

# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2017

### HIKING IN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Wednesday, January 18

Submitted By Elisabeth Wheeler      Pictures By Barbara Wilder



For hikers, Big Bend National Park in Texas is the state's number one destination. The park is one of the best examples of a sky Island of rugged mountains in the midst of the Chihuahuan Desert and deep canyons of the Rio Grande. Some of the most spectacular scenery in Texas is here.



The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club is presenting a photographic program on Big Bend National Park on Wednesday, January 18, 4 p.m. in the HOA1 Activity Center. The lead presenter will be Roddy Wilder who was a park ranger in Big Bend for 10 years. The

scenery and hiking opportunities in Big Bend will be highlighted.

Following the program a social hour will be held in the Agave Lounge at 5 p.m. For more information about hiking club programs contact Dale Leman, [520-394-9103](tel:520-394-9103).

### HIKING IN PATAGONIA AND ENGLAND

Wednesday, February 15

Submitted by Larry Linderman

Two of the classic hikes on most international "Best Of" lists usually include the "W" trail in Patagonia and the Coast-to-Coast trail in England. Last winter, Larry Linderman and Jackie Hall travelled to southern Chile to hike the "W," a five-day, 40-mile hike in the rugged Andes Mountain chain in southern Chile. Six months later they hiked 196 miles across northern England from the Irish Sea to the North Sea on a trail established by the famous English hiker, Alfred Wainwright.



There is a good reason that the latitudes of Patagonia are known as the roaring 40's. The wind is always a factor as it can suddenly gust from 40 mph to more than 50-60 mph in a second. Often it is strong enough to blow a person over. In England the hills are not terribly high but they are steep and apparently the English trail builders never heard of switchbacks. But to any person in good condition

both trails will bring them to some of the most beautiful vistas in the world.



You can hear all about their adventures on Wednesday, February 15, at 4 p.m. at the HOA1 Activity Center. The talk/slide show is presented by the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club, and all SaddleBrooke and SaddleBrooke Ranch residents are welcome. Following the program a social hour will be held in the Agave Lounge at 5 p.m.

### TUCSON MOUNTAIN HIKE

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

On one of the first cooler days of fall, nine SaddleBrooke hikers hiked a loop in the Tucson Mountains from Kings Canyon, to Wasson Peak, to the Esperanza Trail, and back to Kings Canyon.



Hikers spent time finding and identifying several panels of petroglyphs in Kings Canyon. Wasson Peak provided 360 degree views for our lunch stop and group photo. The views kept changing as we continued down the Hugh Norris ridgeline to the Esperanza Trail. We checked out several mineshafts, including the Gould Mine shaft. In the early 1900s,

the Gould Camp, fully equipped with a mess hall and blacksmith shop, was built near Kings Canyon in a contact metamorphosed zone. Copper sulfide minerals with traces of silver were successfully recovered from the mine, which had a main shaft more than 300 feet deep, a 60-foot tunnel, a 70-foot tunnel and several other smaller shafts. It was fun to speculate on why the Gould Mine was located in these rock strata.



### SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL WORK EVENT ON THE ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Celebrates a Successful Work Event on the Arizona National Scenic Trail

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club made an impressive showing of 24 volunteers for the October Work Event on the Arizona National Scenic Trail in Oracle State Park. Regional trail steward, Jeff Bridge, brought tools and helped supervise work. Gary Faulkenberry, park ranger at Oracle State Park, provided guidance on a hazardous portion of the trail. Dave Corrigan operated a weed whacker to trim grasses growing over the trail. Ray Peale led hardy workers on widening the trail tread in several places. Co-Stewards Mary Croft and Elisabeth Wheeler led groups removing grasses, trimming shrubs and building a sign cairn. Even though it was a warm day everyone reported they were satisfied with the work that was accomplished. Mary Croft, Sandra Sowell and Susan Hollis provided beverages, fruit, and treats to celebrate a successful work event.

The next SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Work Events on the Arizona Trail will be **Wednesday, January 18,** and **Wednesday, February 15,** leaving SaddleBrooke at 8 a.m. You are invited to join the

fun of working together on the Arizona National Scenic Trail by calling Mary Croft, 825-3804, or Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.



Back Row: Mike Wolters, Garrett Rissing, Joe Maurizzi, Heidi Klepacki, Joyce Maurizzi, Steve Ordahl, Ellen Citron, Kathy Gish, Jan Springer, Ray Peale, Niel Christensen, Dave Hydeman, Mary Croft, Jeff Bridge, Bob Keasling, Fred Norris and Dave Corrigan  
 Front Row: Marilyn Smith, Arlene Gerety, Kaori Hafhimoco, Elisabeth Wheeler and Maryann Truitt

(Photo by Gary Faulkenberry, not pictured - Elaine Kline)

**SBHC CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT HIKING TRIP**

**November 14-15, 2016**

Submitted by Aaron Schoenberg



At the Big Balanced Rock in the Heart of Rocks area of Chiricahua National Monument are (L→R): Larry Linderman, Joe & Joyce Maurizzi, Aaron Schoenberg (guide), Niel Christenson and Jackie Hall.

Chiricahua National Monument is a land of “Standing up Rocks”, pinnacles also known as hoodoos. This is an amazing place with the most unusual rock formations. We visited “Balanced Rock”, “Duck on a Rock”, “Punch & Judy,” and “Kissing Rock”. These incredible rock formations were all on a circular hiking trail called the Heart of Rocks Loop. But besides hiking here, we did so much more.

