

SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2016

BACKPACKING INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY OF GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Submitted By Myrna Simms



Backpacking in later years can be challenging, but a marvelous way to explore places not usually seen is 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, November 16, 4 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 5 p.m.

For more information about SaddleBrooke Hiking Club programs, contact Myrna Simms (517-488-8644).

“LITCH” LITCHFIELD MEMORIAL HIKE November 22, 2016

In the September/October Newsletter, we learned of the untimely passing of Warner “Litch” Litchfield. Litch was a wonderful man and one of the Club’s most popular guides. We sorely miss him.

Litch loved leading hikes for the club, and his “signature” hike was to the formation behind SaddleBrooke off the Charouleau Gap road called Big Rock Dome. If you ever did a Club hike to Big Rock Dome, the chances are that Litch was the guide. This hike will forever be associated with Litch in the hearts of veteran SBHC hikers.

He took personal interest in maintaining the trail up to the summit of the dome and would make extra trips there on his own with pruning tools to keep the trail passable for his hikers.

To honor Litch, the SBHC is offering a hike to Big Rock Dome on Tuesday, November 22. We will leave the Mountain View parking lot at 8 am. We will then carpool to Unit 21 and hike the traditional route through the CDO wash to a point where we climb to the Charouleau Gap road and then do the short bushwhack trail to the summit of the dome. We will be able to stand on that summit and silently honor our good friend Litch in one of his favorite spots.

Please check the Hike Description section at the end of this newsletter for the complete description. This hike is rated C! and is 7 miles in total distance.

Hope to see you there.
Tim Butler

PIMA CANYON HIKE IN OCTOBER

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

When fall temperatures arrive SaddleBrooke, hikers return to their favorite trails. Pima Canyon has a delightful riparian area within the canyon and three very old dams. SaddleBrooke hikers Sandra Sowell, Susan Hollis, Janet Fabio, Norm Rechhemmer and Elisabeth Wheeler set out to reach the 3rd dam. However, the monsoon overgrowth added challenge to the hike and slowed the hikers down. The hikers stopped at the 2nd dam and enjoyed the views down Pima Canyon.



Standing: Elisabeth Wheeler, Sandra Sowell, Susan Hollis Sitting: Janet Fabio, Norm Rechhemmer

NOW YOU CAN GET AN ARIZONA STATE LAND PERMIT ONLINE!

Submitted By Tim Butler and Susan Hollis

Many of us SBHC hikers enjoy hiking trails, which are located on Arizona State Lands. Some examples close to SaddleBrooke are the 50-Year North and the Baby Jesus trails. Getting a permit for recreational use of State Lands is not expensive (\$15.00 for an individual permit, \$20.00 for a family), but previously the only way of obtaining the permit was through the mail. Now, however, it's possible to get the permits online. See the following information from the Arizona State Land Department:

State Land Permits Available Online



The Arizona State Land Department recently made the process of purchasing a recreational use permit much easier through their online portal. No more writing checks or driving to the State Land Department office in downtown Phoenix! Just the

click of a button and a small charge to your credit card and you instantly receive legal recreational access to over 9 million acres in Arizona.

An Individual Permit grants a single person access to State Trust land for certain types of recreational activities including bicycling, bird watching, GPS-based recreational activities (geocaching), hiking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle (OHV) usage, photography, picnicking, and sightseeing. A Family Permit grants a family unit (two adults and their children under 18 years of age) access to State Trust land for recreational activities.

A 15-foot wide right of way for the Arizona Trail has been secured so you can cross approximately 91 miles of State Land without a permit (mostly on passages 6, 7, 14 and 15). If you plan on traveling outside the 15-foot corridor to camp, explore, etc. then it is strongly recommended that you obtain a Recreational Permit. Get your permit at: <https://land.az.gov/recreational-permit-portal>

SADDLEBROOKE HIKERS VOLUNTEER ON THE ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler and Mary Croft



Ruth Caldwell, Roddy Wilder, Elisabeth Wheeler, Ray Peale, Karen Cusano, Niel Christensen, Kent Naugle, Brenda Dawson, Terry Caldwell

REI donated the funds for a 1.7 mile re-route of the Arizona National Scenic Trail in Oracle State Park. This new route takes the Arizona Trail off an adverse, rocky road previously utilized by the Arizona Trail. Our SaddleBrooke Hiking Club is responsible for the maintenance of the 8+ mile Oracle Passage of the Arizona Trail. Nine SaddleBrooke hikers participated in an REI sponsored work event to finish the newly cut trail. The SaddleBrooke hikers joined about 50 other REI volunteers in a significant work effort.

