

# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

MARCH/APRIL

2016

### HIKING THE “TOUR DU MONT BLANC” Wednesday, March 16



Please join SaddleBrooke Hiking Club members Bob Shea and Rodger Bivens as they recount their experiences hiking the 102 mile “Tour du Mont Blanc”, one of the world’s classic treks. Bob and Rodger spent a total of 11 days on the route in early September, 2015. The very scenic route circumnavigates the 15,771 ft. glacier covered Mont Blanc Massif, Western Europe’s highest peak.

They started their journey in Chamonix, France, which hosted the very first winter Olympic Games in 1924. The town is known for its alpine skiing as well as hiking, mountain biking, hang gliding, and rock climbing. The trek takes hikers through the picturesque French, Italian, and Swiss Alps. Most hiking days featured a challenging climb to a mountain pass and then lunch at a mountain refuge, followed by a steep rocky descent to the next valley. Awe-inspiring mountain views were the highlight of each hiking day.

Lodging was found in small auberges and refuges along the way. These accommodations typically included “Half Board” which is code for breakfast and dinner with the room. A layover day was spent in the lovely medieval city of Courmayeur, Italy, enjoying delicious pasta meals and regrouping for the remainder of the journey.



Bob and Rodger, both avid photographers, are anxious to share both their memories and images from the adventure. Rodger will relive his encounter with a herd of stampeding mountain sheep, which almost ended his hike on the first day out. You will hear stories of the interesting, multinational groups of hikers that they met and hiked with while covering the 102 scenic miles.

The program is open to all SaddleBrooke and SaddleBrooke Ranch residents. After the talk attendees are encouraged to attend a social hour in the Agave Lounge. For more information about the programs, contact Mary Croft at 651-270-1660 or [mbcroft45@mac.com](mailto:mbcroft45@mac.com).

### BACKPACKING INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY OF GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK Wednesday, April 27

Backpacking in later years can be challenging, but it is a marvelous way to explore places not usually seen through day hikes, especially in the 1.2 million acres of Grand Canyon National Park. The Grand Canyon is often explored via the “corridor” trails from the south and north rims to the Colorado River. Trails “off-the-beaten path” into the more remote areas of the Grand Canyon usually require multi-day backpacks. Despite the fact that canyon backpacking is extremely demanding, Grand Canyon National Park receives approximately 30,000 requests for backcountry permits each year. The park issues

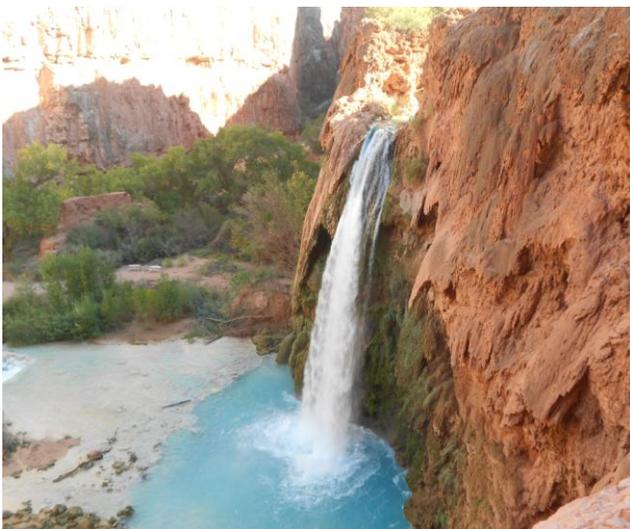
13,000 permits, and close to 40,000 people camp overnight in the backcountry.



Elisabeth Wheeler of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club has been privileged to explore much of the Grand Canyon backcountry via backpacks from the South Rim and North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Elisabeth will offer a photographic journey of numerous backpacks ranging from moderate to strenuous on Wednesday, April 27, 3 p.m. in the HOA1 Activity Center. Elisabeth will also provide backpacking tips she has learned from “trial and error.” A social hour will follow in the Agave Lounge of the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse at 4 p.m. For more information about SaddleBrooke Hiking Club programs contact Mary Croft at 651-270-1660.

## HIKING CLUB RETURNS TO SUPAI IN NOVEMBER, 2016

By Randy Park



In November the tour guides from Northern Arizona University led 18 members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club on four days of hikes on the Hualipai

and Havasupai Indian Reservations. The highlight of the trip was the hikes to, around, and from the small village of Supai. At the club's November presentation, participants gave a wonderful and informative review of the trip. The universal opinion was that the trip exceeded their expectations.