Twenty participants from the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club were led by Aaron Schoenberg and Dave Sorenson on a medley of hikes and tours in the area for moderate and easy trekkers. But for starters all the hikers met on Monday morning at 8:45 a.m. at the trailhead on Apache Pass Road for a special guided hike by a volunteer ranger, Jude Splinter, from the Fort Bowie National Historic Site. She brought history alive as we hiked a two-mile walk past the site of the Battle of Apache Pass, Apache Spring, the Fort Bowie Cemetery, and of course the two Fort Bowie locations (focal points of military operations by the US Army against the Chiricahua Apaches for control of the region). It is hard to believe that such a beautiful tranquil area was the site of such awful blood shedding battles that took place over 140 years ago. After touring the visitor center and eating lunch, we departed on a ridge walk overlooking Fort Bowie and headed back to our cars via the crossing of Siphon Canyon.

After a 35-minute drive, our convoy arrived at Faraway Ranch in Chiricahua National Monument. Here early Swedish settlers made this Bonita Canyon and surrounding area home. They laid out trails and made their home a guest ranch bringing visitors up into the region to view the many amazing rock formations. Here again we were fortunate to have arranged to be guided thru this historic home by park ranger, Suzanne Moody.



This is the awesome view of the Rhyolite Canyon as seen from Inspiration Point in Chiricahua National Monument.

Now it was time for some serious hiking. The “B” hikers trekked up a beautiful mountain path, through a valley called “Picket Park”, and on to a viewing of a natural bridge. Meanwhile, the “C” hikers went up the park road to a trail hike where they enjoyed a spectacular late afternoon 360° view of a hoodoo landscape that is impossible to describe its awesome

beauty. The hike was a gradual one-mile, 500-foot climb on a trail created by the Civil Conservation Corps back in the 1930's depression to a strategically placed stone historic fire tower.

To culminate our day, the two groups after checking into the Arizona Sunset Inn in Willcox, AZ, went around the corner to the Big Tex BBQ Restaurant, which is located in an authentic railroad car where we gathered for our traditional trip dinner. Here we discussed our great day of activity and heard about what awaits us in tomorrow's travels.

It was hard to beat the special day of activities we already experienced. But the beauty of Chiricahua National Monument was explored in further depth on this second day. From the start, the "B" and "C" groups had different hikes planned; but one thing in common was that both groups explored the "Heart of Rocks" loop. Also, the "B" group went on to be mesmerized by the beauty of Inspiration Point and ascended back through the maze of caves, grottoes, and pillars as they worked their way back up Echo Canyon to their awaiting cars. The "C" group took the park shuttle, which led them to the top of the park road and from there they traversed the "Heart of Rocks" and then they descended the lush and scenic Lower Rhyolite Canyon Trail back to the their cars awaiting them at the visitor center.

This was a very successful trip with various hikes and guided tours that kept us in awe for two days. The beauty was breathtaking, and all enjoyed the experiences that both parks offered. Immediately, there was talk that we should do another two-day outing with hopefully similar adventures. So I am in the planning stages for a proposed future trip to Roosevelt Lake/Tonto National Monument to be scheduled hopefully for November 2017. Keep your eyes open for more details in future newsletters

### **A DECEMBER HIKE IN CATALINA STATE PARK – CARGODERA LOOP**

**Submitted By Rob Simms**

A chilly morning (34° at the trailhead) turned into a lovely, sunny jaunt through CSP with ten SBHC members. The ever camera shy Sandra Sowell (somebody had to be our photographer) took the group photo at the Cargodera rest stop.

We proceeded north out of the park and went down the Sutherland link trail to the Sutherland Wash. Then we re-entered the park and used social side trails back to the Nature Trail and CSP main

trailhead. This was a delightful group to share a day on the trail.



From Left: Roland Horst, Frank Earnest, Rae Horst, John McGoldrick, Rose Marie McGoldrick, Jan Springer, Martha Hackworth, Rob & Myrna Simms.  
Picture By Sandra Sowell

### **NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Submitted By Randy Park**

The hiking club ushers in new members to the Board of Directors at the Spring Picnic each year. This year the Spring Picnic will be on Friday, March 3rd. Every year we look for a new Vice President and a new Associate Chief Hiking Guide. The members in these positions will move up to become President and Chief Hiking Guide a year later. This year we also are looking for a new Treasurer.

In addition, we are creating a new committee that will oversee the hiking trips. The members of this group will choose the destinations for our Spring and Fall hiking trips, appoint trip coordinators, and provide overall guidance for the entire process.

Without volunteers, a club like ours would die off. With over 550 members, I am sure we have quite a few people that are well qualified to serve in these positions. Board members would serve for 2 years, with 6 regularly scheduled meetings per year. Trip committee members would serve as long as they want and may attend board meetings. Please contact club president Randy Park at 520-825-6819 if you are willing to step up and contribute to your hiking club.