You are invited to join SaddleBrooke hikers on November 16 for the next Work Session on the Arizona Trail. Volunteers will leave the Mountain View parking lot at 7:30 for 3 hours of satisfying trail work. Volunteers will continue to trim back the summer overgrowth and clear/create water diversion bars. For more information and/or to sign up call Elisabeth Wheeler at 818-1547, elisarick@wbhsi, or Mary Croft at 651-270-1660, mbcroft45@mac.com.”



Brenda Dawson and Roddy Wilder are working on drainage issues.



Elisabeth Wheeler, Brenda Dawson and Kent Naugle are smoothing out the trail.



Kent Naugle, Ruth and Terry Caldwell are digging out Bear Grass.

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

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



Horseshoe Bend



The Wave

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

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

HIKING IN NORWAY

By Roy Carter

Norway is mostly known for the incredible fjords formed 10,000 years ago by the receding glaciers, but between those fjords are some incredible land features. Reaching most of these features involves some hiking, although the views from the roadway are usually magnificent. Our recent trip was planned around a piece I found on the internet called “The 10 Most Breathtaking Views in Norway” (<http://www.openmindedtravel.com/philosophyadvice/top-10-most-breathtaking-views-in-norway/>). In the 3 weeks we had allotted for the trip, we could reach 7 of them (leaving 3 in northern Norway above the Arctic Circle for a future trip). It took some juggling to fit these into a 3-week itinerary, but with a car rental, we did it, and even had one day to visit downtown Oslo.



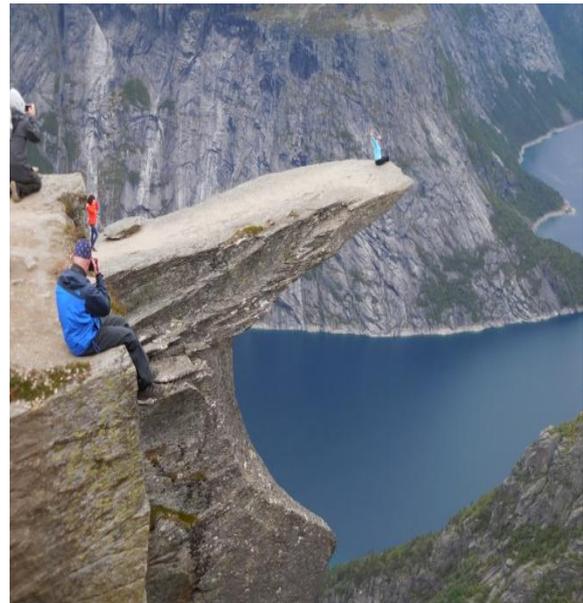
Fjord below Besseggen Ridge

The first hike was to Besseggen Ridge north of Beistolen on Gjende Fjord, followed by Flydalsjuvet on the Geirangerfjord, Alesund from the Aksla overlook, the Nærøyfjord (which is one of the two fjords on Norway in a Nutshell) not from Bakkanosi as suggested in the article, but from Rimstigen just below it, Preikestolen (aka Pulpit Rock) above Lysefjord near Stavanger, Trolltunga (the troll’s tongue, a remarkable geologic oddity) north of Odda, and Bergen from the Floyen overlook at the top of the funicular. Also visited by hike (although not in the article) was Kjeragbolten, on Lysefjord but at the upper end.



The Kjeragbolten

There are a couple of photos here, but the best thing for those interested is to view the Youtube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aGtbXySg2E>. There are three other videos there covering non-hiking, more touristy stuff during our visit to this fantastic country.