This year the club returns to Supai with two trips scheduled. We again have made arrangements with the tours division of NAU to guide a repeat of this adventure. This is not a backpacking trip. All meals and lodging are included. All hikes are day hikes led by NAU guides with the longest being eight miles. All clothing, food, and gear needed for the time spent in Supai will be carried down by packhorses. All the hiker needs to carry is a daypack with the appropriate amount of water and a lunch, which is supplied by the guides.

For those that partake in this trip, the highlight might very well be the day hike from the village down to New Navajo Falls, Havasupai Falls, and Mooney Falls. With blue green water combined with travertine cliffs, these falls are some of the most beautiful in the country if not the world.

This trip is five nights with four days of hiking. The first trip will start on November 3 and end on November 8. The second will start on November 7 and end on November 12. There is a limit of 18 people per trip and all participants must be members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club or guests of participants. Again, this trip is expected to sell out quickly. For more information and how to sign up for this trip, please contact Maureen Spence after February 21 at 314-803-3225.

## IDENTIFICATION TAGS FOR MEMBERS

Beginning in February, the Hiking Club, as an added measure of safety, will provide soft vinyl luggage type ID tags to all active club members. The tags will allow members to print their names on both sides and attach them to their packs for easy recognition by fellow hikers and guides.

In addition, each tag will contain inside medical information and a contact form that will be accessed only in the event of an injury or serious medical issue.

Initially guides will distribute the tags at the time of their hikes.

Tags will also be available for members to pick up at 62681 E Flower Ridge Drive in a box labeled "Hiker ID Tags."

Although use of the ID tags is voluntary, we hope all active hiking club members will utilize them as we feel they will enhance communication through improved name recognition; and, of even more importance, they could save a life in the event of an emergency.



### HIKING CLUB SPRING PICNIC SET FOR APRIL 8 – RSVP TODAY

It's time to sign up for the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club's Annual Spring Picnic. It is set for Friday, April 8, at the Gila Monster Group Site in Catalina State Park. Formal events begin with a members' meeting at 11:30 a.m. A buffet lunch will be served at noon.

Our awesome hiking guides are also organizing morning hikes around Catalina State Park. Stay tuned for details and sign-up information in a future SBHC bulletin.

This year's spring picnic features a chicken main dish and drinks, provided by the Hiking Club. Member-provided side dishes and desserts to share will complement this. The club will also provide plates, napkins and eating utensils.

The picnic is free to all club members, but reservations are needed so we know how much food to order. Reserve your spot by April 1 with Martha Hackworth at [marthahackworth@gmail.com](mailto:marthahackworth@gmail.com). Please bring side dishes or desserts to share according to the first letter of your last name:

- A to K— Pasta, potato or other hearty side dish
- L to P— Yummy desserts
- Q to Z— Fruit, green or other salad

Please label your dish and serving utensils. Do not forget to wear your nametag as well. Entrance to Catalina State Park is \$7 per car (without a state parks pass). Carpooling is encouraged.

For more information about the picnic, call Mary Jo Bellner Swartzberg at 825-0463 or LaVerne Kyriss at 333-2689.

### AZ TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

By Elisabeth Wheeler

Our SaddleBrooke Hiking Club is a proud sponsor of the Arizona National Scenic Trail, both through our club membership and volunteer hours on the trail. On January 20 hiking club members collectively contributed 45 hours of trail work on the Oracle Passage of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. Significant trail and drainage improvements were made by 15 volunteers followed by celebratory hot cider, coffee, and cookies made by Sandra Sowell. It's satisfying to work side-by-side on the Arizona National Scenic Trail and see immediate results with moderate physical effort. Come and join us at our upcoming 3-hour work event on Wednesday, March 16. To sign up, call Mary Croft 651-270-1660.



Back Row: Carl Petrie, Tom Geiger, Jeff Traft, Stan Smith, Ray Peale, Melissa White, Elisabeth Wheeler, Jan Springer, Shawn Redfield, Tom Kimmel  
Front Row: Chuck Kaltenbach, Mike Wolters, Ruth Leman, Jackie Hall, Mary Croft, Kathy Gish, Fred Norris.  
(Photo by Sandra Sowell)

## Program Committee Needs Volunteers!

The current members of the committee have served for years and plan to “retire” at the end of this program year, in May. We have enjoyed working together and have been very pleased with the interest in the programs shown by the members.

The Bylaws state that the “program Chairperson arranges for 2 or more programs” each year for the SBHC. For the past 3 years there have been 6-7 programs each year.

The main requirement for being on the program committee is enthusiasm for hiking related topics here in our local area and from around the world. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good candidate please contact us and we can provide more information about the opportunity.

