



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

MARCH/APRIL

2017

STRADDLING THE EQUATOR AND THE LAND OF KHAN

Wednesday, March 15

Submitted By Ed Melnick

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club's March 15 presentation takes on an international flair when Ed Melnick shares his photographs captured while traveling to Uganda and Mongolia. Ed traveled with his wife, Judie Shyman, and friends Darlene and Lockwood Carlson to both countries and all are excited about sharing these experiences.



The Ugandan show entitled, "Straddling the Equator," will be a visual tour of the culture, geology and, in large part, the wildlife of this African nation. There will a special emphasis on the treks taken to

see the Golden Monkey, Chimpanzees, and the highlight of the tour, the Mountain Gorilla.



"The land of Khan," Ed's most recent trip, was a 2,400 mile land tour of the unique areas of the world's ninth largest country, Mongolia. The people and their adaptation to their country will be seen as well as some incredible land formations. A highlight of this trip was the Naadam Festival, which is the Mongolian equivalent of the modern day Olympics (archery, horseback riding and wrestling).

Come join Hiking Club members on Wednesday, March 15, at 4 pm in the HOA 1 Activity Center to view two worlds quite different from the environment we live in. All residents of SaddleBrooke and the Ranch are welcome to come. Following the presentation everyone is encouraged to gather in the Agave Lounge to enjoy a drink and meet fellow hikers. For more information about the Hiking Club programs contact Sue Bush at 520-812-1200.

HIKING IN A SAGUARO FOREST

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

A premier place to enjoy the beauty of a saguaro forest is Sweetwater Preserve, an 800-acre preserve located in the eastern foothills of the Tucson Mountains. An hour's drive from SaddleBrooke, the preserve provides about 13 miles of trail, arranged in loops. SaddleBrooke hikers explored over 7 miles of trail that featured 2 crested saguaros, many other

cacti, ironwood trees, jojoba bushes, creosote bushes, and stunning views of the Tucson Mountains, the Santa Catalina Mountains and the Rincon Mountains.

Hikers commented that this was an excellent site to bring visitors who wanted to see the beauty of the Sonoran Desert. Hiking guide was Elisabeth Wheeler.



Back row: Jason Noffsinger, Gretchen Downey, Michael Hovan, Dave Streicher, Joe Maurizzi, Joyce Maurizzi, Leonore Henninger, Randy Richard Front row: Bernie Nagy, Maureen Spence, Clare Collins, Arlene Gerety, Mary Hlushko, Jan Springer Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN MARBLE CANYON November 5 - 11



The Saddlebrooke Hiking Club has made arrangements with the tours division of Northern Arizona University to guide several days of hikes in the Marble Canyon area of Northern Arizona. This is not a backpacking trip. All meals, lodging, permits, and local transportation are included. All hikes are day hikes led by NAU guides ranging from 4.5 miles to 7 miles. More than just hiking, these days are filled with learning, adventure, scenic wonders, and physical challenges. Designed for people in our age group, hikers will visit the Vermillion Cliffs, Chocolate Cliffs, Cathedral Butte & Wash, the beautiful Waterholes Canyon, and Fall Canyon (which is accessible only by boat).

This trip is 6 nights with 5 days of hiking. It will start on November 5th and end on November 11th. There is a limit of 18 people, and all participants must be members of the Saddlebrooke Hiking Club. For more information and how to sign up for this trip, please contact Susan Hollis at 520-825-6819 or slhollis@yahoo.com

LARGE GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WORK ON THE ARIZONA TRAIL IN JANUARY

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

The Arizona National Scenic Trail from Mexico to Utah is a continual work in progress. The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club has adopted the Oracle Passage, which goes along the east side of Oracle State Park. In January, twenty-seven hikers from SaddleBrooke improved a significant portion of the trail. Gary Faulkenberry of Oracle State Park and Zach McDonald of the Arizona Trail Association helped supervise the trail work. Additional work events will be held on Wednesday, February 15, and Wednesday, March 15. It's fun to get outdoors and work with others on the trail for about 3 hours at a time. To participate in upcoming work events call Mary Croft 651-270-1660 or Elisabeth Wheeler 520-818-1547, trail co-stewards



Back row: Stan Smith, Fred Norris, David Vermerris, Ray Peale, Dave Streicher, Frank Earnest, Norm Rechkemmer, Dave Corrigan, Bob Garner, Pam Wakefield, Lenore Henninger, Joe Maurizzi, Joyce Maurizzi, Lonnee Plattner, Dan Plattner. Middle row: Suzanne Bassett, Heidi Klepacki, Mary Croft, Mike Wolters, Kathy Gish, Jeff Traft, Lynda Green, Alison Tyler. Front row: Elisabeth Wheeler, Arlene Gerety, Melissa White, Marilynn Smith.