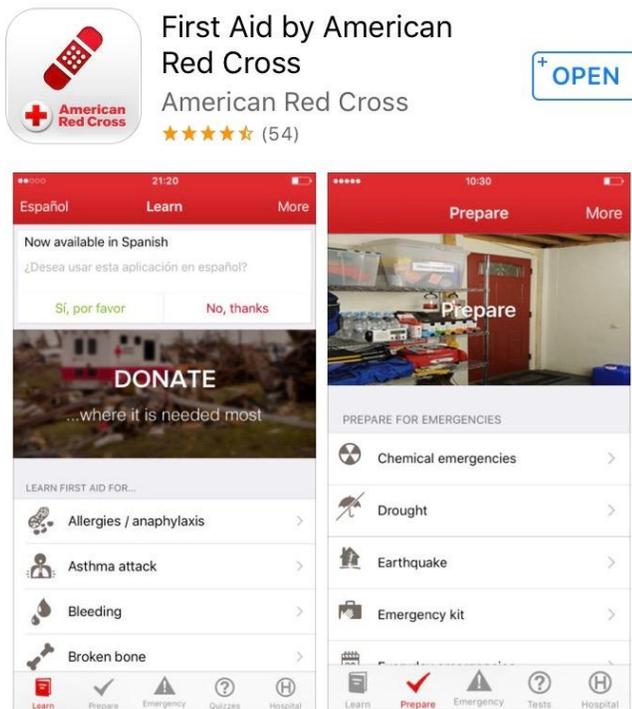


Trolltunga

SMART PHONE “FIRST AID APP”

Submitted by Rob Simms

SMART PHONE “FIRST AID APP” First aid advice at home or on the trail! The American Red Cross has a very nice “First Aid App” for smart phone users. Best of all it is free and available for iPhone & Android users through their respective app stores. It provides basic emergency information at your fingertips, even in areas with no cell service. The emergency section outlines recommendations for a number of emergency health issues. Built in features allow you to call 911 directly through the app should it be necessary. You might consider adding it to your phone. I have it on mine. ... Rob Simms



SBHC GOES BACK TO SUPAI

November 3 to 8, 2016

November 7 to 12, 2016

Submitted by Dale Leman

In November 2015, 18 members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club hiked into the city of Supai, a Havasupai tribal village in the Grand Canyon. The post hike reviews were great, so plans were made to repeat again this November. This year 34 of our members signed up and will take the journey down into the remote village

on an organized tour managed by Northern Arizona University. This year two trips are being offered. The first trip starts on November 3rd and ends on November 8th, while the second starts on November 7th and end on November 12th. The trip is for 5 nights and 4 days of mostly “C” level hiking.

The highlight of the trip will be the hike down into the canyon to Supai, a Havasupai tribal village, deep in the Grand Canyon. This town is accessible only by foot, horseback, or helicopter. While we hike we will focus on geology, ecology, and Native American Heritage of the area. A couple of miles below the village are some of the most beautiful waterfalls in the United States; New Navajo Falls, Havasupai Falls, and Mooney Falls. If you search the internet you will see plenty of spectacular images. This is also one of the most unique and remote places in the country.

The literature provided said this was for “seasoned hikers”. As some of us felt we needed to get more “seasoned” before we set out on this journey, a special set of 7 conditioning hikes were set up to prepare us for the journey. The hiking guides organized a list of progressively more difficult hikes. The initial hike was a “D” hike, followed by four “C” hikes and two “B” hikes. The hope is that we are prepared physically so we can really enjoy this experience. I am sure we will have stories to tell!

News You Can Use

AZ Trail Work Session	11/16 Wed.	7:30 A.M.
Backpacking into the Backcountry of Grand Canyon National Park	11/16 Wed.	4:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	11/16 Wed.	5:00 P.M.
SBHC Goes Back to Supai		Nov. 3 to 8, 2016 Nov. 7 to 12, 2016
“Litch” Litchfield Memorial Hike	11/22 Tues.	8:00 A.M.
SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North	12/7 Wed.	2:30 – 4:00 P.M.
SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North	12/7 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
SBHC Spring Hiking Trip		April 18, to 20, 2017