### **EASTERN PIMA COUNTY TRAILHEADS WEB APPLICATION**

**Submitted by Rob Simms**

Pima County has developed an online, web-based interactive application in map form showing the trailheads in the eastern section of the county. Click

on a trailhead icon to obtain information regarding that location. Sub-links embedded should you desire more extensive information. The application is found on the Pima County government website under recreation:

<http://webcms.pima.gov/recreation/>

**Select:** Trails, Trailheads and Paths

**Then Select:** *New App* to view Pima County Trailheads

**Or use this link:**

<https://pimamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Solutions/s2.html?appid=899b7d36527a49698bfd0473859f1fa1>

**Example: Pima Canyon.** Many of us are familiar with this close by hiking destination. Here is the information provided via the Pima County application:

**Trail Heads: IRIS DEWHIRST PIMA CANYON**

Name IRIS DEWHIRST PIMA CANYON

Parking

ADA Parking

Horse Rigging

Restroom N

Drinking N

Fountain

Ramada N

Picnic Table N

Maintenance Org PIMA COUNTY

Web Link [More info](#)

**Parks: CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST**

Admin US FOREST SERVICE

Park Type FEDERAL

Website [More info](#)

Name CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

**Natural Open Trails (Pima County): PIMA CANYON**

Name PIMA CANYON

Pedestrian Y

Equestrian Y

Biking N

Dogs Allowed Y

Maintenance Org USFS

Hand Bike No

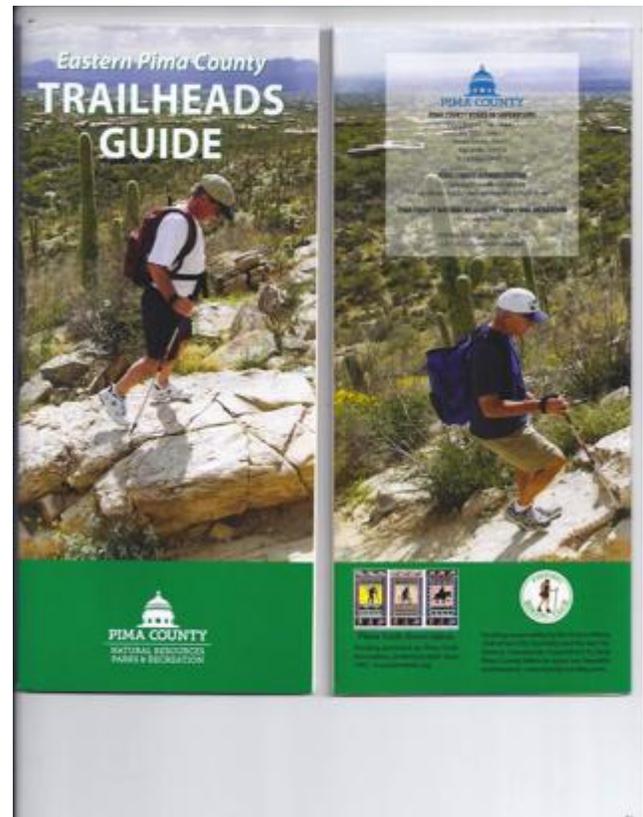
High Speed No

Trail Type Pedestrian, Equestrian, Dog

Miles

This may entice you to try a new trail in our area. Pima County also published a brochure, “Eastern

Pima County Trailhead Guide” which was funded in part by the Pima Trails Association and Vistoso Hiking Club.



**ARIZONA TRAIL WORK**  
Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler



Arizona Trail work involves light work such as trimming shrubs and grasses, and more vigorous work like widening the trail and building water bars.

There is work suitable for everyone who volunteers for about 2-1/2 hours of trail maintenance. A new volunteer Kaori Hashimoto took these photos of trail building work in October.



**SAVE THE DATES  
SBHC SPRING HIKING TRIP  
APRIL 18, 19, & 20, 2017**

Please join us this coming spring for 3 days of awe-inspiring hiking in one of the Southwest's most iconic areas around Page, Arizona, and Kanab, Utah. Mark your calendars for April 18, 19, & 20, 2017. (This is the week after Easter.)



Horseshoe Bend

The club will be offering opportunities to hike destinations such as: Snake Gulch Petroglyphs, Antelope Canyon, Buckskin Gulch, Cobra Arch, The Toadstools, and Rainbow Bridge National Monument, to name just a few. We will also help members coordinate permit applications to hike "The Wave". Additional excursions are being planned on or around Lake Powell, including the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

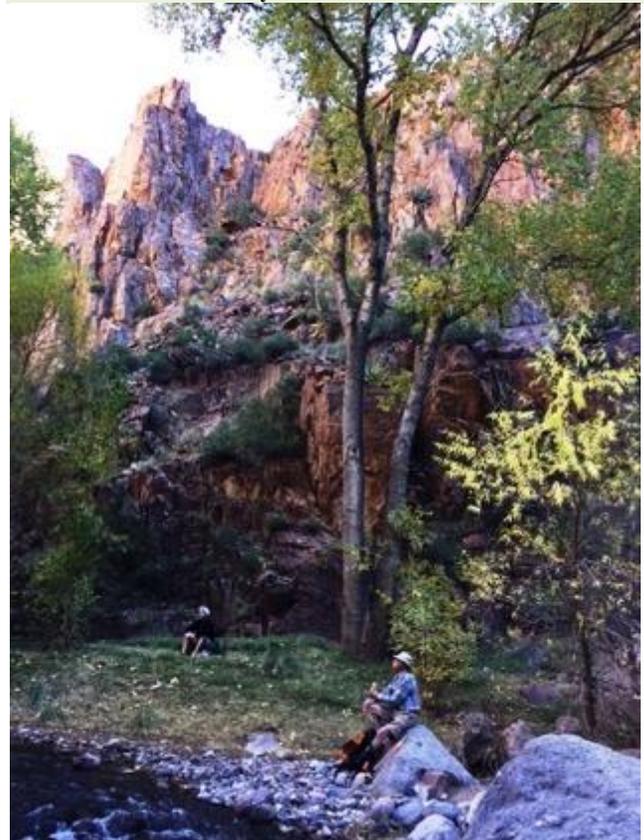
The Trip Committee is finalizing the list of hikes and other activities. Additional information on the hikes and excursions will be sent out soon. Be sure to set aside the dates for this amazing 2017 adventure. Thank you Dave Corrigan, Randy Park, Rob Simms, & Tim

Butler.



