

SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2021

DR. JAMES (JIM) SMITH
A Hiker's Guide to Birding:
SaddleBrooke, SE Arizona, and Beyond
Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Submitted by Bruce Hale



The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club welcomes Dr. James (Jim) Smith, an eight-year Club member, as the featured speaker at its monthly meeting and program on November 17, 2021. Dr. Smith's presentation is titled "A Hiker's Guide to Birding: SaddleBrooke, SE Arizona, and Beyond."

Alongside wildflower viewing, birding is an easy way for hikers to immerse themselves in nature while on the trail. No one knows this better than Jim, a birder for more than 20 years and a lifelong outdoor enthusiast - including fly fishing, rafting, and kayaking, which are also good activities for seeing birds.

Jim started birding in Oklahoma and Texas, where he was born; but he has been known to use binoculars frequently on Washington's Lopez Island (his summertime home) and in Arizona. He has guided birding trips in southern Arizona and Texas.

A long-time Texas resident and now-retired physician, Jim obtained his undergrad and medical degrees at Baylor University and Baylor College of Medicine.

No ornithology degree; but rest assured, Jim knows his birds and knows how to have fun watching them. He eagerly shares his avian passion. As a keen photographer, enjoying sports and nature imaging, we can look forward to some nice bird images in this presentation.

Hiking Club presentations are held most months on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the SaddleBrooke 1 Activity Center at 4 p.m. Club members and other SaddleBrooke residents are welcome to attend.

TIGER MINE TO WINDMILL IN
KANNALLY WASH

Submitted by Bruce Landeck

Eleven hikers met up at the Tiger Mine Trailhead on September 20, 2021, about 7 a.m. for this 5.5-mile hike on a portion of the Arizona Trail.

This section of the Arizona Trail runs through Oracle State Park and covers gently rolling hills with impressive views of the Galiuro and Catalina Mountain ranges, along with a passage through an Oracle granite outcropping that is 1.45 billion years old.

Despite the record monsoon rains, the trail was in fairly good shape with some knee-high grasses. Hikers stopped at a Windmill in the Kannally Wash for a snack on a picnic table with a bench before returning to the trailhead.

On the hike were Jeff Love, Don Taylor, Myrna and Rob Simms, Elissa Cochran, Arlene Daigle, Yvette

Sabulsky, Guje Olofsson, Georgette and Bill Brown, and Bruce Landeck.



BEAR WALLON/SUNSET LAKE

Submitted by Ruth Caldwell

On September 27, a dozen SBHC hikers headed up to Mt Lemmon - some to appreciate the views and tall pines, some to practice hiking at elevation prior to the upcoming Flagstaff trip, and all to enjoy the camaraderie of a fun group hike!

All were satisfied with the results - from the shady walk under the pines, hardwoods, and aspens of Bear Wallow to the fantastic views along the rocky path of Sunset Trail.

Our turnaround for this 5.5-mile hike was Marshall Gulch where we enjoyed our lunch break in the picnic area.



On our return to the trailhead we passed a dozen fairy homes that had recently been meticulously built on tree stumps along the trail.





There is always something amazing to find along our trails!

HIKE ON ORACLE RIDGE

October 4, 2021

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

Hikers led by Jeff Love enjoyed an adventure hike up Oracle Ridge from the American Flag Ranch Trailhead outside of Oracle.

Recent rains brought out abundant grasses and catclaw over the lower section of the trail. The 2000-foot elevation gain provided grand views of Apache Peak, Samaniego Ridge, and Picacho Peak in the distance. Near the saddle were fields of Golden Eye, a delight to the eyes!

Hikers enjoyed a break at High Jinks Ranch, a historical ranch started by associates of Buffalo Bill Cody.

At the end of the hike, Jeff reported we had hiked about 9.5 miles. It was a satisfying day for Jeff Love, Randy Wentross, Bertie Litchfield, Ellen Buckley, Aaron Schoenberg, and Elisabeth Wheeler.