SADDLEBROOKE HIKERS BEGIN THE ARIZONA TRAIL

Submitted by Frank Earnest

The Saddlebrooke Hiking Club has formed a group of members who are interested in hiking the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT). The AZT is 840 miles extending from the Mexican border near Sierra Vista to the Utah border just west of the Paria Canyon/Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness. The trail traverses all of the unique geography of our beautiful state from the "sky islands" and Sonoran

Desert in the south to the beautiful mountains, plateaus and canyons in the north.

On January 3, the Saddlebrooke Hiking Club held its first hike of the year along the Arizona Trail passage through Oracle State Park. On January 24 and 25, five members of the club completed two more passages of the Arizona Trail that extend across eastern Santa Cruz County (Figure 1). This area, called the Canelo Hills, has long been a cattle ranching region, with beautiful grassland and hills, scattered oak, juniper, manzanita and pine trees (Figure 2).



Figure 1 – Saddlebrooke hikers at the Parker Canyon Lake Trailhead are (left to right) Fred Norris, Aaron Schoenberg, Donna Canon, and Pete Canon. (Picture taken by Frank Earnest).



Figure 2 – A beautiful view of the Canelo Hills. (Picture by Frank Earnest)

The first hike, Canelo Hills East, began near Parker Canyon Lake. The hikers were greeted with an early morning temperature of 28 degrees F with scattered snow and frost on the ground. The hikers soon warmed up as the sun broke through the clouds, and they crossed the hills and ravines headed to Canelo Pass. There were beautiful views of the snow-covered Huachuca Mountains to the southeast (Figure 3), and occasional views of the Santa Rita Mountains to the northwest. Spending the night in Patagonia, Arizona, the weary hikers were joined by two more club members, Michael and Jeanne Reale. They all enjoyed dinner at a restaurant called Velvet Elvis, which

lives up to its name with a portrait of the “The King” painted on black velvet in the dining room. The next morning was even colder when seven hikers walked through the beautiful passage called Canelo Hills West (AZT Passage 3), traveling from Canelo Pass to a trailhead just east of Patagonia. Together, the hikes totaled about 28 miles.



Figure 3 – View over the Canelo Hills to the snow covered Huachuca Mountains in the distance. (Picture by Frank Earnest)

The Saddlebrooke Hiking Club is planning more local day hikes of the AZT and will also be scheduling two- or three-day trips with hiking 8 – 15 miles each day and staying at local lodging close to the trails.

GROUND HOG DAY HIKE

Submitted By Michael Reale

On Ground Hog Day, Michael Reale and Walt Shields led seventeen SaddleBrooke Hikers on a search for Punxsutawney Phil along the David Yetman Trail in Saguaro Park West. Although we weren't successful in locating the furry critter (it might have had something to do with being in the wrong state), we agreed that he would see his shadow. The day was glorious, starting out in the upper 50's and rising to the low 70's. If Phil's prediction of six more weeks of this type of winter is correct, we'll gladly accept it.

The David Yetman trailhead is located at the bottom of Gates Pass, and the trail is a lovely hike in the Tucson Mountains which offers a wonderful sampling of the Sonoran Desert flora. There are stately saguaro marching uphill, lots of Palo Verde trees, groves of Teddy Bear cholla and jumping cholla. There are magnificent views of the Rincon Mountains to the east and the Santa Rita mountains to the south. You can see Rincon Peak and Mt. Wrightson, towering above them.

After about 5 miles into our hike, we stopped for lunch at the remains of the Bowen house, built by Sherry Bowen in the early 1930's. He had moved to Tucson from Illinois because he felt the climate would help heal his wife's health. He became city editor of the Arizona Daily Star,

and eventually moved with his wife to New York City, where he worked for the Associated Press. Apparently the Tucson climate was effective in helping his wife.



The hikers in the photo are, from left to right, Sandra Sowell, Jeanne Reale, Don Colen, Maureen Spence, Al Bolty, Kathryn Madore, Rita Bolty, Dee Neeley, Rosanne Beraznik, Phil McNamee, Mary Hanley, Roland Horst, Walt Shields, Ed Kammermayer, Bernie Nagy, Elaine Ellingham, Gretchen Downey, and Jeanine Stoors. Not pictured: Michael Reale

After lunch, we continued for about another mile to the Camino de Oeste Trailhead, where we shuttled back to retrieve our cars. All in all, another wonderful day of hiking in Tucson.



**CATALINA HILLS
“ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY” PROGRAM**
Submitted By Walt Shields

Approximately 8 years ago, the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club arranged with the Pinal County “Adopt-A-Highway” program to maintain Catalina Hills Drive from SaddleBrooke Blvd to its entrance into the Preserve, approximately 1.5 miles.

Bill Leightenheimer has been the volunteer coordinator for the clean up since its inception. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bill for his years of service with this project. Walt Shields has now assumed the duties and will oversee a semi-annual club cleanup walk.

The next walk is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 at 9:00 AM. This event is listed as a “D” hike on the calendar for March. To volunteer for the walk, contact Walt at 818-3439.

We will meet in the usual area at the Mountain View parking lot and car pool up to the walk area. We will then divide into teams of two to walk segments of the road. Safety vests will be provided, and we have a few trash pick-ups. Please bring your own pick-ups and a good pair of gloves. With about 8 -10 volunteers, the cleanup should take no longer than 1 hour.