The Wave

**ARAVAIPA CANYON IN WINTER  
By Dave Sorenson**



In December, a group of six SaddleBrooke hikers braved a cold morning and drove 50 plus miles to the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness north of Mammoth. Aravaipa is a protected wild area administered by the Bureau of Land Management. It is a remarkably beautiful area that is considered by many to be the prettiest hike in southern Arizona. Spring waters keep the area lush and an excellent riparian area. Fall leaves

were at their peak. Aravaipa is often promoted as a possible national monument. If you are fortunate, the walk in Aravaipa Creek provides an opportunity to see coati mundis and big horn sheep. The day of hiking ended up being very pleasant as the temperature soared into the high 60's.



## MARBLE CANYON

Submitted By Susan Hollis

My husband and I recently went on a guided hiking trip to Marble Canyon which lies along the Colorado River between The Grand Canyon and Glen Canyon and right below the Vermilion Cliffs. The most noted settlement in that area is Lee's Ferry, where most rafting trips through The Grand Canyon begin.

We went into the trip thinking it would be 5 days of easy hiking on trails with the hikes being 6 to 8 miles, starting in the morning and ending in the early afternoon. We were right on one count - it was 5 days. While there was certainly hiking involved every day, we did not hike on established trails except for part of one day. We hiked to remote areas seldom visited by hikers, over slick rock, up crevices in cliffs, through slot canyons, and down red rock sand dunes. Our hikes were also a journey of discovery. Discovering unique plant life, animal tracks, geological formations, historical ruins,

uranium mines, arrowheads, pottery shards, petroglyphs, abandoned orchards, sand dunes, condors, incredible views, petrified wood, and so forth. While engaged on these hikes, our guides would give impromptu lectures of the local flora and fauna, plus the natural and human history of this enchanting area. The trip did not just exceed our expectations, it rocked!!!



Part of the fun for our group of 60- to 79-year olds, was the challenge to do physical tasks most thought they could never do. Things like walking along a narrow ledge, sliding down a slick rock chute, climbing up a narrow chimney, ascending a 400-foot butte, sliding down a sand dune, pulling ourselves up over boulders, and so much more. One of the highlights for me was hiking and scrambling in a box canyon that was accessible only via boat on the Colorado River.



The hiking club is currently negotiating with Northern Arizona University to lead a chartered 4- or 5-day trip to Marble Canyon similar to the chartered trips SaddleBrooke Hiking Club had to the Havasupai Reservation. If an agreement is reached, this trip will

be either in the fall of 2017 or 2018, but will not conflict with the Big Bend National Park trip.

One of our participants wrote a poem to reflect her thoughts of the week.

The Canyon

By Joanne Brownhill, November 2016

I came seeking beauty, and found light dancing on cliffs.  
I came seeking challenge, and found new limits.  
I came seeking answers, and found them in silence.  
I came seeking strength, and saw condors fly.  
I came seeking wholeness, and found your friendship.

### CALLING (OR EMAILING) YOUR GUIDE – EARLY!

Submitted By Rob Simms

Guides are among the many volunteers that keep our club on the move. They plan well ahead selecting hikes and dates, as well as meeting bi-monthly to develop the hiking schedule. They plan their time around your hikes! Please contact your guide as soon as possible when you select a hike -- at least 48 hours prior to the start time, preferably much sooner! Scheduled hikes require a minimum of four participants for safety reasons. Waiting until the day before to sign up may leave guides and fellow hikers in “limbo”. Please “Call to Go” ASAP and avoid the hike you have selected being canceled due to lack of a quorum. Thank you.

### HIKING ARAVAIPA CANYON

Submitted By Dave Corrigan

Aravaipa Canyon is a 13-mile hike that follows Aravaipa creek through the Galiuro mountain wilderness. The river flows through a magnificent canyon with walls that are hundreds of feet high. The wilderness area covers 76,300 acres.

After completing a short in-and-out hike last spring, Walt Shields and I made plans to hike the entire canyon end-to-end. In August, we acquired 5 permits from each direction from the BLM website. Because of the distance, we choose a date in mid-November when we expected cooler temperatures.

The drive to the West trailhead entrance takes about an hour and a half. The drive to the East trailhead is much longer and takes about 4 hours. The Western entrance is off Highway 79, North of Saddlebrooke. The Eastern entrance requires a drive to Wilcox on Interstate Highway 10, and then heading north. The final 40 miles is a bumpy gravel road. I lead the group from the East end, and everyone was quite relieved when we finally got there.



Walt Shields, unfortunately was not able to make the hike. Susan Hollis and Randy Park stepped in to take his place. From the East end, we had Ray Peale, Roddy Wilder, Norm Rechkemmer, Debi Truesdle, and myself. From the West end, it was Susan Hollis, Randy Park, Carol Lindsey, and Russ Driskill.



The 13-mile hike from the East end took us approximately 7 hours to complete. We could have made a little better time, but there were so many great photo opportunities. We stopped often and took many photos. This is a photographer’s paradise. Many thanks to Roddy Wilder for all the wonderful photos in this article.