The committee members are Jan Springer:  
[janet65673@msn.com](mailto:janet65673@msn.com), Pam Wakefield:  
[pambw@live.com](mailto:pambw@live.com) or Mary Croft:  
[mbcroft45@mac.com](mailto:mbcroft45@mac.com) or 651-270-1660.

Thanks very much and we look forward to helping the new committee with the transition.

### News You Can Use

<b>AZ Trail Work Session</b>	<b>3/16 Wed.</b>	<b>7:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Hiking the “Tour Du Mont Blanc”</b>	<b>3/16 Wed.</b>	<b>3:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1</b>	<b>3/16 Wed.</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Board Meeting HOA #1 Cactus Room</b>	<b>4/6 Wed.</b>	<b>3:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Guide Meeting HOA #1 Cactus Room</b>	<b>4/6 Wed.</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Hiking Club Spring Picnic Gila Monster Group Site Catalina State Park</b>	<b>4/8 Fri.</b>	<b>11:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Backpacking Into the Backcountry of Grand Canyon National Park HOA #1 Activity Center</b>	<b>4/27 Wed.</b>	<b>3:00 A.M.</b>
<b>SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1</b>	<b>4/27 Wed.</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>

## Hiking Calendar: March and April

### Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar

Mar 2016 (Mountain Time - Arizona)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
		C - Robles Pass C Picacho Sunset	C-Sutherland	C-Deer Camp/Baby	D - Linda Vista Loop	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	D-Alamo Canyon	A - Oracle to C-CDO Wash	C - Pima Canyon to	[C] David Yetman B1 - Apache Peak	C1-Romero Pools C-Hidden Cyn. Loop	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	B - Finger Rock C - Bridal Wreath	Tailgate Party A - Tanque Verde C- Honey Bee	C - Arizona Trail D-Alamo Canyon Program Mt Blanc	[B] Tortolita B-BJ/Suth. key C - Romero Pools	C-50 Yr Trail North	[D@] Picacho Peak C1 - Picacho Loop
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	B-Blackett's Ridge	B - Wasson Peak via B- Aravaipa Canyon D - Finger Rock	C Fifty-Year Trail to	[B] Phone Line Trail C1 - Panther Peak	C Sweetwater	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	D1 Pima Canyon to	C - Sutherland Trail C- Chirachua Heart C-Canyon Loop.	B-Romero Springs	[B] Douglas Spring C - Finger Rock C-Brown Mtn. (slow)	C-Deer Camp/Baby	B-La Milagrosa

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar

Apr 2016 (Mountain Time - Arizona)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	DI Pima Canyon to	C - Sutherland Trail C- Chirachua Heart C-Canyon Loop.	B-Romero Springs	[B] Douglas Spring C - Finger Rock C-Brown Mtn. (slow)	C-Deer Camp/Baby	B-La Milagrosa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	CI-Sutherland Wash	A - Florida Canyon B - Phoneline Trail D - Canyon Loop	Board Meeting D Alamo Canyon Guide Meeting	[CI] Incinerator C-Rams Creek Basin	C Sutherland Trail C-50 Yr Trail via Picnic	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
C Pink Hill Circular	CI - Malden Pools	C-Sutherland Trail Potluck for Las		[B] Tanque Verde C - Arizona Trail:		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	BI Turtlehead Peak C Bristlecone Loop C White Rock/La CI Mary Jane Falls D Calico Hills 1 and	BI Turtlehead Peak CI Calico Hills Loop CI Cathedral Rock C/D Valley of Fire . D Calico Hills	BI Juniper Peak BI Raintree C Ice Box Canyon CI Arizona Hot D Railroad Tunnel	[C] Superstitions:	D - Sweetwater	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		CI - Deer Camp/	Program Grand Cyn	C-Oracle Ridge	CI - Romero Pools	

Hikes Offered

**Tuesday, March 01, 2016 Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail (short version). Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [332, 08:00 AM, \$7 + \$2].** From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the trail to the point on the foot of the Peak that starts the steep climb to Picacho Peak (entrance fee required). The return is via the same route. The southerly views from the turning point are excellent. Park entrance fee required. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 751 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 90 miles.-[Guide: Mike Wolters, 719 530 1039]

**Tuesday, March 01, 2016 Robles Pass Trails in Tucson Mountain Park. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [367, 7:00 AM, \$6].** Robles Pass Trails are south of Ajo Highway and west of Mission Road. Thirteen trails loop together through washes and ridgelines with great views. We will explore several trails. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation \_\_\_ feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 900 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.]