Afterwards, Walt will host the group at his house for coffee and refreshments on the patio. Please join us in this effort to keep one of our roads leading into the community beautiful.

WASSON PEAK HIKE – January 17
Submitted by Dave Corrigan



Dave Corrigan, Ray Peale, Kathryn Madore, Larry Allen, Rick Hagen, Fred Norris, Seth Basker, Dave Streicher, Jeff Traft, Wendy Butler Burns, Steve Aiken, Tom Gieger, Clare Collins

**SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB
VOLUNTEERS OVER 500 HOURS ON THE
ARIZONA TRAIL**
Submitted by Mary Croft



Wendy Lotze, Arizona Trail Volunteer Coordinator, with Elisabeth Wheeler, Mary Croft

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club participated in six trail work events on the Arizona National Scenic Trail in 2016, totaling 511 volunteer hours. Trail co-stewards of the Oracle Passage of the Arizona Trail are Elisabeth Wheeler and Mary Croft. Elisabeth Wheeler was a recipient of a Volunteer of the Year Award for promoting the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club's work on the Arizona Trail. She was nominated by Mary Croft.

The Arizona National Scenic Trail traverses the entire length of the state to connect deserts, mountains, forests, canyons, wilderness, history, communities, and people. To participate in the February and March work events on the Oracle Passage of the Arizona Trail, contact Mary Croft, 651-270-1660, or Elisabeth Wheeler, 520-818-1547.

SBHC 2010-2012 AZT TREKKERS
Submitted by Sandra Sowell

The SBHC 2010-2012 AZT trekkers gathered recently for a reunion along with their closest supporters and

encouragers, enjoying a big dose of refreshments, repast, reminiscing, recollecting, and reconnecting. This group which was originally gathered by Larry Linderman included Maureen Spence, Susan Hollis, Randy Park, Karen Cusano, Melissa Simpson, Ray Gearhard, Stan Smith, Darlene Carlson, Sandra Sowell. Geary Rise was also a part of the group, but was unable to attend the reunion. Check accompanying photo of the group then and now.



**SAVE THE DATE – SAVE THE DATE
THE SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB
PRESENTS ITS
FABULOUS SPRING PICNIC**

When: Friday, March 3, 2017
Where: Catalina State Park – Gila Monster site
11:30 a.m. Members' Meeting
12:00 noon Buffet Luncheon
Hikes offered this day . . . **TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

This year's spring picnic main dish features fried chicken, provided by the Hiking Club. Side dishes will be provided by our members (see below). The picnic is FREE to all Club members. Bring your own beverage (non-alcoholic please) and the Club will provide: water,

plates, napkins, and eating utensils. Folding chairs may come in handy. Reservations are essential; so please reserve your spot by E-mailing Martha Hackworth at: marthahackworth@gmail.com

Members are asked to bring a covered dish, according to the first letter of your **last** name:

A to K: Yummy Desserts

L to P: Fruit/green/other salads

Q to Z: Pasta/potato/other hearty side dishes

Please label your dish and serving utensils. And wear your nametag as well. Entrance to the Catalina State Park is \$7.00 per vehicle (without a state parks pass). Carpooling is encouraged. For more information call Mary Jo Bellner Swartzberg at 825-0463 or LaVerne Kyriss at 333-2689

TOUR DE TORTOLITAS

By Elisabeth Wheeler



Back row: Rick Hagen, Dave Corrigan, Steve Aiken, Jeff Traft, Margaret Valair, Bertie Litchfield, Joe Rizza, Frank Earnest

Front row: Dean Werstler, CherylWerstler, Pam Corrigan, Norm Rechkemmer
Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler

The “Tour de Tortolitas” connects five trails in the Tortolita Mountains into a 15-mile loop. The tour connects the Alamo Springs Trail, the Ridgeline Trail, the Upper Wild Burro Trail, the Mustang Trail and the Upper Javelina Trail into a loop. Hiking this tour provides opportunities to view 6 crested saguaros and achieve over 3000 feet of cumulated elevation gain. This is a challenging but rewarding hike into the heart of the Tortolita Mountains.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK TRIP October 23 – 27, 2017

Hikes (rated A, B, C and D) will be led by SaddleBrooke guides over 3 days — October 24, 25, and 26. Hikers will

explore the Chisos Mountains, the Chihuahuan Desert, and the canyons of the Rio Grande River. The Chisos Mountain Lodge provides the only lodging in the park. Rooms cost about \$145 with a coffee maker, refrigerator with freezer, and microwave in each room. A restaurant and village store are available for meals. An advance deposit equal to the first night’s stay is required to hold a reservation for the 4 nights of October 23 -26, departing on October 27.