We encountered our other hiking members along the river and enjoyed a nice lunch with them. After a short lunch, we continued down river. There were several side canyons that one could explore, but time was not on your side. With the 4-hour drive, and 7 hours of hiking, a full 11 hours of the day were consumed. We wanted to ensure that we made it off the river before sunset.

Well into the hike we encountered some backpackers, and they were looking up at the sidewall of the canyon. They had spotted some bighorn sheep. This

was one of the rewards for doing this hike. We watched them for a while and then continued our hike.



The water was not deep in most places (height of less than 12 inches). During the hike, we crossed the river frequently. I used an old pair of boots for the hike. A single hiking pole is valuable to keep your balance as you cross the river. Wearing short gaiters is also recommended for keeping the small rocks out of your boots.

Someday, I hope to do this hike again. But the next time I do, I think I will try backpacking from the West end to the East end and then back again.



**VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR THE ARIZONA ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM**

Submitted By Randy Park

After many years of service Bill Lightenheimer is stepping down as the coordinator of the Catalina Hills Cleanup. Let's give him a big hand for all of his years of service to this program.

We need someone to take his place. This is a job that is done once or twice a year and is part of the Arizona Adopt-A-Highway Program. The state supplies the safety vests and trash bags, and the club supplies the pickup sticks.

**News You Can Use**

<b>AZ Trail Work Session</b>	<b>1/18 Wed.</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>
<b>Hiking in Big Bend National Park</b>	<b>1/18 Wed.</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1</b>	<b>1/18 Wed.</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>
<b>HOA#2 Activity Fair</b>	<b>1/28 Sat.</b>	<b>8:30 A.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North</b>	<b>2/1 Wed.</b>	<b>2:30 – 4:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North</b>	<b>2/1 Wed.</b>	<b>4:00 – 5:00 P.M.</b>
<b>AZ Trail Work Session</b>	<b>2/15 Wed.</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>
<b>Hiking in Patagonia and England</b>	<b>2/15 Wed.</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1</b>	<b>2/15 Wed.</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Spring Hiking Trip</b>		<b>April 18, to 20, 2017</b>

## LITCH MEMORIAL HIKE

Submitted by Randy Park

Picture by Elisabeth Wheeler

On Tuesday, November 22, 2016, thirty-eight people joined in on the hike to Big Rock Dome to honor recently deceased Litch Litchfield. This was probably one of the largest groups to participate on a hike that was not part of an away trip. Departing from Arroyo Way in Unit 21, we followed a social trail recently marked by ribbons, over to Charleaux Gap Road, then up the road for more than a mile, and then another social trail over to the dome.

Big Rock Dome offers a great view of SaddleBrooke and the surrounding area. After a short snack break, the group gathered together and listened to a small handful of Litch's friends and his wife, Bertie, of over 40 years. Litch, we already miss you.



# Club Calendar

## Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar

Jan 2017 (Mountain Time - Arizona)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 [B] Arizona Trail:	4 [C] Canyon	5 [B] Ridgeline/Alamo	6 [C] Fifty-Year Tr	
8	9 [D] Ventana Canyon	10 [C] Sweetwater	11 [B] Javelina Circular	12 [B] Douglas Spring [C] Brown Mtn. @	13 [C] Fifty-Year Trail	14
15	16	17 [B] Wasson Peak via	18 [C] Arizona Trail Work SBHC Program 4pm	19 [B] Bleckett's Ridge	20 [B] Superstitions:	21 [C] OSP Powerline
22	23 [D] CDO Wash Walk	24 [A] Arizona Trail: [B] Romero Springs	25 [A] Arizona Trail:	26 Dripping Springs @	27 [D] - Alamo Canyon	28 SB CLUB FAIR @MV
29	30	31 [D] Honey Bee [A] Tortolita	1	2	3	4

## Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar

Feb 2017 (Mountain Time - Arizona)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 2:30pm SBHC BOD 4:00pm SBHC [C] Rams Creek	2 [C] David Yetman	3	4
5	6 [B] Baby Jesus /	7 [B] Arizona Trail:	8 [C] Romero pools	9 [B] Tortolita	10 [C] Deer Camp /	11
12 [C] Canada del Oro	13	14 [A] - Superstition	15 [C] Arizona Trail Work SBHC Program 4pm	16 [B] Arizona Trail: [C] Pima Canyon to	17 [B] Hutch's Pool [C] Brown Mountain	18
19	20 [D] Saguaro National	21 [C] Maiden Pools	22 [C] Sutherland Trail	23 [B] Esperero Trail [C] Seven Falls @	24	25
26	27	28 [B] Wasson PEAK	1	2	3	4

## Hikes Offered

**Tuesday, January 03, 2017 Arizona Trail: Oracle (Passage 13). Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [56, 08:00 AM, \$3].** From the American Flag Trailhead the route proceeds in a northerly direction across National Forest Land and State Trust Land, crossing Webb Road and continuing to Oracle State Park. The trail (which is currently closed to hikers within the park except for the Arizona Trail) is marked with 4x4 inch wooden posts with the Arizona Trail 'brand'. At Kannally Wash, a new re-route takes hikers west and then north to Highway 77. After going under the highway the route follows the Tiger Mine Road for the last 1.5 miles to the Tiger Mine Road Trailhead. This will be a key exchange hike. Hike 8.6 miles; trailhead elevations 4416 feet south and 4066 feet north; net elevation change 435 feet; accumulated gains 427 feet northward and 774 feet southward; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, January 04, 2017 Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [136, 09:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** Starting at the main trailhead in Catalina State Park, this hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We first hike the Nature Trail which has panoramic views, and then continue onto the Canyon Loop Trail. We will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail prior to returning. If the group is really ambitious, we will swing through the Canyon Loop Trail the opposite way we came for a total of 6.7 miles. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 370 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Marv Rossof 877-9262.]