**Wednesday, March 02, 2016 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). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Thursday, March 03, 2016 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 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 667 feet; accumulated gain 1128 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Friday, March 04, 2016 Linda Vista Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [249, 08:00 AM, \$2].**

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. Hiking sticks 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 2720 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 28 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com]

**Monday, March 07, 2016 Alamo Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 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 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: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, March 08, 2016 Canada del Oro from the Preserve. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [133, 8.00 from the Preserve Clubhouse AM, \$1].**

The trail begins at the white water tank in the SaddleBrooke Preserve area. Hikers walk down a short dirt road and go through a barbed wire fence. The hike proceeds northerly along the CDO, passing 2 old dams and an old stone house. 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 3 miles (some dirt). [Guide: Phil McNamee 369-4504, mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, March 08, 2016 Oracle to SaddleBrooke. Rating: A. Pace: Fast [305, 07:00 AM, \$3].**

The hike originates on the outskirts of Oracle at the end of Estill Viento Road (near Oracle Hill) and enters the Coronado National Forest, proceeding south along FR # 736, a 4WD jeep trail, through the north end of the Santa Catalinas. We pass through Charouleau Gap and continue back to SaddleBrooke Unit 9 via the 4WD-trail road. This is a very nice part of the Catalinas, with great views and rugged terrain. We pass many campsites along the CDO and view Coronado Camp (adobe construction). There are numerous ups and downs along the way but no sustained climbing. The highest elevation is 5090 feet at the Gap. Hike may be done in reverse. Hike 17 miles; trailhead elevation 4664 feet; net elevation change minus 1416 feet; accumulated gain 2494 feet; accumulated loss 3910 feet; RTD 37 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, 825-6819.]

**Wednesday, March 09, 2016 Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 07:30 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 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain 1275 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guides: Howie and Elaine Fagan, 818-9555, howieandelaine@q.com.]

**Thursday, March 10, 2016 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 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 643 feet; accumulated gain 763 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

**Thursday, March 10, 2016 Apache Peak. Rating: B!. Pace: Moderate [15, 8:00 AM, \$3].** The hike begins in Oracle off the Cody Loop Road at the Oracle Ridge Trailhead. The route follows the Oracle Ridge Trail south past the junction with the American Flag/Cody Trail (where it becomes part of the Arizona Trail), to a saddle on the southwest side of Apache Peak. From there, hikers bushwhack up a steep slope for about 0.25 miles (~500 feet elevation gain), roughly toward the northeast) through brush and over loose rocks to the top. The return is back down the same treacherous slope to intersect the Oracle Ridge Trail, which is followed back to the trailhead. The accumulated elevation gain to and from the saddle is 2000 feet. Suggest defensive clothing and gloves. Hike 9.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change 1770 feet; accumulated gain 2500 feet; RTD 39 miles. [Guide: Roy Carter, 818-3137]

**Friday, March 11, 2016 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 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 1192 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Friday, March 11, 2016 Romero Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: SLOW [370, 7:30 AM, \$2 + \$2].** This will be a more leisurely version of this popular hike. 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: Karen Gray, 818-0337.]

**Monday, March 14, 2016 Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [192, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike starts on level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs 2500 feet to the Linda Vista Saddle. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up, and coming down is just as difficult. From the Saddle, hikers can enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, the Santa Ritas, and Tucson as it spreads out below and into the distance. Hike 5.9 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 2515 feet; accumulated gain 2781 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, earnest@gmail.com]

**Monday, March 14, 2016 Bridal Wreath Falls Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [119, 07:30 AM, \$6].** 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 mile spur leading to the falls. We return via the Douglas Spring trail for 0.3 miles, and then take the Three Tanks Trail for 1.5 miles to where it joins the Carillo Trail. We hike for 0.5 miles and rejoin the Douglas Spring Trail, with considerable elevation, and return to the trailhead. Another option is to continue on the Three Tanks Trail to the Garwood Trail that joins the Douglas Spring Trail only 0.3 mile from the trailhead. 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 7.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1050 feet; accumulated gain 1086 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guides: Howie and Elaine Fagan, 818-9555, howieandelaine@q.com.]

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 Honey Bee Canyon North Plus. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [223, 8.00AM Mountain view parking lot , \$2].** 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. [Guide: Phil McNamee 369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 Tailgate Party.** Desert Trails Hiking Club is having a tailgate party at the Romero Ruin Ramada at Catalina State Park and we are invited. Desert Trails is from Palm Springs and some of their guides helped in our Palm Springs trip. They are hiking Tucson in March. The party begins at 5:30 PM. Call Dave Sorenson to make arrangements. 777-1994.