Club Calendar: November & December

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar							Nov 2016 (Mountain Time - Arizona)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30	31	1	2	3	4							5
		D-Halloween Fun	B-Tortolita	D Alamo Canyon		[C] Lower							
	6	7	8	9	10	11							12
		B Wasson Peak via C - Dripping Springs		D - Linda Vista Loop	C-Deer Camp/Baby	[B] Tortolita							
	13	14	15	16	17	18							19
		B - Fort C - Fort Bowie &	B - Chiricahua Heart B Aravaipa Canyon C - Chiricahua Heart	C Arizona Trail Work SBHC Program 4:	B - Tortolita C-Nature, canyon								D - OSP American
	20	21	22	23	24	25							26
		C - Pima Canyon to	C Big Rock Dome	B Wasson Peak Loop									
	27	28	29	30	1	2							3
		B - Tortolita C Romero Pools	B - Blackett's Ridge		C Cargodera Loop @	[C] Hidden Canyon							

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar							Dec 2016 (Mountain Time - Arizona)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	27	28	29	30	1	2							3
		B - Tortolita C Romero Pools	B - Blackett's Ridge		C Cargodera Loop @	[C] Hidden Canyon							
	4	5	6	7	8	9							10
		B - Wasson Peak via C Aravaipa Canyon		2:30pm SBHC BOD 4:00pm SBHC Guide	C Superstitions:	[B] Phone Line Trail							
	11	12	13	14	15	16							17
		A Bear Canyon to	B Tortolita	C Ram's Creek Basin	C - Hidden Canyon	[B] Tortolita C-Baby Jesus							
	18	19	20	21	22	23							24
		B - Blackett's Ridge	C Pima Canyon to	D Alamo Canyon SBHC No December	B - Tanque Verde C - American Flag								
	25	26	27	28	29	30							31
		B - Cochle Spring	B Superstitions:		C- Sutherland Trail								

Hikes Offered

Tuesday, November 01, 2016 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [455, 08:00 AM, \$4]. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash to the Alamo Springs Trail. The group will follow the Alamo Springs Trail to the spring. Upon leaving the spring, the return is down the Wild Burro Trail to an old stone house and cistern which belonged to goat herders in the early 1900's. There is also a large water catch basin dubbed the "swimming pool". From this point, hikers walk back along the Wild Burro Trail the parking lot. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain 1319 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Larry Allen & 825-7864, allenlw70@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 02, 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. [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031]

Friday, November 04, 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 or mjreale@msn.com.]

Monday, November 07, 2016 Wasson Peak via King Canyon Trail Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [479, 7:00 AM, \$6]. The hike begins at the trailhead across from the Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum and goes up the King Canyon Trail. We pass the Mam-A-Gah picnic area and continue to the Sweetwater Saddle, the junction with the Sweetwater Trail. For the next mile or so, it's a steep climb to the junction with the Hugh Norris Trail and a short uphill climb to the summit. The 360-degree views from the top include Tucson to the east, Green Valley to the south, Picacho Peak to the north and Sells to the west. We will return via the Hugh Norris and Sendero Esperanza/Gould Trail to the King Canyon TH. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 1807 feet; accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547 or elisarick@wbhsi.com]

Monday, November 07, 2016 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: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Wednesday, November 09, 2016 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 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.]

Thursday, November 10, 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, November 11, 2016 Tortolita Mountains: Cochie Spring Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [456, 7:00 AM, \$4].

The hike begins in the hikers parking area of the Ritz Carlton and proceeds up a connecting spur behind the hotel to join the Upper Javelina trail. The Upper Javelina Trail provides views of the Tucson Mtns and Boboquiveri Peak to the south. After a short hike on the Wild Mustang Trail, hikers join the Cochie Spring Trail and continue several miles to the remains of a dam past a windmill. Hikers will experience a quiet mountain wilderness. The return is by the same route. Hike 9.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain 1811 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

Monday, November 14, 2016 Fort Bowie & Chiricahua National Monument. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [New, 6:00 AM, \$29].