A few rooms are still available at the Chisos Lodge for the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Trip to Big Bend National Park. Call 432-477-2291 and state you are with the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club, which has reserved rooms for October 23 - October 27 (departure date). When you have secured room reservations, please let us know so we can keep our trip list up to date. If hikers who already have reservations at the Chisos Lodge change their plans, we would like to know so the rooms being cancelled may be made available to other hikers. Some of the SaddleBrooke hikers will be camping or staying at RV parks. If you have questions please contact Elisabeth Wheeler 520-818-1547 or Roddy Wilder 520-500-6077. An information meeting will be held at a future date.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

Submitted by Randy Park

The hiking club will hold its first volunteer appreciation party on Friday, March 24 at 4 p.m. at the Tennis Pavilion in HOA#1. This potluck party, with beverages supplied, is a new way the club will show its appreciation for all the hard-working volunteers and their spouses that make our club the best in SaddleBrooke. If you are a club volunteer and have not received an email notice of this party, please contact Randy Park for the details.

News You Can Use

SBHC Spring Picnic Catalina State Park	3/3 Fri.	11:30 A.M.
AZ Trail Work Session	3/15 Wed.	7:30 A.M.
Straddling the Equator and the Land of Khan	3/15 Wed.	4:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	3/15 Wed.	5:00 P.M.
Volunteer Appreciation Party HOA#1 Tennis Courts	3/24 Fri.	4:00 P.M.
Catalina Hills “Adopt-A- Highway” Program	3/28 Tues.	9:00 A.M.
SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North	4/5 Wed.	2:30 – 4:00 P.M.
SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North	4/5 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Spring Trip Potluck HOA#1 Tennis Courts	4/11 Tues.	TBD
Big Bend National Park Trip		October 23 - 27
Off the Beaten Track in Marble Cave		November 5 - 11

Club Calendar

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar

Mar 2017 (Mountain Time - Arizona)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
		[B] Wasson PEAK	[D] Fifty-Year	[B] Arizona Trail: [D] Alamo Canyon	Banff Film Festival C Fifty Year Trail via Geology walk/ SBHC Spring Picnic -	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	[D] Picacho Peak Easy	[B] Arizona Trail:	[C] Sutherland Trail	[C] Hidden Canyon A Window Rock C- American Flag	[C] Deer Camp	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
[C] Canada del Oro	C CSP Fifty-Yr Tr	[C] N. Wild Burro	C Arizona Trail Work SBHC 4pm Program SBHC 5pm Social	[B] Arizona Trail: [B] Tortolita	[C] Golden Gate	[C] OSP Powerline
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
[D] OSP American	[B] Romero Springs	[B] Arizona Trail: [B] Chiricahua Heart	[D] Linda Vista Loop	A Sabino Canyon to C- Romero Pools	[B] Baby Jesus / SBHC Volunteer	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	D Pima Canyon to	[B] Fifty-Year Trail / D Catalina Hills	Petroglyphs-	[B] Arizona Trail:		

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar

Apr 2017 (Mountain Time - Arizona)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	D Pima Canyon to	[B] Fifty-Year Trail / D Catalina Hills	Petroglyphs-	[B] Arizona Trail:		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
[C] Fifty-Year Tr	C Sutherland	[B] Arizona Trail: C1 - Panther Peak	2:30pm SBHC BOD 4:00pm SBHC [C] Canyon Loop	[C1] Aravalpa B - Josephine saddle	D - Alamo Canyon	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
[D] OSP Exploration	B - Baby	C1 Lower Hugh Page Pre-Trip	[A] Arizona Trail:	[B] Superstitions: D - Picacho Peak		[C] OSP East
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	SBHC Spring Trip Dpt Mon Apr 17 Rtn Fri Apr 21 Hike Apr 18-20 Page, AZ-Kanab, UT					
		[C] Dripping Springs	SBHC No April			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			[C] Rams Creek	[A] Mt. Wrightson		
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Hikes Offered

Wednesday, March 01, 2017 Fifty-Year Chutes . Rating: D! Pace: Moderate [New!, 09:00 AM, \$2]. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area off Golder Ranch Road. We hike north on the Fifty-Year Trail. At the intersection of several trails, we take a mountain bike trail called The Chutes. After hiking on The Chutes a while, we take an unnamed trail back to the starting point. The Chutes trail has short sections steep grade and V shape. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike 3.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; accumulated gain 200 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Randy Park, 825-6819.]

Thursday, March 02, 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.) This is a key exchange hike. 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.]