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 Tanque Verde Peak. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [442, 7:00 AM, \$6].** Tanque Verde Peak is located in Saguaro National Park -East. The hike begins at the Javelina Picnic Area on the Tanque Verde Ridge Trail, off the Cactus Forest Drive loop road. The trail passes through Juniper Basin at 6.9 miles, and reaches the Peak at 9 miles. Erik Molvar's guidebook says, "From this lofty perch, fantastic views stretch in all directions." Hike 17.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 3895 feet; accumulated gain 4356 feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler, 520-818-1547 or elisarick@wbhsi.com.]

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016 Alamo Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 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: Marv Rossof 877-9262].

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016 Club Program in the HOA 1 Activity Center 3 PM:** "Trekking the Tour du Mont Blanc" presented by Bob Shea and Rodger Bivens

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016 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 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 3 hours. Hike 3-6 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$3 driver donation. Contact: Mary Croft, 651-270-1660

**Thursday, March 17, 2016 Romero Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [370, 08:00 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: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

**Thursday, March 17, 2016 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [454, 7:30 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 Javalina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail. After ascending the first part, we take a short side trail to a high point overlooking the area to the west. We then continue on the Alamo Springs Trail to our lunch spot in Wild Burro Canyon. We then proceed on a short connector trail to the Wild Mustang Trail until we connect with the Upper Javelina Trail and return to the trailhead via the Wild Burro Wash. The hike offers remote hiking with great views of the Tortolita Mountains and passes several crested saguaros. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 2170 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

**Thursday, March 17, 2016 Baby Jesus/ Sutherland Trail Key Exchange. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [494, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike links two very beautiful and popular trails with a one way key exchange. One group will start at the Fifty Year Trail parking area and follow the Baby Jesus Trail to the Madonna and Child rock formation. The other group will begin at Catalina State Park and follow the Sutherland Trail past Cargodero Canyon to meet the other group at the rock formation where the exchange will take place. Hike 7.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet (Catalina State Park), 3400 feet (50 Year Car Park); net elevation change 1123 feet; accumulated gain 1545 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Friday, March 18, 2016 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: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Saturday, March 19, 2016 Picacho Peak Easy Trails. Rating: D ☺ Pace: Moderate [326, 9:00AM, \$7 + \$2].** The hike involves several trails in and around the base of Picacho Peak, including the Calloway, Nature and Cave Trails. All three trails are relatively smooth and involve little elevation gain.

Wildflowers should be blooming during March and April if there has been adequate rainfall. Hike 2-3 miles; trailhead elevation \_\_ feet, net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 90 miles. [Susan Hollis 825-6819]

**Saturday, March 19, 2016 Picacho Loop. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [New, 09:00 AM, \$7 + \$2].** The hike combines both the Hunter and Sunset Vista Trails. Beginning at the Hunter Trailhead at Barret Loop, we hike up to a saddle, down to the Sunset Vista Trail to the Sunset Vista Trailhead. We do not summit the peak. The use of two trailheads requires the use of two cars, one at each trailhead. This hike may be done in the reverse direction. 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/or where the trail is exposed to sharp drop-offs. Park entrance fee required. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2000 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain 1000 feet; RTD 90 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, 825-6819.]

**Monday, March 21, 2016 Blackett's Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [108, 7:00 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. [Larry Linderman, 818-3308]

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West. Rating: B!. Pace: Moderate [18, 8:00 AM, \$10 + \$5].** Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful, pristine canyon, a favorite for all who have been there. 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 three weeks prior to hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt). [Guide: Phil McNamee 369-4504, [mnameephil@gmail.com](mailto:mnameephil@gmail.com)] ***SPECIAL NOTE: 3 WEEKS ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED IF YOU WANT TO SIGN UP FOR THIS HIKE SO PHIL CAN BOOK PERMIT!!!***

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating B. [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 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1727 feet; accumulated gain 1787 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 820-6110]

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016 Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [191, 8:00 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. [Guide: Roy Carter, 818-3137]

**Wednesday, March 23, 2016 Fifty-Year Trail to Middlegate. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [501, 08:00 AM, \$1].** Park cars at the Corral one-half mile from the end of Golder 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). [Guide: Robert Simms, 517-410-9031, Spartan7375@gmail.com]

**Thursday, March 24, 2016 Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [323, 7:30 AM, \$4].** The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. There are three options for the return: the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 964 feet; accumulated gain 1425 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

**Thursday, March 24, 2016 Panther Peak. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [315, 8:00 AM, \$5].** Panther Peak is an iconic Tucson landmark. The hike begins at the Cam-Boh parking lot (west off Picture Rocks Road), with the first 1.2 miles on the Roadrunner trail. Then, a steep, difficult climb begins up a cairn marked trail to the saddle between Panther and Safford peaks. Approximately 1,000 feet are gained in one mile. The final one half mile is more gradual to the summit. The use of gloves, long pants, and hiking poles are recommended. There are outstanding views from the top; Picacho Peak is visible to the north and Wasson Peak to the south. The return is via the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2480 feet; net elevation change 955 feet; accumulated gain 1250 feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-34439, waltshields@mac.com.]