**Thursday, January 05, 2017 Tortolita Mountains: Key Exchange - Alamo Springs/Ridgeline Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [New, 8:00AM, \$4].** One group will start at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through Wild Burro wash and Lower Javalina Trail to Alamo Spring Trail then onto the new Ridgeline Trail, then on a connector trail and old jeep road to Rail-X road. The other group will do the same hike in reverse, starting at Rail X road. Hike 11.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3000; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 2624 feet; RTD 44 miles [Randy Park and Susan Hollis, 825-6819 or SLHOLLIS@YAHOO.COM]

**Friday, January 06, 2017 Fifty-Year Trail to Middlegate. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [501, 8:00 AM, \$1]. 50 yr N Trail > Middlegate, Rating C, Pace Moderate [NEW, 8:00AM, \$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 (dirt). [Rob Simms Sparttan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031 ]

**Monday, January 09, 2017 Ventana Canyon - Lower Level. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [475, 09:00 AM, \$4].** 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. [Dave Sorenson 777-1994.]

**Tuesday, January 10, 2017 Sweetwater Preserve. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [432, 7 AM, \$5].** 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 7.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change <1000 feet; accumulated gain 680 feet; RTD 60 miles. Elisabeth Wheeler 520-818-15447 or elisarick@wbhsi.com.

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017 Javelina Circular. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate. [New, 8:00 AM, \$4].** This hike in the Cactus Forest section of the Saguaro National Park East is a circular loop through the Sonoran desert landscape. We start at the trailhead at the east end of Broadway and follow the Mica View, Javelina East, Cactus Forest, Javelina West, and Shantz Trails to complete a loop. Features of this hike include a desert ecology loop and a visit to Lime Falls. Pack light lunch and ample water. Hike 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2750 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; total accumulated gain is 400 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg (845) 987-4893 or askus3@centurylink.net]

**Thursday, January 12, 2017 Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: Slow [124,8:00 AM, \$6].** 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 424 feet; accumulated gain 943 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 530-818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

**Thursday, January 12, 2017 Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [170, 7:00 AM, \$6].** 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 13.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 2165 feet; accumulated gain 2684 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

**Friday, January 13, 2017 Fifty-Year Trail Area North Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [185, 8:00 AM, \$2].** The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area off Golder Ranch Road, goes east to the Upper Loop Trail, then north to a rock with a bench for viewing. The return is via the same Fifty-Year Trail. There are beautiful saguaros and rock formations, in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 426 feet; accumulated gain 924 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Randy Park, 825-6819.]

**Tuesday, January 17, 2017 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [480, 8:00 AM, \$7].** 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 8.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1624 feet; accumulated gain 1764 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017 Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [87, 8 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 7.5 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 north 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 pruners. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 3 hours. Hike 3-4 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$3 driver donation. [Guide: Mary Croft 520-825-3804 or Elisabeth Wheeler, 520-818-1547]

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017 SBHC Program: Big Bend National Park by Roddy Wilder and Elisabeth Wheeler.** Planned by Dale Leman

**Thursday, January 19, 2017 Blackett's Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [108, 8:00 AM, \$4].** 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 1668 feet; accumulated gain 1733 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 826-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

**Friday, January 20, 2017 Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [402, 8:00 AM, \$14].** 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 9.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2415 feet; net elevation change 895 feet; accumulated gain 1531 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031 ]

**Saturday, January 21, 2017 OSP Powerline Trail to Windmill. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 8:00 AM, \$3 + \$2].** New hike at Oracle State Park. Starting at the west parking lot of O.S.P. take the powerline trail for 1.5 miles to the new arizona trail link to the windmill (1.7 miles); return the opposite way. Note: Distance & elevation estimates: Hike 6 miles; Cumulative elevation 600 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Marv Rossof 520-877-9262]

**Monday, January 23, 2017 CDO/Big Wash Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [145, 09:00 AM, \$2].** 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. [Guide: Dave Sorenson, 777 1994]

**Tuesday, January 24, 2017 Romero Springs. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [371, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** 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 10.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 2020 feet; accumulated gain 2736 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

**Tuesday, January 24, 2017 Arizona Trail: Canelo Hills East (Passage 2). Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [28, 06:00 AM, \$8].** This passage begins at South Lake Drive (a short distance off Hwy 83) south of Sonoita on FR 194, near Parker Canyon Lake and ends just north of Canelo Pass at the junction with FR 799. The trail follows a westerly route trending downhill through grass and forest covered hills to Parker Canyon. It then heads north through the Canelo Hills, with quite a bit of up and down. Dropping into Pauline Canyon, it trends westerly again, then northwest as it climbs to the top of the Canelo ridge, which it follows for a couple miles. Finally, it drops down the Canelo Pass Trailhead. The east to west trek allows hiker to better enjoy the diverse vistas of grass hills (Canelo