Thursday, March 02, 2017 Alamo Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 8:00AM, \$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: Paul DeBruine, Ph: 217-454-0478 e-mail: rkdnphd@comcast.net]

Friday, March 03, 2017 Banff Film Festival. Rating: Social event. [New, 5:15 PM, \$2]. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will bring an awe-inspiring night of film to Tucson. This evening will bring a unique lineup of movies ranging from thought-provoking mountain films to high adrenaline outdoor adventure. Each year the best films from the Banff Mountain Film Festival, held annually in Alberta, Canada, head out on Tour making over 350 stops in nearly 40 countries around the world. These films offer a provocative exploration of the mountain world by featuring exotic landscapes, remote cultures and bringing audiences up-close and personal with adrenaline-packed action sports films including hiking and trekking features. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is brought to Tucson by local outdoor-outfitter Summit Hut, with proceeds from the Festival supporting local outdoor oriented non-profits through Summit Hut's Banff Grants. The admission fee is \$15 and guide Aaron Schoenberg has reserved 20 tickets for our club. Deadline to contact him to see if any are still available is Feb. 15. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg, 845-987-4893, askus3@centurylink.net]

Friday, March 03, 2017 Canyon Loop. Rating: D☉. Pace: SLOW [134, 7:30 AM, \$2 + \$2]. We will start at the Group picnic area. We talk and look at maps and then walk along the bridle trail until we reach the trailhead. From the main trailhead at the end of the road in Catalina State Park, the hike begins with the Sutherland Trail, turns onto the Canyon Loop Trail, and then comes back on the Romero Canyon 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 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 170 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com].

Friday, March 03, 2017 Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [499, 8 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. Elisabeth Wheeler, 520-818-1547, hikerelisabeth@gmail.com.

Monday, March 06, 2017 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]

Tuesday, March 07, 2017 Arizona Trail: Black Hills - Bloodsucker Wash to Freeman Road. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [23, 07:00 AM, \$14]. This key exchange hike is the northern leg of AZT Passage 14. From the Arizona Trail markers on Bloodsucker Wash, hikers proceed down sandy Bloodsucker Wash for 2.3 miles, climb out of the wash to a ridge, and reach a dirt road. After about 2 miles, we reach the charming Beehive Well, walking between a windmill and a tank. In another 2 miles, after ascending a ridge, we can see Antelope Tank below. In 4.5 more miles, we arrive at the base of the northern slopes of Antelope Peak. Hikers complete the last 2 miles on a rough jeep road, which intersects Freeman Road. The trail continues SW on the road another 0.3 miles to complete the northern leg. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 3430 feet; net elevation change 990 feet; accumulated gain 1550 feet; RTD 135 miles (dirt). [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Wednesday, March 08, 2017 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]

Thursday, March 09, 2017 Window Rock. Rating: A. Pace: Fast [490, 6 AM, \$4]. The hike follows the most direct route up Ventana Canyon. The hike is difficult and steep, and involves lots of difficult climbing. The hike begins at the Ventana Canyon Resort parking lot past the employees' parking lot. It follows that trail past Maiden Pools until it reaches the Esperero Trail # 25, which is used for two miles to reach the Window. Ventana Canyon offers some of the best canyon views in southern Arizona. Views from the Window are fantastic, including such landmarks at Mt. Kimball, Cathedral Rock, and the Montrose Canyon drainage area. Hike 12.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 4042 feet; accumulated gain 4249 feet; RTD 54 miles. Elisabeth Wheeler 520-818-1547 or hikerelisabeth@gmail.com

Thursday, March 09, 2017 American Flag. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [8, 8:00 a.m., \$3]. The hike begins at the American Flag Trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers take the American Flag/Cody Trail to its intersection with the Oracle Ridge Trail, where there are great views to the west of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas. On the return, we may swing by the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. Hike 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 995 feet; accumulated gain 1325 feet; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com

Thursday, March 09, 2017 Hidden Canyon Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [219, 08:00 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 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 1192 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Randy Park, 520-825-6819.]

Friday, March 10, 2017 Deer Camp. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [166, 8:00 AM, \$2]. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike east up and out of Sutherland Wash, through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Samaniego Peak. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 880 feet; accumulated gain 1069 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [guide: Paul DeBruine, Ph: 217-454-0478, e-mail: rkdnpd@comcast.net]

Sunday, March 12, 2017 Canada del Oro from the Preserve. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [133, 1:00 PM, \$1]. We will meet at the Preserve parking lot and proceed a short distance to the CDO wash. From there we will cross over the wash and follow a 4 by 4 road up into the foothills to two watering holes. accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 5 miles (some dirt). [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]

Monday, March 13, 2017 CSP Fifty-Year Tr Sutherland Wash Loop Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2] Spot a car at main CSP trailhead for return shuttle. The hike begins at the Equestrian Ctr in Catalina State Park and goes north on Fifty-Yr Tr to exit gate. Proceed out gate to Sutherland Link trail and down to Sutherland Wash re-entering park

through gate. Continue South on social-side trails. This spot is the location of the original Sutherland Ranch. Continue on social-side trails to the Nature Trail and main trailhead. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 700 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031]

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Tortolita Mountains: North Wild Burro Canyon. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [New, 8:00 AM, \$2]. The group takes 4WD vehicles along the Rail-X Marble Mine Road off Oracle Hwy and another jeep road for a total of 7.5 miles. The hike begins along an old road that leads past an old stone wall. We will continue into the Wild Burro Canyon area where there is a windmill and corral. We continue on the North-end of Wild Burro Trail to Molly's memorial, at which point we turn around. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet; net elevation change ~1200 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 20 miles (dirt). [Guide: Susan Hollis, 825-6819 or slhollis@yahoo.com.]