Hikers in Field of Golden Eye - Jeff Love, Ellen Buckley, Randy Wentross, Bertie Litchfield
Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler



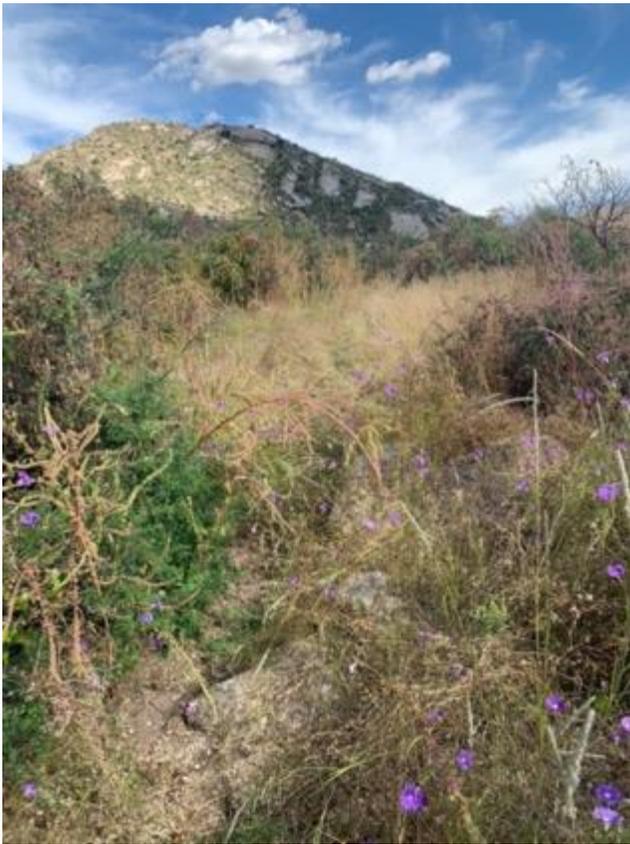
Hikers at High Jinks Ranch - Randy Wentross, Bertie Litchfield, Elisabeth Wheeler, Jeff Love and Aaron Schoenberg

Photo by Ellen Buckley

RECORD MONSOONS AND DESERT TRAILS

Submitted by Frank Earnest

In the summer, all Arizona hikers seek out the cooler temperatures in the mountains. The temperatures in SaddleBrooke have been dropping the last few weeks, and members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club are now venturing onto our local trails.



The Hidden Canyon trail is completely obscured by monsoon weeds and grasses. There is erosion as well. Photo by Frank Earnest

We are discovering overgrowth that we have not seen for many years. Lately, we have had sparse monsoon rains. Last year we experienced the second driest monsoon season on record, and we had the most 100° F days on record. We had shriveled cacti, brown

undergrowth, and then the 2020 Bighorn Fire which started on June 5 and burned for many weeks. The Bighorn Fire, which was finally contained on July 23, consumed 120,000 acres in the Catalina Range



Beth Jones and Frank Earnest pushing through the overgrowth along the Hidden Canyon trail, Golder Ranch area. Photo by Seana Kobak

This year broke other record--rain records! July was the wettest Tucson monsoon month on record. The rains kept coming through July and September making this the third wettest year on record with almost 13 inches of precipitation to date.

Little did we know that all of those latent plant seeds were just waiting for moisture! Given the combination of moisture and sunshine all of those seeds were unleashed, germinated, and have grown into a jungle. In the Golder Ranch area and Catalina State Park, we have discovered sections of trail that are almost impassible due to grasses, weeds, catclaw, morning glories vines, and other vining species.

Monsoon rains have also caused erosion along the bottoms of the trails, making hiking more difficult as well.

The good news, is that our guides have been out in many areas around Tucson. Many trails are in good shape. The trails away from low areas and adjacent to washes have been largely spared the jungle overgrowth. Guides have reported few problems in the Sabino Canyon system, Tucson Mountains, Santa Ritas, and Tortolitas.