Hills), oak savannas, mesquite groves and riparian canyons. The ATA advises that hikers avoid illegal alien trails that cross or intersect the trail. Hike 14.5 miles; trailhead elevations 5677 feet south and 5338 feet north; net elevation change 868 feet; accumulated gains 2249 feet northward and 2586 feet southward; RTD 230 miles (some dirt). This will one of two shuttle or key-exchange hikes overnight trip to Patagonia to complete two passages of the AZT. [Guide:Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, January 25, 2017 Arizona Trail: Canelo Hills West (Passage 3). Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [29, 07:30 AM, \$8].** From the Canelo Pass Trailhead, the trail runs generally westward as it climbs over a 5600-foot saddle and drops into the upper end of Meadow Valley. It continues west through Redrock Canyon, passing Down Under Tank and the Cott Tank Environmental Exclosure, before arriving at Red Bank Well. Turning north, the trail passes close to Gate Spring, passes Red Rock Road (4-WD), and then continues through hills and oak and manzanita growth before dropping down to the trailhead on Harshaw Road (FR 58). From here the route follows Harshaw Road for about 3 miles and ends at the Post Office in Patagonia. There is an alternate trailhead at the AZT's junction with FR 58 (near Harshaw Creek). Along the route, hikers pass grass hills, oak savannas, mesquite groves and riparian canyons as they make a general descent with some uphill grades. The ATA advises that hikers watch carefully for trails used by illegal aliens in the 3 miles beginning near Gate Spring. This will one of two shuttle or key-exchange hikes overnight trip to Patagonia to complete two passages of the AZT. Hike 16.6 miles; trailhead elevations 5338 feet south and 4061 feet north; net elevation change 1540 feet; accumulated gains 835 feet northward and 2114 feet southward; RTD \_\_\_ miles. [Guide:Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

**Friday, January 27, 2017 Alamo Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [9:00 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 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 3.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 435 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

**Saturday, January 28, 2017 HOA#2 Activity Fair 8:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, January 31, 2017 New - Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop plus Ridgeline Loop. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [454, 7 AM, \$4].** This hike travels the outer rim of the area. From the Ritz Calton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, to Lower Javelina 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 the Ridgeline Trail. We follow the Ridgeline loop to the Wild Mustang Trail. We continue on the Wild Mustang Trail until we connect with the Upper Javelina Trail and return to the trailhead via the Hotel Spur Trail. The hike offers remote hiking with great views of the Tortolita Mountains and passes several crested saguaros. Hike 15 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 2170+ feet; RTD 44 miles. Elisabeth Wheeler 520-818-1547 or elisarick@wbhsi.com.

**Tuesday, January 31, 2017 Honey Bee Canyon North. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [222, 8.00 AM, \$2].** The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes and end for snacks/lunch at a one of two broken dams. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time, this is a real eye opener. Hike 3.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 178 feet; RTD 26 miles. [Guide:Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, February 01, 2017 Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [354, 09:00 AM, \$2].** 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 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 789 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles. [Guide: Marv Rossof, 877-9262.]

**Wednesday, February 01, 2017, SBHC BOD Meeting 2:30 pm**

**Wednesday, February 01, 2017, SBHC Guide's Meeting 4:00 pm**

**Thursday, February 02, 2017 David Yetman Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [165, 8:00 AM, \$6].** The hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. The trail has two trailheads; one at Camino de Oeste and one near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. Cars will be left at one end and hikers will drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, easy down a wash, but steep upward for a short distance along the climb back up to the ridge. Hikers pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that serves a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick. Hike 6.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 606 feet; accumulated gain 760 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

**Monday, February 06, 2017 Baby Jesus / Petroglyph Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [98, 8:00 AM, \$2].** The hike starts in the Fifty-Year Trail area near the east end of Golder Ranch Road. The trail crosses the Sutherland Wash and connects to the Baby Jesus Trail. At the intersection, hikers turn south until they reach the Sutherland Trail. We go west on the Sutherland (or another connecting link) for about a mile to a trail that leads to the petroglyphs, then north back to the trailhead (completing a clockwise loop). Along the way, hikers see beautiful saguaros, rock formations (including the Madona and Child, and a window), oak woodlands, and ancient petroglyphs. The hike may be done in reverse. The southern connecting link may be overgrown since it receives little use. Hike 9.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 936 feet, accumulated gain 1448 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 529-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

**Tuesday, February 07, 2017 Arizona Trail: Redington Pass Road to Molino Basin Campground. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [64, 07:00 AM, \$9].** (This hike is the same as Passage 10 for Redington Pass, except for the southernmost 3 miles.) The trail is rolling with moderate up-and-down elevation changes. Starting east of the Catalinas at the trailhead on Redington Pass Road, hikers first complete the 4-mile segment of the recently repositioned Arizona Trail where it links with the Italian Trap segment out of the Rincon Mountains and connects with the lake southeast of Bellota Ranch. From here, we hike to West Spring, cross Molino Creek, and end at Molino Basin Campground on Catalina Hwy. Drivers will be needed to shuttle hikers to the trailhead. Hike 11 miles; trailhead elevation 4360 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1665 feet; RTD 100 miles (dirt). [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, February 08, 2017 Romero Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [370, 8.00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** 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 1400 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, February 09, 2017 New Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang / Cochie Springs Loop plus exploratory to Jeb Peak. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [468, 7 AM, \$4].** The hike begins in the hikers parking area of the Ritz Carlton and proceeds up a connecting spur behind the hotel to join the Upper Javelina trail. After a short distance it connects with the Wild Mustang trail which meanders north over rolling mountainous terrain with beautiful views of the Catalinas. At a cairn-marked spur (N32 30 16.3, W 111 04 02.9) the trail, which is less developed, climbs near a crested saguaro over two saddles to its highest point. From here hikers follow the ridgeline to Jeb Peak and then descend into Cochie Canyon where an old ranch and windmill are located. The hike continues on the Cochie Springs trail for a long loop back to join the Wild Mustang trail. The hike can be done in either direction but involves steeper climbs going clockwise. Hike 12+ miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1390 feet; accumulated gain 3057 feet.; RTD 44 miles. Elisabeth Wheeler 520-818-1547 or elisarick@wbhsi.com.