**Friday, March 25, 2016 Sweetwater Preserve. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [432, 08:00 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. [Guide: Mike Wolters, 719-530-1039.]

**Monday, March 28, 2016 Pima Canyon to 1st Dam. Rating: D!. Pace: Moderate [335, 08:00 AM, \$3].** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. There are pools of water at the dam most of the year. The trail is rocky at some points and involves some steps-up and steps-down but is not difficult. Hike 2.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 320 feet; accumulated gain 487 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Dave Sorenson, 777-1994]

**Tuesday, March 29, 2016 Chiricahua Heart of Rocks. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [153, 11.00 AM on the 28th, \$21].** The hike consists of the Ed Riggs, Mushroom Rock, Big Balanced Rock and Heart of Rocks Loop Trails, visiting the most spectacular rock formations in Chiricahua National Monument. If time permits, we may include a portion of the scenic Echo Canyon trail. Because this is an all day trip (140 miles to the Monument), I will be reserving rooms in Wilcox for the evening of the 28th and we will drive down to Wilcox in the afternoon of the

28th and spend the evening there. Rooms are about \$60 please sign up for this hike three weeks in advance to ensure a room. Hike 7.3 miles; trailhead elevation 6780 feet; net elevation change <1000 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 288 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee 369-4504, [mcnameephil@gmail.com](mailto:mcnameephil@gmail.com).] ***SPECIAL NOTE: 3 WEEKS ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED IF YOU WANT TO SIGN UP FOR THIS HIKE SO PHIL CAN BOOK HOTEL ROOMS!!!***

**Tuesday, March 29, 2016 Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [136, 9:00 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.]

**Tuesday, March 29, 2016 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 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: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, [fearnestiv@gmail.com](mailto:fearnestiv@gmail.com)]

**Wednesday, March 30, 2016 Romero Springs. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [371, 7:00 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: Larry Linderman, 818-3308]

**Thursday, March 31, 2016 Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [190, 8:00 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 1326 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Roy Carter, 818-3137]

**Thursday, March 31, 2016 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.]

**Thursday, March 31, 2016 Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [124, 7:00 AM, \$6].** This will be a variation on the usual route. 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 regular route has many up and downs, but this variation will avoid some of the steeper uphill sections by using the Bobcat Trail on the return. 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, 818-0337.]

**Friday, April 01, 2016 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 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 667 feet; accumulated gain 1128 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Saturday, April 2, 2016 La Milagrosa Ridge, Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [New, 7:30am, \$7].** The hike begins near the intersection of N. Avenida de Suzenu and Horse Head Roads (near Synder Road off the start of the Catalina Hwy). We hike the La Milagrosa ridgeline out to the junction with the Bellota section of the Arizona Trail. At this trail junction, we return the way we came. Views down into La Milagrosa Canyon are splendid. When water is running this is a wonderland of cascades and falls. Hike 8 miles, Net elevation change 1271 feet, accumulated gain ~2,000 RTD 97 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, 825-6819]

**Monday, April 04, 2016 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). [Guide: Tim Butler 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, April 05, 2016 Florida Canyon to Madera Canyon with Key Exchange. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [194,295, 7:00 AM, \$10].** The hike begins at the Santa Rita Agricultural Experimental Range Headquarters. The hike involves a very steep and continuous climb from the headquarters through a beautiful canyon, along open hillsides and thick forests, up to the Florida Saddle at 7840 feet. Extensive fire damage is to be expected on the upper section of this trail. Continue on the Florida Crest Trail to Mt. Baldy Saddle and climb to the top of Mt. Wrightson. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. Follow the Old Baldy Trail to Madera Canyon. Hike 11.15 miles; Florida Canyon Trailhead elevation 4400 feet; Madera Canyon Trailhead elevation 5449 feet; accumulated gain 4829 feet (3752 feet reverse). RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547 or elisarick@wbhsi.com.]