In other words, we are adapting! We will make some schedule changes, pre-hike other trail, and modify our hikes for our club members. We will get back on the trail with clippers, pruners and machetes. In the worst areas, we will have to wait until later in the fall to clear trail sections. However, our number one goal is to get back on the trail with our club members, and enjoy our beautiful Sonoran Desert.

SADDLEBROOKE HIKING FRIENDS PHOTO SHARING SITE

Submitted by Kaori Hashimoto

In August, 2020, we started a photo sharing site on Facebook called: SaddleBrooke Hiking Friends. It is NOT an official SBHC site but rather a private, closed site where members can share photos from local or international hiking trips. Upon consulting then president Rob Simms and the Board of Directors, they were comfortable with this being an informal Facebook site for hiking club members that wish to participate. Also agreed was that photographers will ask permission from hikers before posting “people pictures” on the site.

I understand not everyone is a fan of social media; but if you are interested, please join our informal, private and cordial site where we can share, admire, relish beautiful outdoor images from endless hiking trails we explore. This is restricted to SBHC members and we can verify membership through SBHC’s password protected website. You may find us at the following link if you consider

joining: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/314000949666119>



Once you are in the group you will be able to see and post photos. Suggestions, questions, and comments are appreciated so we can make this an enjoyable experience.

Thanks!

Admin: Kaori Hashimoto kaorihj7@gmail.com, Frank Earnest, Missy Rodey

ADVENTURE HIKE FROM SADDLEBROOKE

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

It is amazing that hikers can depart from SaddleBrooke and hike directly into the wilderness

below the Santa Catalina Mountains. Hikers from SaddleBrooke have developed a network of trails to places titled Picnic Rock, the Dome, Double Crested Saguaro, and Flag Hill.



Dome Rock Hikers: Aaron Schoenberg, Heather Davis, Melia Knecht, Jeff Love, Terry McCarthy Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler

Jeff Love guided a group of hikers to explore these landmarks. Due to the overgrowth of grasses, Jeff used flagging and his GPS to guide us. Along the way, vibrant blue morning glories decorated many places of the trail. Picnic Rock overlooks the junction of several canyons and provides a panoramic view of the Tucson and Tortolita Mountains. The granite out-cropping Dome is visible from most of SaddleBrooke. Below the Dome is the renowned Double Crested Saguaro.



Melia Knecht hiking through Fields of Morning Glory Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler

From here Jeff led the group on a bushwhack hike to Flag Hill. Hikers had fun trying to spot their homes in SaddleBrooke. Thanks, Jeff, for an outstanding adventure!



Flag on Hill above SaddleBrooke. Aaron Schoenberg, Melia Knecht, Heather Davis, Jeff Love, Terry McCarthy. Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler

**SADDLEBROOK HIKING CLUB HONORS
BRUCE LANDECK
“VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR”**

Each fall the Hiking Club Board recognizes a member who has done outstanding work for the Club during the year. We are pleased to announce that this year’s honoree is Bruce Landeck.

Bruce is a fairly new member but wasted no time in “jumping into the action”. He became a Guide right after he joined and has been very active in leading hikes. As if that was not enough, he stepped into the position of SBHC Vice President. In addition to the many duties of that office, Bruce also headed up two important Club efforts this year.

He chaired a committee to re-evaluate the liability language in our Membership Application and Release form, as well as the Trail Sign-In Sheet. He worked

with a local Attorney to revise and upgrade the language on those forms to better protect the Club from litigation.

He also headed up an effort to make badly needed revisions to our Club Bylaws. He chaired a committee of five members who worked for several weeks on those revisions, which were approved by the Board on August 12 of this year.

The revised language will be voted on by the members at the Fall Business Meeting at our Club Picnic on October 29.



Thank you Bruce for your tireless efforts this year on behalf of the SBHC.

Tim Butler
SBHC President

ARIZONA TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES – October 20, November 17, & December 15

Submitted by Seana Kobak

Come and join the camaraderie of working on the Arizona trail with other volunteers from SaddleBrooke. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, pruning, and establishing/maintaining erosion control. Tools, if needed, will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 3 hours.