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [87, 7:30 AM, \$3 Paid by club]. Come and join the fun — it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain the "Oracle Passage" section of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. This 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, March 15, 2017 SBHC Program: "Straddling the Equator and The Land of Khan" by Ed Melnick Planned by Sue Bush

Thursday, March 16, 2017 Arizona Trail: Tortilla Mountains. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [81, 07:00 AM, \$7]. This is the southern leg of the Passage 15. The trail starts near the Tecolote Ranch and follows a series of old roads south, across dry washes and along a single-track trail. There are interesting large boulder formation and mostly rolling desert terrain. We hike just beyond Tecolote Ranch. This is a key exchange hike. High clearance vehicles are required. Hike 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 4015 (3600 feet for Tecolote Ranch) feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated gain 790 feet; RTD 72 miles (dirt). [Guide:Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Thursday, March 16, 2017 Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang / Wild Burro Canyon Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [469, 8:00 AM, \$4]. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, connect with the Upper Javalina Trail, and make their way up to the Wild Mustang Trail. The trail will lead the group over the higher elevations of the mountains to the north past at least 3 crested saguaros. Near the upper end of Wild Mustang Trail we take a connector trail southeast down to the Wild Burro Canyon Trail. The trail overlooks the narrow upper canyon which spreads wide with numerous side canyons and tributaries. As we continue down Wild Burro Canyon, we pass a crumbling stone structure and arrive at a boulder strewn falls which thunders with runoff from the upper side canyons and tributaries when it rains. A short distance later we will merge onto Lower Javalina Trail, quickly descending through hillsides covered with enormous boulders and a forest of saguaro cacti. We will then rejoin Wild Burro Trail to return to the trailhead. Hike 8.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 1150 feet; accumulated gain 1785 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee 369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

Friday, March 17, 2017 Golden Gate Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [204, 07:30 AM, \$5]. The hike begins at the parking lot at the bottom of Gates Pass on the western side of Tucson Mountain Park. Golden Gate Mountain was used as the backdrop in many Hollywood horse operas and movies made at Old Tucson. In Tucson Mountain Park, we will hike 0.5 miles east along the David Yetman Trail and then take the Golden Gate Loop west to a picnic area on the west side of Kinney Road. The hike has some rocky stretches and a moderate accumulated gain. Some bushwhacking across a wash is needed to return to the parking lot. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 70 miles. [Guide:Randy Park, 825-6819.]

Saturday, March 18, 2017 OSP Powerline Trail to Windmill. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 9:00 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]

Sunday, March 19, 2017 OSP American Avenue. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [306, 1:00 PM, \$3 + \$2]. Oracle State Park contains native Sonoran cacti, desert grassland, oak trees, and Manzanita stands, and contains several miles of well-maintained trails. The hike begins at the trailhead off American Ave. on the western edge of the park and proceeds along the relatively smooth Mariposa Trail toward the Oak Woodland picnic area. About 0.25 miles before reaching the picnic area, the group will take the 0.8-mile Bellota Loop Trail which nearly reaches the Group Use Area adjacent the historic Kannally Ranch House before connecting back to the Mariposa Trail for the return. Along the way are excellent views of the Galiuro Mountains and San Pedro Valley to the north and the Santa Catalina Mountains to the south. Hike 3.2 miles; net elevation change <500 feet; accumulated gain <500 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, 825-6819 or shollis@yahoo.com.]

Monday, March 20, 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, March 21, 2017 Arizona Trail: Santa Rita Mountains (Passage 5). Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [74, 06:00 AM, \$13]. This passage begins on Gardner Canyon Road, just west of Gardner Canyon Trailhead. The route passes the trailhead, heads over to Cave Creek, descends into Fish Canyon and then heads northwest to Kentucky Camp. It goes through the camp area, follows the Kentucky Camp Road and then works its way up Sucker Gulch. It goes past Granite Mountain, through Ophir Gulch and then turns on to FR 165. It descends to Enzenberg Canyon, climbs up to a road, crosses California Gulch and then crosses FR 62. After a couple of small ridges the trail reaches the upper end of Oak Tree Canyon. It follows this canyon down to a point about 3/4 mile from Highway 83. The Santa Rita passage is rich in mining history, much of which can be observed from the trail. The renovated Kentucky Camp is an early 1900's base for Stetson hydraulic gold mining company, which never saw production. Remnants of an aqueduct to provide pressurized water, along with interpretive signs, can be seen along the trail. The hike is moderately difficult. Hike 13.6 miles; trailhead elevations 5215 feet south and 5203 feet north; net elevation change 837 feet; accumulated gain 1805; RTD 141 miles (dirt). [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 Chiricahua Heart of Rocks Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [156, 8:00 AM from Wilcox, \$21]. This loop trail visits the most spectacular rock formations in Chiricahua National Monument, and includes the scenic Echo Canyon Trail. I have reserved rooms at the Arizona Sunset Inn in Wilcox for the night before the hike. The special group rate with breakfast is \$55 a room. Please contact me early if you wish to overnight the night before.. Hike 8.4 miles; trailhead elevation 6780 feet; net elevation change 1082 feet; accumulated gain 2500 feet; RTD 288 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 Linda Vista Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [249, 8:00 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 2.9 miles (mileage may be extended by doing an extra loop – ask the guide); trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 535 feet; RTD 28 miles. [guide: Paul DeBruine, Ph: 217-454-0478, e-mail: rkdnpd@comcast.net]