**Tuesday, April 05, 2016 Canyon Loop. Rating: D @ Pace: Moderate [134, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** From the main trailhead at the end of the road in Catalina State Park, the hike begins with the Romero Canyon Trail, turns onto the

Canyon Loop Trail, and then comes back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. The hike may be done in reverse direction. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 2.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 170 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, April 05, 2016 Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [323, 07:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. There are three options for the return: the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 964 feet; accumulated gain 1401 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guides: Howie and Elaine Fagan, 818-9555, howieandelaine@q.com]

**Wednesday, April 06, 2016 SBHC Board of Directors Meeting, 2 PM to 3:30 PM at Coyote Room North**

**Wednesday, April 06, 2016 SBHC Guides Meeting, 3:45 PM to 5 PM at Coyote Room North**

**Wednesday, April 06, 2016 Alamo Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 08:00 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: Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com or 517-410-9031]

**Thursday, April 07, 2016 Lower Incinerator Ridge. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [48, 7:00 AM, \$9].** A new section of trail was added to the Incinerator Ridge Trail in the spring of 2012. The new trail is noted for its great vistas. The trail heads north/northwest from the San Pedro Vista Pullout, off the Catalina Hwy. The hike will proceed to Mt Bigelow and return via the same route, the 1st section of the trail is steep and rocky, but the views make up for it. Starting elevation: 7,350 feet. Net Elevation Change 1150 feet. Hiking Length is 6 miles. RTD 123 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286, mjreale@msn.com.]

**Thursday, April 07, 2016 Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [354, 9:00 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.]

**Friday, April 08, 2016 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 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: Dave Sorenson, 777 1994]

**Friday, April 08, 2016 Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [499,8:00 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 is 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 386 feet; total ascent 446 feet. RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547]

**Friday, April 08, 2016 11:30 AM, SBHC Club Picnic, Catalina State Park**

**Sunday, April 10, 2016 Exploring some of the trails in the Cactus Forest Area of the Saguaro National Park – East. Rating C. Pace: Moderate [New, 06:30 AM, \$4].** This loop hike starts at a gate on the east end of Broadway. A highlight of the hike is the summit clearing of Pink Hill where we will enjoy a brunch break. Hike 5.2 miles. Trailhead elevation: 2764 feet. Net elevation change: 300 feet. Accumulated elevation gain: 200 feet. RTD: 75 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg. Cell phone: (845) 987-4893. Home phone: 520-2060. E-mail: askus3@centurylink.net]

**Monday, April 11, 2016 Maiden Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [254, 08:00 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 1335 feet; RTD 54 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 9:00 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.]

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016 Potluck for the SBHC Las Vegas Trip. 5 PM to 7 PM at Tennis Patio HOA 1**

**Thursday, April 14, 2016 Oracle (Passage 13) Arizona Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [56, 9:00 AM, \$3].** This is a key exchange hike. Half the group will start at the American Flag trailhead and half will start where the trail crosses Hwy 77 at the Tiger Mine Road. 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, the route briefly follows a powerline road and then continues as a trail passing through several trail junctions. The trail heads west and then turns north and reaches Highway 77 at the Tiger Mine Road. Hike 6.8 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: Dave Corrigan 820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

**Thursday, April 14, 2016 Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [443, 7:00 AM, \$6].** 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 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1962 feet; accumulated gain 2225 feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

**Monday, April 18, 2016 C! Mary Jane Falls [New,9:00AM, \$4]** This is a 3 mile hike with 900 foot of elevation gain. Hike is to a seasonal waterfall. One of the most popular hikes on Mt Charleston. [Guide: Mike Wolters, 719-530-1039.]

**Monday, April 18, 2016 C White Rock/La Madre [New,9:00AM, \$3]** 6 mile hike with 1100 foot of elevation gain. Hike is to a beautiful canyon in Red Rock Canyon. [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193]

**Monday, April 18, 2016 C Bristlecone Loop [ new,9:00 AM, \$3]** 6 mile hike 900 foot of gain. Most popular hike on Mt Charleston. Hike is to forest of 3000 year old trees. [Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler, 818 -1547.]

**Monday, April 18, 2016 B! Turtlehead Peak and Calico Hills Loop.[New,9:00 AM, \$3]** . A hike of 10 miles and 2900 feet elevation. A truly epic hike that takes in the best known parts of Red Rock. Calico Hills and Turtlehead. [Leader: Dave Corrigan, 820-6110.]

**Monday, April 18, 2016 D Calico Hills 1 and 2. [New, 9:00AM , \$4]** 4 mile hike, little elevation gain. Hike into red rock portion of Red Rock Canyon. Scenery is much like Canyonlands. Single most popular hike in Red Rock Canyon. [Guide: Rob Simms. 517-410- 9031.]

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 D Calico Hills Overlook 1 and 2. [New,9:00 AM], \$3].** An easy hike to many of the viewpoints in the red rock area of the park. The most popular hike in Red Rock by far. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439.]

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 C! Calico Hills Loop. [New,9:00 AM, \$3.]** 4 mile hike with 1300 foot of elevation gain. A very scenic hike on red rock that has many viewpoints and is the centerpiece of Red Rock Canyon. [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193.]