The next work parties will be Wednesday, October 20, November 17, and December 15. We depart from SaddleBrooke at 7:30 a.m. and return usually before noon. Light refreshments will be served.

Contact Seana Kobak at seanabk88@gmail.com or 425-241-6952 if you would like to attend. Ray Peale, Steward of the Oracle Passage, will lead the work event with assistance from the Arizona Trail Association.

ARIZONA TRAIL IN A DAY October 9, 2021

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler



Hikers on the Oracle Passage led by Elisabeth Wheeler

Photo by Dianna Willson

Eighteen SaddleBrooke hikers participated in the Arizona Trail’s “AZT in a Day” event on October 9. Together with other hikers, bikers, and horse riders, the goal was to cover the 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail in a 24-hour period. Some sections were fire damaged and inaccessible.

SaddleBrooke hikers hiked on the Oracle Passage maintained by the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. Participating SaddleBrooke hikers raised several hundred dollars for the Arizona Trail. It was fun to identify wildflowers and to find Devil’s Claw in every stage of development. The views of the Galiuros, many rock formations, and Oracle Ridge were enjoyed.

At the end of the event, SaddleBrooke hikers toured the historic American Flag Ranch House.



Members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club at American Flag Ranch House
Photo by Kevin Armsbrust

Volunteers Kevin Armsbrust and John Medley of the Oracle Historical Society gave tours of the 100+ year old barn and the 1880 territorial post office re-created in the original ranch building.

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club donated \$200 to the Oracle Historical Society who maintains the American Flag Ranch House. The Oracle Historical Society has opened up the American Flag Ranch House for SaddleBrooke hiking tours for 5 years.



Presentation of Check to the Oracle Historical Society - Kevin Armsbrust and John Medley
Photo by Ruth Caldwell

Future Trips		
Destination	Dates	Contact Person
Silver City New Mexico	Late April, 2022	TBD
Bryce Canyon, Red, Canyon, Kodachrome Basin	Early Oct., 2022	TBD

News You Can Use		
AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: MountainView Lot	10/20 Wed.	7:30 A.M. - Noon
SBHC Program - The Rocks We See as We Hike in Arizona	10-/20 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	10/20 Wed.	5:00 P.M.
Fall Picnic Catalina State Park	10/29 Fri.	TBD
Catalina Hill Cleanup Walk	11/10 Wed.	9:00 A.M.
AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: MountainView Lot	11/17 Wed.	7:30 A.M. - Noon
SBHC Program – A Hiker’s Guide to Birding: SaddleBrooke, SE Arizona, and Beyond	11/17 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	11/17 Wed.	5:00 P.M.	SBHC Guide Meeting HOA 1 -Coyote Room	12/1 Wed.	3:30 P.M.
SBHC Board Meeting HOA 1 – Coyote Room	12/1 Wed.	2:00 P.M.	AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: MountainView Lot	12/15 Wed.	7:30 A.M. - Noon

Hiking Information

HIKE RATINGS, PACE AND ELEVATION CHANGE

Ratings

Ratings are based on the following round-trip distances and accumulated gains in elevation over the course of the hike. The hike rating is determined by one (or both) of the two values being exceeded. For example, if a hike exceeds the criterion for distance but not for corresponding elevation, the rating would be set for distance. In the hike descriptions that follow, both parameter values are exceeded for some hikes. However, that does not necessarily justify a higher combined rating.

Hike Rating	Distance (miles)	Accumulated Elevation Gain (feet)
A	>14	>3000
B	>8 to 14	>1500 to 3000
C	>4 to 8	>500 to 1500
D	≤4	≤500

Special Conditions

***Some hikes may have special conditions that make a hike more difficult than the mileage/elevation gain rating would suggest. This could be due to unusual trail conditions, such as a very rocky trail, large steps up or down, or more exposure (steep banks or a cliff) which are present. These hikes are denoted with three asterisks beside the letter rating and will be repeated in the hike description with an explanation. When hikers sign up for a hike with the symbol *** they should clarify with the guide about the special condition to determine if the hike is right for them.