Thursday, March 23, 2017 Romero Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: SLOW [370, 7:30 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: Karen Gray, 818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]

Thursday, March 23, 2017 Sabino Canyon to Catalina State Park #1. Rating: A. Pace: Fast [376, 6 AM, \$4 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center and follows Sabino Canyon, the West Fork past Hutch's Pool to Romero Pass. From Romero Pass, the hike is mostly downhill, passing Romero Spring and the Romero Pools along the way to the main trailhead at Catalina State Park. This is a strenuous but extremely rewarding hike. Hikers should bring a flashlight and spare batteries. A vehicle shuttle will be needed. Hike 20 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 3360 feet; accumulated gain 4861 feet; RTD 56 miles. Elisabeth Wheeler, 520-818-1547 or hikerelisabeth@gmail.com

Friday, March 24, 2017 The First Annual Hiking Volunteer Party will be held this day at 4 PM.

Friday, March 24, 2017 Baby Jesus / Petroglyph Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [98, 7:30 AM, \$1]. 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: Aaron Schoenberg, 845-987-4893, askus3@centurylink.net]

Monday, March 27, 2017 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. Dave Sorenson 777-1994

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [141, 9:00 AM, \$0]. Volunteers are needed for the Trash Cleanup Walk for Catalina Hills Drive which is part of the Arizona Adopt A Highway Program. This is a community service that our club provides for SaddleBrooke and for Arizona. The walk will only take an hour to an hour and a half of your time. Trash bags and safety vests are provided by the Pinal County Highway Dept. Volunteers should bring gloves and a pickup stick if they have one. Volunteers will meet in the parking lot just west of the Fitness Center at SaddleBrooke CC. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 Fifty-Year Trail / Sutherland Trail / Bridle Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [182, 07:30 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins from the easternmost trailhead in Catalina State Park. We take the Canyon Loop Trail to the Sutherland Trail. After reaching the rocky road, we turn west on the Trail Link for about two miles until we come to the Fifty-Year Trail. We take the Fifty-Year Trail south, then the Bridle Trail back to the beginning. Hike 9.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, 825-6819.]

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [431, 8:00AM, \$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: Paul DeBruine, Ph: 217-454-0478, e-mail: rkdnpd@comcast.net]

Thursday, March 30, 2017 Arizona Trail: Las Colinas (Passage 6). Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [49, 06:00 AM, TBD]. This passage begins in Oak Tree Canyon (0.75 mile west of Highway 83) on FR 4072. The trail climbs slightly up to a gate and then begins a long, gradual descent. It crosses FR 4064, passes through another gate, works its way around a small hill, and then

descends into Barrel Canyon. After crossing FR 231 the trail climbs up to a gate on a pass and then drops down into Scholefield Canyon. There is another gate and a climb up past FR 4062 and on to Papago Canyon. There is a short stretch on an old two-track road and then it goes through Mulberry Canyon and heads due north, contouring up and down for several miles. After one last gate, the route is a gradual downhill for the last few miles until the end of the passage at Lakes Road. Hike 13.3 miles; trailhead elevations 5203 feet south and 4065 north; net elevation change 1178 feet; accumulated gains 1321 feet north and 2459 feet southward; RTD ___ miles (dirt). [Guide:Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Sunday, April 02, 2017 Fifty-Year Trail to Middlegate. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [501, 1:00 PM, \$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). [Randy Park 520-825-6819]

Monday, April 03, 2017 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 642 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Rob Simms (prefer email) Spartan7375@gmail.com or 517-410-9031.]

Tuesday, April 04, 2017 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 a 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 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Tuesday, April 04, 2017 Arizona Trail: Las Cienegas (Passage 7). Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [47, 06:00 AM, TBD]. From the Lakes Road, the trail heads northeast past the Twin Tanks, then mostly north crossing several small roads. It turns briefly to the west and then back north again, crosses several more roads and then reaching Sahuarita Road. Turning to the east, the route crosses Hwy. 83 and becomes a trail again. It crosses the Old Sonoita Highway and then joins a two-track road. After several road junctions, including a powerline access road, it leaves the road and heads north to I-10. After going under I-10, it climbs onto a ridgeline and follows that to Davidson Canyon Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead. Hike 13.6 miles; trailhead elevations 4065 feet south and 3329 feet north; net elevation change 580 feet; accumulated gains 1760 feet northward and 1062 feet southward; RTD ___ miles. [Guide:Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Wednesday, April 05, 2017 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. [Marv Rossof, 877-9262.]