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 C! Cathedral Rock. [New,12:00 PM,\$4].** A very steep, demanding short hike of 3 miles with 1200 foot of gain. Great views from the top. A very popular hike. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg 845-987-4893.]

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 C//D Valley of Fire [New,10:00 AM, \$9]** Several short hikes in this magnificent state park that has petroglyphs, a wave , arches, and white domes. The hike will require a car caravan as we will hike and then drive to the next short hike. [Guide: Dave Sorenson, 777 1994.]

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 B! Turtlehead Peak [New, 9:00 AM, \$3].** 5 mile hike with 2000 feet of gain. A very steep hike to the most prominent peak in Red Rock Canyon. [Guide: Mike Wolters, 719 530 9031.]

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 C Ice Box Canyon.[New,9:00 AM,\$2].** 5 mile hike with 400 feet of elevation gain. A hike to a waterfall via a steep canyon. One of the prettiest hikes in Red Rock Canyon. [Guide: Rob Simms, 517 410 9031]

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 B! Juniper Peak. {New,TBD, \$3}** An 8 mile hike with 2200 feet of gain. Rock scrambling up to a great viewpoint. The pitch at times is very difficult. [Guide: Roy Carter, 520 999-1417.]

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 B Raintree Bristlecone [New, 9:00 AM, \$4].** 6 mile hike with 1700 foot of gain. Hike is to ancient Bristlecone trees including Raintree . Raintree is 3000 years old. [Guide: Susan Hollis, 825 6819]

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 C! Arizona Hot Springs [New ,7:00 AM,\$6]** 7.5 mile hike with 800 foot of gain. A hike to a hot spring that requires going up and down ladders. Bring a bathing suit. The most popular hike in the Lake Mead area. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 820 -6110.]

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 D Railroad Tunnel [New ,9:00 AM, \$6]** A hike from the Alan Bible Visitor Center along the road used by the railroad as Hoover Dam was being built. The trail goes through tunnels and has great views of Lake Mead. A Hoover Dam Tour will follow. [Guide: Dave Sorenson, 777 1994.]

**Thursday, April 21, 2016 Superstitions: Boulder Canyon Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [398, 6:00 AM, \$14].** The hike begins at a trailhead across the road from Canyon Lake parking lot. Hikers climb up Boulder Canyon Trail to a high point and return the same way. The trail takes hikers high enough to provide tremendous views of the mysterious Superstition Mountains. Your camera is a must on this hike. Hikers also get a great view of Canyon Lake. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Hike 4.5 miles; trailhead elevation 1700 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain 1010 feet; RTD 190 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

**Friday, April 22, 2016 Sweetwater Trail (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [433, 9:00 AM, \$5].** The hike begins from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson Mountains and covers about half the distance to the saddle where the Kings Canyon and Sweetwater Trails meet. The return is via the same route. The trail passes through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there are good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. Hiking boots and stick are recommended. Bring binoculars. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, 818-3439, waltshields@mac.com]

**Tuesday, April 26, 2016 Deer Camp / Samaniego Roost Loop #1. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [168, 8:00 AM, \$2].** The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail car park and proceeds along the Baby Jesus trail past a beautiful stand of large, 100-year old saguaros to a connecting wash. Along the way we pass two chollas that are so big they look like trees. There is some hiking over rocks off-trail in the wash bed for about 1/2 mile. If water is present in the wash, footing can be unstable. We then proceed up the Samaniego Ridge trail which climbs up some large, moderately steep rock slabs to Deer Camp. Depending upon the interest of the group, we may detour up to Samaniego Roost, a large rock outcropping that affords magnificent views of the valley floor. The route back is an easy ramble on the Deer Camp Trail. This hike can also be done in the reverse direction, starting out of the Sutherland Wash to Deer Camp. Hike 6.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 905 feet; accumulated gain 1475 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com]

**Wednesday, April 27, 2016 3 p.m. April 27th: Backpacking in the Grand Canyon, off the Beaten Path - presented by Elisabeth Wheeler in the HOA1 Activity Center.**

**Thursday, April 28, 2016 Oracle Ridge. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [302, 9:00AM, \$3].** The hike begins in Oracle at a trailhead off the Cody Loop Road. It follows the Oracle Ridge Trail to the junction with the American Flag/Cody Trail there are great views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas to the west. We will lunch on the ridge and

return by same route. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 700 feet; RTD 40 miles (dirt). [Guide: Marv Rossof, 877-9262.]

**Friday, April 29, 2016 Romero Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [370, 08:00 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: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com]