Pace

Pace for our hikes is described in terms of the moving average speed in miles per hour (MPH) over the course of a hike. The overall average speed is much more variable, depending on the number and duration of rest breaks and lunch, and the condition of a particular trail (smooth and flat versus rocky and steep). The following four categories are used to describe pace in the hike descriptions. The following four categories are used to describe pace in the newsletter:

Pace	Moving Average Speed (MPH)
Leisurely	<1.5
Slow	1.5 to <2.0
Moderate	2.0 to <2.5
Fast	≥2.5

Elevation Change

Three indicators are used in the hike descriptions to convey hike difficulty as it relates to elevation change:

Net Elevation Change is generally the change in elevation obtained by subtracting the starting elevation from the highest (or lowest) point reached during the course of the hike, in feet. This estimate may be obtained from USGS maps or a global positioning system (GPS). If no destination is listed, which may be the case for loop hikes or point-to-point hikes, net change is defined as the difference between the trailhead elevation and the highest elevation reached during the hike. If net elevation lost between the trailhead and the destination, a minus sign is used to show that elevation is lost. If an elevation profile is available, which applies in this database to mostly the Arizona Trail hikes for which GPS tracks have been generated, the net elevation change is the difference between the highest and lowest points along the trail.

Accumulated Gain is the sum of all upward stretches of a hike as recorded by a GPS device over the course of the entire hike. Accumulated elevation gain is always a more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation.

Accumulated Loss, another measure of hike difficulty, is the sum of all downward stretches of a hike. Accumulated elevation loss is useful for some downhill hikes and is usually obtained with a GPS device.

A cursory critique of the definition for “net elevation change” reveals that it is vague and imprecise and provides limited insight into trail difficulty (which is more accurately described in terms of accumulated gain or loss (parameters that are measured by GPSs). However, accumulated gain/loss information is unavailable for many hikes in the database, so net change has, for the time being, been retained because it is the only statistic available.

Accumulated gains are always greater than net elevation changes, except for point-to-point hikes where the destination is at a lower elevation than trailhead elevation. In this case, the accumulated gain could be much lower than the net elevation change. A good example of this is the hike from the top of Mt. Lemmon to Catalina State Park, which actually results in little gain but rather a significant accumulated loss. For loop and out-and-back hikes, accumulated elevation gains are usually greater, sometimes much greater, than net elevation changes.

Hikes Offered

Monday, November 01, 2021 Pair O’Chutes. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate. [NEW, 08:00, \$4] Nice hike with some rolling hills from the Upper Corral parking. This hike combines a couple of the “Chutes” trails in the northwestern part of the 50 Year trail area with numerous native artifacts seen along the way. There are great views of the Catalina mountains as we hike north before circling back along a ridge and the return on a trail alongside some beautiful juniper trees. Hike 4.0 mi, trailhead elevation 3260 ft, net

elevation change 175 ft, accumulated gain 340 ft. RTD 10 mi (dirt). [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, email: azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Monday, November 01, 2021 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [454, 08:00 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 Javalina 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: Frank Earnest fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 02, 2021 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 04, 2021 Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 08:00 AM, \$4]. 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 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1010 feet; accumulated gain 1315 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Friday, November 05, 2021 Esperero Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [178, 08:00 AM, \$6]. The hike reaches a saddle known locally as Cardiac Gap, which overlooks Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot, through the Cactus Picnic Area and over a few small foothills to The Gulch. The hiking is initially steep... then it gets much steeper. We'll have lunch at the saddle (el. 4400 feet) while viewing the falls below, and return to the Visitor Center. Depending on season, there may be water in the falls. Extra drinking water is recommended. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1940 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

Monday, November 08, 2021 Ironwood Picnic Area. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW-Moderate [231, 07:30 AM, \$7]. The hike starts just west of Gates Pass. It follows the Golden Gate Trail, then the Prospector's Trail. After a short climb (150 feet) to a pass, the trail drops to the tree-shaded Ironwood Picnic area. After lunch, hikers follow the gradually ascending (almost level) Ironwood Trail back to the starting point. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]