This is the first day of a two day outing in the Chiricahua Mountains. This first day includes a medley of four walks/hikes placed together in the course of the day to make a full exploration in this area almost 150 miles away. The first two activities (Fort Bowie National Historic Site & Faraway Ranch at Chiricahua National Monument) we are fortunate to have ranger/docents guiding us and giving us a full narrative of the significant historic importance of these locations. The afternoon will be devoted to two hikes to scenic locations including a climb of Sugarloaf Mountain that has a fire tower on the National Register of Historic Sites at its summit. Here there is a phenomenal 360 degree view of many of the hoodoos, rock formations and other natural scenery of the region. We will then drive nearby for a nature walk at Massai Point which includes another observation point of the region which we will catch at sunset (5:20 PM). Deadline to sign up for this trip is Sunday, October 30. Contact Dave about lodging in Willcox or the possibility of just joining us for this first day. Hikes: 7.5 accumulated mileage; accumulated elevation gain for all hikes: 1000 feet; RTD 328 miles (includes 9 miles gravel road). [Guide: Dave Sorenson, 777-1994, iowaboy1950@yahoo.com]

Monday, November 14, 2016 Fort Bowie & Chiricahua National Monument. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [New, 6:00 AM, \$29].

This is the first day of a two day outing in the Chiricahua Mountains. This first day includes a medley of four walks/hikes placed together in the course of the day to make a full exploration in this area almost 150 miles away. The first two activities (Fort Bowie National Historic Site & Faraway Ranch at Chiricahua National Monument) we are fortunate to have ranger/docents guiding us and giving us a full narrative of the significant historic importance of these locations. The afternoon will be devoted to two hikes to scenic locations including a view of a natural bridge and the climb of Sugarloaf Mountain at sunset (5:20 PM) that has a fire tower on the National Register of Historic Sites at its summit. Here there is a phenomenal 360 degree view of many of the hoodoos, rock formations and other natural scenery of the region. Deadline to sign up for this trip is Sunday, October 30. Contact Aaron about lodging in Willcox or the possibility of just joining us for this first day. Hikes: 11.5 accumulated mileage; accumulated elevation gain for all hikes: 1900 feet; RTD 328 miles (includes 9 miles gravel road). [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg, 825-2060, askus3@centurylink.net]

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 Chiricahua Heart of Rocks + Echo Canyon Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [156, 6:00 AM, \$29].

This is the second day of a two day outing in the Chiricahua Mountains. This loop trail visits the most spectacular rock formations in Chiricahua National Monument and includes the scenic Echo Canyon Trail with its amazing grottoes. Deadline to sign up for this trip/hike is Sunday, October 30. Contact Aaron about lodging in Willcox or the possibility of just joining us for this second day. Hike 9.5 miles; accumulated elevation gain 2400 feet; RTD 308 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg, 825-2060, askus3@centurylink.net]

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Traverse. Rating: B!. Pace: Moderate [17, 6:00 AM east to west, 6:30 AM west to east \$10 + \$6]. This is a wilderness hike in a Primitive Preserve, by permit only, following the Aravaipa Creek through the Galiuro Mountains. We will be hiking through the entire Preserve in the creek, wading in ankle-to-knee deep water about half the time, while viewing the canyon's 400-600 foot walls. There will be abundant wildlife, often with views of golden eagles. Bring camera and binoculars to see one of Arizona's best kept secrets. Time permitting, hikers may explore one or two of the nine side canyons. From Tucson to east entrance(148 miles, 2.5 to 3 hours): Take Interstate 10 east to Willcox. In Willcox, take Exit 340 north (left) toward Bonita along the Ft. Grant Road. At the "T" in Bonita, turn left and go 38 miles to the East trailhead. From the trailhead parking and kiosk, it is a 1.5-mile hike through Nature Conservancy land to the east wilderness boundary. 4WDs are required on the east end; pick-up cars on the west end. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 12 to 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change minus 650 feet; accumulated gain 424 feet; RTD 110 miles. Phil McNamee will lead the hike from west to east and Dave Corrigan will lead the hike from east to west, so we have transportation at the end of the hikes. Only 5 persons will hike each way for a total of 10 hikers. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com (east-west)/ Phil Mcnamee, 369-4504,mcnameephil@gmail.com (west-east)]

