the way and a rock ledge with a great view down the valley. The ledge is a great place for lunch. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area past Golder Ranch Road gate. After lunch, we will continue out of the canyon, circle around Hidden Canyon Peak back to the ""North Gate," and return to the trailhead via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike 8.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 1237 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsonimmer@gmail.com.

**Friday, October 23, 2015, Finger Rock Guard. Rating: A!. Pace: Moderate [189, 7:30 AM, \$4].** The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Finger Rock Guard is the large rock formation to the east of Finger Rock, a well-known landmark that can be seen from many places in Tucson (and from SaddleBrooke). The hike begins with the first 2.5 miles and 2200 feet accumulated gain of the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads eventually to Mt. Kimball. At the point where the trail turns northeast toward the Linda Vista Saddle, the trail descends a steep 200 feet into Finger Rock Canyon. The trail continues up a faint, steep and, in many places, slippery path to the saddle between Mt. Kimball and Finger Rock. From there, the trail turns southwest toward the rock guard. Rock scrambling and rock climbing are required to reach the summit 450 feet above the saddle. There is significant exposure to heights and steep drop-offs along the last few hundred feet of elevation. Bring extra water. Call to discuss with the hiking guide. This is a difficult hike but the fantastic views from the summit make it a ""must do"" for dedicated hikers. Hike 7.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 3375 feet; accumulated gain 4058 feet; RTD 44 miles. Roy Carter, 818-3137

**Saturday, October 24, 2015, OSP American Avenue. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [306, 8:00 AM, \$3 + \$2].**

Oracle State Park contains native Sonoran cacti, desert grassland, oak trees, and Manzanita stands, and contains several miles of well-maintained trails. The hike begins at the trailhead off American Ave. on the western edge of the park and proceeds along the relatively smooth Mariposa Trail toward the Oak Woodland picnic area. About 0.25 miles before reaching the picnic area, the group will take the 0.8-mile Bellota Loop Trail, which nearly reaches the Group Use Area adjacent the historic Kannally Ranch House before connecting back to the Mariposa Trail for the return. Along the way are excellent views of the Galiuro Mountains and San Pedro Valley to the north and the Santa Catalina Mountains to the south. Hike 3.2 miles; net elevation change <500 feet; accumulated gain <500 feet; RTD 40 miles. Susan Hollis 825-6819 or SLHOLLIS@YAHOO.COM]

**Monday, October 26, 2015, Sedona- Munds Wagon Rating C Hike Moderate Pace [New, 11:30 AM, TBD]**

7 miles in length round trip, 1100 net elevation change. The hike leaves from Schnebley Hill. Munds passes mile after mile of red rock formations including Schnebley Formation and the Cow Pies. Many western movies were filmed here. Sedona is 230 miles from SaddleBrooke We will leave from Saddlebrooke at 7:00 AM and stay overnight. Dave Sorenson 777-1994

**Monday, October 26, 2015, Sedona-Cathedral Rock D Hike Moderate Pace. [New, 4:00 PM, TBD]**

2 miles hike with 70 foot of gain. The most photographed location in Arizona outside the Grand Canyon. Dave Sorenson 777-1994

**Tuesday, October 27, 2015, Sedona- Brins Mesa C Hike Moderate Pace [New, 9:00 AM, TBD]**

A beautiful hike of 6 miles and 900 feet elevation change. There is a big push at the beginning up the hill and then you reach a plateau with 360 degree views. Dave Sorenson 777-1994.

**Tuesday, October 27, 2015, Sedona- West Fork of Oak Creek C Hike Moderate Pace [New, 9:00AM, TBD]**

A 6 mile hike with no elevation gain .The prettiest fall hike in Sedona as the hike crosses a creek with many trees dropping their leaves . Not to be missed. Fred Norris 289-0931.

**Thursday, October 29, 2015, Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs, Rating: C! Pace: Moderate [431, 8:00 AM, \$2].**

This hike takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash. According to the book "Paradise Found" by Kathy Alexander there are over 1,400 petroglyphs in the area. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and beautiful vistas of Pusch Ridge. The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail, some rock scrambling, and a short section of mild bushwhacking. There are also two crossings of a wash, which may involve some easy rock-hopping depending on the season. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest in the shade of some giant boulders at one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 5.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3240 feet; net elevation change -205 feet; accumulated gain 744 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com