Tuesday, November 09, 2021 Tanque Verde Peak. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [442, 05:30 AM, \$8]. Tanque Verde Peak is located in Saguaro National Park - East. The hike begins at the Javelina Picnic Area on the Tanque Verde Ridge Trail, off the Cactus Forest Drive loop road. The trail passes through Juniper Basin at 6.5 miles, and reaches the Peak at 8.6 miles. This hike is rescheduled from Sept. 10 when we had to postpone due to excessive heat. Hike 17.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3140 feet; net elevation change 3909 feet; accumulated gain 4526 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg, askus3@centurylink.net]

Tuesday, November 09, 2021 Middle Gate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [524, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This is a pleasant hike from the Upper Corral parking lot to the Middle Gate using mostly social trails. The route largely avoids the busy 50 Year trail except for a 0.4 mile stretch. This is a relatively flat hike with great, open views of Samaniego, Pusch, and Baby Jesus Ridges. Hike 4.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 160 feet; accumulated gain 290 feet; RTD 10 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com, (425)391-5000.]

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 Catalina Hills Cleanup Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [141, 09:00 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 wear long sleeve clothing and pants and bring gloves. Pick up devices will be provided by the Club. We will meet in the usual location. [Guide: Walt Shields, 520-404-8998, waltshields@mac.com.]

Thursday, November 11, 2021 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW-Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]

Thursday, November 11, 2021 Pair O'Chutes. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate. [NEW, 08:00, \$4]. Nice hike with some rolling hills from the Upper Corral parking. This hike combines a couple of the "Chutes" trails in the northwestern part of the 50 Year trail area with numerous native artifacts seen along the way. There are great views of the Catalina mountains as we hike north before circling back along a ridge and the return on a trail alongside some beautiful juniper trees. Hike 4.0 mi, trailhead elevation 3260 ft., net elevation change 175 ft, accumulated gain 340 ft. RTD 10 mi (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 11, 2021 Bear Canyon to Sabino Canyon Loop. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [101, 7:00 AM, \$6]. We may do the hike in reverse of the description below, or clockwise, from Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon. 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 3080 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Friday, November 12, 2021 OSP Loop trails near Kannally Ranch House. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [508, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$2]. Hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House at the Nature Trail. The trail leads to the Windy Ridge Trail and then connects with the Granite Overlook Trail (highest point in the park). The trail descends and meets the Bellota Trail which loops back to the Ranch House. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 ft., accumulated elevation 400 ft., RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com]

Monday, November 15, 2021, Picnic Rock/Double Crested/Dome Loop. Rating: C* Pace: Moderate [NEW, 7:30 AM, \$0].** This hike departs from the south end of Arroyo Way in Unit 21. After crossing the Canada del Oro Wash, we share the first 0.5 mile with the Double Crested/Dome Rock Trail - up a steep hill then across a gentle mesa with prairie grass and mesquite trees. We then climb up a ridgeline, crossing Charouleau Gap Road, to a prominent overlook above the Dodge Tank gorge. It is an area where five arroyos join to form the main channel, with steep rock walls descending into the wash below. *** There are areas of steep hills with some loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. We return for a short distance on Charouleau Gap Road, and then cross over to the trail up the backside of Dome Rock where we will have our snack. On our return we pass the beautiful double crested saguaro. Along the entire way are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Samaniego Ridge. Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; elevation change 750 feet, accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version). Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [19, 06:30 AM, \$14 + \$5].** 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 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 368 feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt). [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, Two Cresteds and a Bushwhack Trail. Rating: C* Pace: Moderate [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$4].** From the Upper Corral parking area the hike proceeds along the diagonal trail to the Middlegate. After passing the gate we will follow cow paths for a bit before climbing up a rudimentary/bushwhack trail to a beautiful crested saguaro. ***The climb involves steep areas with some loose rock - hiking poles recommended. After leaving the saguaro we will continue east until we intersect the Middlegate Trail, then turn north following that trail back to the Middlegate. Along that trail we will see another iconic crested saguaro. After passing through the gate we retrace our steps to the parking area. Hike 5.7 miles: trailhead elevation 3240; net elevation change 300 feet; accumulated gain 650 feet; RTD 10 miles. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [87, 07:30 AM, \$4 Paid by club]. Come and join the fun — it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain the "Oracle Passage" section of the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