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 Chiricahua Heart of Rocks. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [New, 6:00 AM, \$29]. This is the second day of a two day outing in the Chiricahua Mountains. On this hike we take a shuttle from the Chiricahua National Monument Visitor Center to the Echo Canyon Trail head. Then we visit the most spectacular rock formations in Chiricahua National Monument, and from here it is all downhill along the scenic Rhyolite Trail back to the visitor center and our parked cars. Deadline to sign up for this trip/hike is Sunday, October 30. Contact Dave about the possibility of just joining us for this second day. Hike 7.0 miles; accumulated elevation gain 1000 feet; RTD 308 miles. [Guide: Dave Sorenson, 777-1994, iowaboy1950@yahoo.com]

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 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: Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547 or elisarick@wbhsi.com. and Mary Croft (651) 270-1660]

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 SBHC Program @ 4:00 P.M. "Backpacking in the Grand Canyon—off the Beaten Path" by Elisabeth Wheeler ... Planned by Myrna Simms

Thursday, November 17, 2016 Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace: slow - Moderate [136, 8:00 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: Karen Gray, 818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com].

Thursday, November 17, 2016 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [454, 8:00 AM, \$4]. This hike travels the outer rim of the area. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, to Lower Javalina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail. After ascending the first part, we take a short side trail to a high point overlooking the area to the west. We then continue on the Alamo Springs Trail to our lunch spot in Wild Burro Canyon. We then proceed on a short connector trail to the Wild Mustang Trail until we connect with the Upper 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 2136 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Saturday, November 19, 2016 OSP American Avenue. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [306, 9:00AM, \$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, then return via the Mariposa Trail. 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 slhollis@yahoo.com]"

Monday, November 21, 2016 Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 08:00 AM, \$3]. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small first dam as we enter the beautiful, rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain 1275 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 22, 2016 Big Rock Dome Loop. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [106, 8:00 AM, \$1]. This will be a memorial hike in honor of the late Litch Litchfield. Litch loved leading this hike and he will always be associated with it in the hearts of veteran SBHC hikers. The hike starts from SaddleBrooke Unit 21, and heads south along the CDO Wash to the Charouleau Gap Road, a rocky jeep road. The trail heads east past the picturesque table rock and through desert area filled with huge granite boulders and outcroppings. The hike then continues with a short bushwhack to Big Rock Dome where there are great 360-degree views. Afterward, hikers come back down past a rare double-crested saguaro to the CDO Wash and return to the vehicles. The hike will appeal to the adventurous hiker who is capable of doing a bushwhack. Long pants and gloves recommended. The hike may be done in reverse. Charouleau Gap Road has loose, slippery rocks in some areas. Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3270 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; RTD 5 miles. [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 23, 2016 Wasson Peak Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [477, 8:00 AM, \$6]. The hike begins at the King Canyon Trailhead located across from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. We follow the King Canyon Trail, Sendero Esperanza Trail, and Hugh Norris Trail up to Wasson Peak, then back down to the Sweetwater Saddle and down a mining road to the King Canyon Wash, and then to the trailhead. There are stops for lots of different views and a variety of great scenery, and petroglyphs in the wash. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 1807 feet, accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031]

Monday, November 28, 2016 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [454, 7:00 AM, \$4]. This hike travels the outer rim of the area. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, to Lower Javalina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail. After ascending the first part, we take a short side trail to a high point overlooking the area to the west. We then continue on the Alamo Springs Trail to our lunch spot in Wild Burro Canyon. We then proceed on a short connector trail to the Wild Mustang Trail until we connect with the Upper 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: Elisabeth Wheeler, 8181547 or elisarick@wbhsi.com.]

Monday, November 28, 2016 Romero Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [370, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1400 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 Blackett's Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [108, 08:00AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blackett's Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1668 feet; accumulated gain 1733 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis and Randy Park, 825-6819]

Thursday, December 01, 2016 CSP Sutherland Cargodera Loop Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2] Park at main trailhead. The hike begins at the main trailhead in Catalina State Park and goes on the Sutherland Trail to the Cargodera Rocks. Proceed to the Sutherland Link trail (rocky jeep road). Go WNW to Sutherland Wash and turn south to enter park through gate. Proceed South on social-side trails. This spot is the location of the original Sutherland Ranch. Continue on social-side trail to the Nature Trail and main trailhead. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 900 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031]

Friday, December 02, 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: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

Monday, December 05, 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 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 ___ feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt). Dave Sorenson 777 1994