Wednesday, April 05, 2017: SBHC Board Mtg., Coyote North, HOA 1, 2:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 05, 2017: SBHC Guide's Mtg., Coyote North, HOA 1, 4:00 pm.

Thursday, April 06, 2017 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version). Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [19, 7:00 AM, \$10 + \$6]. Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful and pristine canyon and a favorite for all who have been there. Hikers should expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Wear shorts, socks and shoes (that can get wet) with good traction (for wet rocks). Bring dry shoes/shorts/shirt for drive home, if desired (and a plastic bag for wet

items). Aravaipa Canyon is a wilderness area with no trails, signs, or facilities. Hiking stick is recommended. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 368 feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt). [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]

Thursday, April 06, 2017 Josephine Saddle and Rogers Rock. Rating: B. Pace: SLOW [237, 7:00 AM, \$10]. The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. We then go down the Super Trail for about a mile and take a turnoff for Rogers Rock and travel about 0.25 miles to the rock. The top provides a wonderful view and is an excellent place to eat lunch. The return is down the Super Trail to the parking lot. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike, 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1839 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]

Friday, April 07, 2017 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: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Sunday, April 09, 2017 OSP Exploration. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [308, 1:00 PM, \$3 + \$2]. The hike involves the exploration of several trails in Oracle Sate Park. Along the way, hikers enjoy the interesting boulder groups, oak woodlands, manzanita stands, and desert grasslands found in this state park. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change 200 - 400 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee 369-4509 mcnameephil@gmail.com]

Monday, April 10, 2017 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: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 Lower Hugh Norris Circular. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [New, 7:00 AM, \$4]. A circular hike from the Hugh Norris Trailhead in Saguaro National Park West. We will traverse the Bajada Wash, Dobe Wash, Sendero Esperanza (significant ascent) & Hugh Norris Trails including a side spur to Valley View Overlook where there are splendid views of the Avra Valey spread below and Picacho Peak against the horizon to the north. Note that there is some climbing involved. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2575 feet; net elevation change 1140 feet, accumulated gain 1400 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg & phone # 825-2060 and/or e-mail: askus3@centurylink.net]

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 Spring Trip Potluck @Tennis Pavilion

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 Arizona Trail: Rincon Valley (Passage 8, Part B). Rating: B!. Pace: Moderate to fast [68, 07:00 AM, \$10]. (See hikes 67 and 68 for associated trail information.) This will be a shuttle or key exchange hike. From the Davidson Canyon-Gabe Zimmerman trailhead the trail drops down into Davidson Canyon, joins Cienega Creek, goes under the train trestle, and then climbs out of the canyon on the north side. After joining a two-track, the route turns sharply back to the southwest and then crosses Marsh Station Road. From here the trail heads west and then north across several drainages. It crosses a pipeline road and then goes under some powerlines. From here it climbs up to a saddle and a view of the La Posta Quemada ranch and the south end of Colossal Cave Mountain Park. The trail switchbacks down and then around the ranch to the east. It enters the park and parallels Posta Quemada Canyon past the campground and up to a park road. After crossing the road, it parallels it and then comes to the La Selvilla picnic area. From here it runs north-northwest up to Pistol Hill Road, crosses this road and then the X-9 Ranch Road, and continues up through the Rincon Valley. After passing through a gate the trail crosses Rincon Creek and then reaches a kiosk at the boundary of Saguaro National Park. From here the trail works its way over to a gate and then north up to Hope Camp. From Hope Camp the hiker must hike an additional 2.8 miles to reach Camino Loma Alta Road. This is B! hike due to increased pace to complete the mileage. Hike 17.3 miles; trailhead elevations 3329 feet

south and 3131 feet north; net elevation change 580 feet; accumulated gains 849 feet northward and 1062 feet southward; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Thursday, April 13, 2017 Picacho Peak Easy Trails. Rating: D ☉. Pace: Moderate [326, 8:00 AM, \$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 1.4 miles; trailhead elevation ___ feet, net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 90 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Thursday, April 13, 2017 Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [402, 7:00 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). [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

Saturday, April 15, 2017 OSP East Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [307, 9:00 AM, \$3 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. Hikers follow the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection, we turn southeast and follow trail to the intersection with the Manzanita Trail. We follow this trail west and onto the Nature Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. This route is fairly level with little elevation change with wide open views and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. Hike 6.2 miles, trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 760 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Marv Rossof, 877-9262]

Tuesday, April 18th through Thursday, April 20th: SBHC Spring trip to Page, AZ.

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [172, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 460 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, 825-6819 or slhollis@yahoo.com.]

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 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.]

Thursday, April 27, 2017 Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating: A. Pace: Slow [295, 6:00 AM, \$10]. The hike begins in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows the Old Baldy Trail to Mt. Wrightson. The return is via the same route. This trail provides the shortest route to the top (el. 9453 feet) of Mt. Wrightson. The last 0.9 miles to the summit is steep and rocky with moderate exposure. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. There is shade along much of the way. Hike 11.1 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain 4029 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com]