This 6.5 mile section starts at the American Flag TH, ambles through washes and across low ridges speckled with high desert plants just east of Oracle State Park south to Highway 77. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, pruning, building cairns and developing/clearing erosion control devices. Bring along gloves, hat, water, and hand clippers. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 2-4 hours. Hike 3-6 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$4 driver donation. [Guide: Seana Kobak, seanabk88@gmail.com, or Ray Peale, ray.peale@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 SBHC Program @4pm HOA#1 Activity Center.

Thursday, November 18, 2021 Sweetwater Preserve (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [507, 08:00 AM, \$6]. The trailhead is at the end of Tortolita Road, one mile off El Camino del Cerro. The 703-acre preserve is in the Tucson Mountains (this is not the Sweetwater Trail which leads to Wasson Peak.) There is a system of trails within the park made in 2008 by a crew of Piima County trail builders. It consists of 12 distinct loops and paths that interconnect so they can be linked together. Each trail is 0.5 to 1.5 miles in length. A map of the area may be found on the website (www.sdmh.org/trail-Sweetwater.html). Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2464 feet; net elevation change 220 feet; accumulated gain 310 feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, 520-404-8998, waltshields@mac.com.]

Thursday, November 18, 2021 50 Year and Gem Trails via Miraval Ridge Trail. Rating C. Pace: Moderate [New, 08:00, \$0]. From Catalina County Park, just south of Miraval Resort, we will follow some local trails that approach Miraval, then turn southeast to climb up to The Chutes network of trails, connect to the Gem trail, the 50 Year Trail, and finally into The Chutes Trail which takes us back to Miraval Ridge. Hike 5.5 to 6.0 miles, accumulated gain about 800 feet. RTD 5 miles. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Guide: Randy Park, rparktucson@gmail.com]

Friday, November 19, 2021 Middle Gate/50 Year Trails Loop 🐕. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [184, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This is a dog friendly hike. The hike begins at the Lower Corral and is a loop combining the Middle Gate Trail and returning via the 50 Year Trail. After crossing Sutherland wash, the route heads east with beautiful views of the Samaniego ridge. It Then winds back thru a canyon with nice granite boulder, mesquite, ocotillo, and a crested saguaro, in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. Hike 4.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Monday, November 22, 2021 Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Phoneline Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$2]. From the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, the hike proceeds along the Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake Canyon trails to the Tram stop 1 picnic area on Sabino Creek - a favorite with views of Sabino Creek with velvet ash, cottonwood, willow, and Arizona sycamore trees. After a short break we will cross Sabino Creek (if water level permits) and climb a spur trail up to the Phoneline

Trail where we turn to head back down towards the Visitor Center. We will finish on the Bajada Nature loop with a beautiful crested saguaro. Bring a camera and plenty of water and snack. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2450 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 780 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Monday, November 22, 2021 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [480, 08:00 AM, \$9]. The hike begins at Sendero Esperanza Trailhead off Golden Gate Road. The route follows the Esperanza Trail (1.8 miles) to the Hugh Norris Trail and on to Wasson Peak (2.2 miles). The climb is gradual and the Hugh Norris section is primarily a ridge trail with spectacular views. The 360-degree views from Wasson Peak include Tucson and Santa Catalinas to the east, Green Valley/Santa Ritas to the south, Sells to the west, and Picacho to the north. We will lunch on top of the Peak and return the same way. Hike 8.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1624 feet; accumulated gain 1776 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt). [Guide: Frank Earnest, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 23, Rice Peak from Peppersauce Campground. Rating: A*. Pace: Moderate [359, 07:30 AM, \$4].** The hike proceeds westerly up Peppersauce Canyon from the campground to the Oracle Ridge Trail (also the Arizona Trail along this portion), entirely on a very rocky jeep road. The last half of the route is also along a steep, rocky jeep road. There are interesting peppersauce conglomerate formations in Peppersauce Canyon. Following the Oracle Ridge Trail, we continue south, continuing to the point where the trail is closest to the Rice Peak. At that point, we leave the trail to follow a faint, very steep, rocky trail to the top. There are great views along the ridge trail and remnants of the Apache fire are visible on some of the trees. There are also interesting conglomerate rock outcroppings at the Peak, and superb views from the Peak to the San Pedro River and the Galiuro Mountains beyond. The return is via the same route. Hike 10.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4620 feet; net elevation change 2955 feet; accumulated gain 2960 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, rparktucson@gmail.com.]