Monday, December 05, 2016 Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [481, 8:00 AM, \$5]. The hike begins at the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro (the west extension of Ruthrouff Road) on the east side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike on the Sweetwater Trail through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. There is little shade along the way. Bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 9.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 1887; accumulated gain 2329 feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Wednesday, December 07, 2016 2:30pm SBHC BOD Mtg

Wednesday, December 07, 2016 4:00pm SBHC Guide Mtg

Thursday, December 08, 2016 Superstitions: Weavers Needle to Fremont Saddle and Overlook Point. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate [497, 7:30 AM, \$14]. This in-and-out hike through the beautiful Superstition Mountains, brings you up to a stunning vista overlooking Weavers Needle. The needle is an iconic Arizona landmark often pictured in photos. The hike begins at the Peralta Trailhead and rises quickly on a rugged, vegetated path. Oak and mesquite trees are common along the trail as well as huge bolder formations. Magnificent vistas of the Superstitions are visible as the ascent continues. The trail reaches its highest elevation at Fremont Saddle and Weavers Needle comes into view. The hike continues for another 1/2 mile to reach Overlook Point (sometimes referred to as Lone Pine). After enjoying the view and a snack, we descend down the same trail. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 1,385 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

Friday, December 09, 2016 Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [323, 8:00 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 10.2 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.]

Monday, December 12, 2016 Bear Canyon to Sabino Canyon Loop. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [101, 7:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot and proceeds up scenic Bear Canyon to Sycamore Canyon. At Sycamore Canyon, we turn northwest on the East Fork Trail, and then southwest on the Sabino Canyon Trail to its intersection with the Phone Line Trail. The return to the Visitor Center is via the Phone Line Trail. Hike 17.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 2100 feet; accumulated gain 4155 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547, elisarick@wbhsi.com.]

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang / Wild Burro Canyon Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [469, 08:00AM, \$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: Larry Allen 825-7864, allenlw70@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [354, 8:00 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: Walt Shields 818-3439, waltshields@mac.com.]

Thursday, December 15, 2016 Hidden Canyon. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [217, 8:00 AM, \$2]. This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. The hike begins past the Golder Ranch Road gate in the Fifty-Year Trail area. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 620 feet; accumulated gain 880 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Friday, December 16, 2016 Baby Jesus. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [96, 8:00 AM, \$2]. The hike starts in the Fifty-Year Trail area near the east end of Golder Ranch Road and follows a jeep road that connects to the beginning of the Baby Jesus Trail across the Sutherland Wash. Hikers follow the trail on the east side of Baby Jesus Ridge to a rock grouping that looks in profile like the Madonna and Child, (for which the ridge is named) seeing a “window,” beautiful saguaros, and rock formations along the way. The return is via the same route. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 702 feet; accumulated gain 1335 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Friday, December 16, 2016 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [454, 7:00 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.]

Monday, December 19, 2016 Blackett's Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [108, 8:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blackett's Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops

precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1668 feet; accumulated gain 1733 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, December 20, 2016 Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 8:00 AM, \$3]. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small first dam as we enter the beautiful, rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain 1275 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439, waltshields@mac.com]

Wednesday, December 21, 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. [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031]

Thursday, December 22, 2016 American Flag. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [8, 8:00 AM, \$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, December 22, 2016 Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [443, 7:30AM, \$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 2 miles to lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some great photo stops along the way. Hike 9 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1962 feet; accumulated gain 2225 feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis and Randy Park, 825-6819]"

Monday, December 26, 2016 Tortolita Mountains: Cochie Spring Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [456, 8:00AM, \$4]. The hike begins in the hikers parking area of the Ritz Carlton and proceeds up a connecting spur behind the hotel to join the Upper Javelina trail. The Upper Javelina Trail provides views of the Tucson Mtns and Boboquiveri Peak to the south. After a short hike on the Wild Mustang Trail, hikers join the Cochie Spring Trail and continue several miles to the remains of a dam past a windmill. Hikers will experience a quiet mountain wilderness. The return is by the same route. Hike 9.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain 1811 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, 825-6819]

Tuesday, December 27, 2016 Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [402, 7:30 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: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com.]

Thursday, December 29, 2016 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [428, 8:30 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: Karen Gray, 818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]