**Friday, February 10, 2017 Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [167, 8:00 AM, \$2].** The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. Hike will be done in reverse. Park at Golder Ranch Corral. 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 667 feet; accumulated gain 1128 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031 ]

**Sunday, February 12, 2017 Canada del Oro from the Preserve. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [133, 1.00 PM, \$1].** The trail begins in the Preserve area. Hikers walk down a short dirt road and go through a barbed wire fence. The hike proceeds east over the CDO, up to two water ponds up in the foothills. The return is via the same route. Hike 4 to 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3270 feet; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 2 miles (some dirt). [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, February 14, 2017 Superstition Mountains - First Water TH to Peralta TH. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [xxx, 06:30 AM, \$14].** This is a key exchange hike. One group starts at the First Water Trail Head and the other group starts at the Peralta Trail Head. Hike offers fabulous views of Weaver's Needle. The Peralta trail intersects with the Dutchman's trail to First Water Trailhead. The trail follows Boulder Canyon Creek with great views of Black Mesa. Hike distance is 12.9 miles. Accumulated elevation gain 1526 feet. RTD 190 miles. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-829-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017 Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [87, 8 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 7.5 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 north 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 pruners. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 3 hours. Hike 3-4 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$3 driver donation. [Guide: Mary Croft 520-825-3804 or Elisabeth Wheeler, 520-818-1547]

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017 February 15, 2017 Hiking Chile's "W" Trail and England's 200 Mile Wainwright Trail by Larry Linderman** Planned by Jan Springer

**Thursday, February 16, 2017 Arizona Trail: Black Hills - Tiger Mine Rd. to Bloodsucker Wash. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [24, 07:00 AM, \$9].** This is the southern leg of AZT Passage 14. This section of the Arizona Trail represents the gateway to the low-elevation ecosystem of the Sonoran Desert. Starting at the Tiger Mine Road Trailhead off Hwy # 77, the trail descends slowly, with some slight up and down elevation changes, and crosses

several dry washes. After 6 miles, we reach Pipeline Road, an old utility road that heads northwest over washes and low hills before curving through small hills and switchbacks to a high point at mile 14.6. We then descend a steep hill and cross another wash to end at Bloodsucker Wash. Antelope Peak is visible in the distance. Hike 16 miles, trailhead elevation 4060 feet; net elevation change 950 feet; accumulated gain 1325 feet; RTD 100 miles (dirt). [Guide:Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, February 16, 2017 Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 8:00 AM, \$3].** 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 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1007 feet; accumulated gain 1315 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide:Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]

**Friday, February 17, 2017 Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: Slow [124, 8:00 AM, \$6].** 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. We will return via the Cougar trail which is along the side of mountain over the alluvial fan. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 (trailheads at either end are 2640 and 2880) feet; net elevation change 424 feet; accumulated gain 943 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 520-818-0337].

**Friday, February 17, 2017 Hutch's Pool. Rating: B!. Pace: Moderate [227, 7:45 AM, \$4 + \$tram].** Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram (fee required) to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon. 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 8.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1454 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, 825-6819.]

**Monday, February 20, 2017 Saguaro National Park – West: Ramble. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [382, 09:00 AM, \$7].** There are several short trails of interest in Saguaro National Park - West. One trail takes us to an area of petroglyphs which were made by Hohokam Indians about 1200 AD. We stop at the Visitor Center for an informative video before beginning the hike. Each of the short trails is off Kinney Road. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and hat. Hike 2 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 50 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 73 miles. [Dave Sorenson 777 1994]

**Tuesday, February 21, 2017 Maiden Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [254, 8:00 AM, \$4].** Starting at the public parking lot on the left (past the employees' parking lot) at Ventana Canyon Resort, hikers follow the new Forest Service trail into the canyon. The trail is rocky in places with some steep climbing and substantial steps-up which make it more difficult than the average C hike. There are numerous wash crossings which involve boulder hopping if water is flowing. On the return, there are fine views of the east side of Tucson. The pools provide an excellent place for lunch. The return is by the same route. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain 1266 feet; RTD 54 miles. [Guide: Randy Park 825-6819.]

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 09:00 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. [Guide:Marv Rossof, 877-9262.]

**Thursday, February 23, 2017 Seven Falls (with Tram). Rating: C. Pace: Slow; [388,8:00 AM, \$4 + \$tram].**

The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center with the tram to lower Bear Canyon. From the last tram stop we continue up Bear Canyon to Seven Falls and return via the same route back to the Center. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. Tram fee required. The trail crosses the Bear Canyon wash several times and can involve significant boulder hopping/wading after rainy periods. Ask the guide about current conditions. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 606 feet; accumulated gain 900 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Karen Gray.520-818-0337]

**Thursday, February 23, 2017 Esperero Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [178, 8:00 AM, \$4].**

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 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 2036 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating: B. Pace:**

**Moderate [480, 8:00 AM, \$7].** 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 8.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1624 feet; accumulated gain 1764 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt). [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031 ]