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 Arizona Trail: Molino Basin - La Milagrosa Ridge Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [62C, 8:00 AM, \$7]. The hike begins at Molino Basin Campground on the Catalina Hwy and involves traversing a portion of AZT Passage 10. We hike south on the Arizona Trail, traversing 600 feet up the Molino Ridge (high point el. 4800 feet). It is mostly downhill as we reach the junction for the Milagrosa Ridge Trail, and continue along an up-and-down ridge to the vehicles at Horsehead Road (near Soldier Trail Road). There are great views along the way of the valley and sheer rock walls of Milagrosa and Agua Caliente Canyons. The trail is mostly good with a few rocky areas. Note*** Steep downhill in last mile of hike. Hiking poles strongly recommended. Car Spot: This is a car shuttle hike. Cars will need to be left at Horsehead Road (el. 2700 feet) and driven back to Molino Basin, 7 miles away. Hike 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4300 feet; net elevation change minus 1600 feet; accumulated gain 900>1000 feet; elevation loss 2500 feet; RTD 88 miles. [Rob Simms (prefer email) Spartan7375@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 Rancho Vistoso to Oro Valley. Rating: B. Pace: Fast. [NEW, 6:30 AM, \$3]. A long walk through the Big Wash along mountain bike tracks and winding up on the Canada del Oro walkway. We will go southbound in a predominantly downhill direction. Bathrooms are available 7.5 miles into the hike. Car shuttle required. Hike 10.5 miles; Starting trailhead elevation 3020 feet; Ending trailhead elevation 2540 feet; net elevation change 540 feet; accumulated gain 125 feet; RTD 18 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

Friday, November 26, 2021 Agua Caliente Hill. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [1, 07:00 AM, \$8]. The hike has great panoramic views of Tucson, and the Rincon and Santa Catalinas. The trail starts climbing immediately from the Camino Remuda Trailhead. The trail continues up and down for approximately two miles to a water hole. From here, the trail climbs and then drops into a wash. Next is a steep climb to a ridge and a junction with old jeep FS 4445, about three miles from the trailhead. It is another 1.5 miles to the top of Aqua Caliente Hill. The return is via the same route. Hike 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2930 feet; net elevation change 2430 feet; accumulated gain 3045 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

Monday, November 29, 2021 Middle Gate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [524, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This is a pleasant hike from the Upper Corral parking lot to the Middle Gate using mostly social trails. The route largely avoids the busy 50 Year trail except for a 0.4 mile stretch. This is a relatively flat hike with great, open views of Samaniego, Pusch, and Baby Jesus Ridges. Hike 4.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 160 feet; accumulated gain 290 feet; RTD 10 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Seth Basker, seth@basker.com, (425)391-5000.]

Tuesday, November 30, 2021, Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [402, 07:30 AM, \$20]. 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). Hikers then continue back to the trailhead with superb views of Weavers Needle. This hike has been rescheduled from its originally scheduled date of March 25 when it was postponed due to strong and gusty winds. Hike 9.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation change 883 feet; accumulated gain 1520 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg: askus3@centurylink.net]

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 Fifty-Year Trail / Sutherland Cutoff Trail Loop. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW-Moderate [181, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. The Fifty-Year Trail leads north to a stream terrace that provides a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area and the Santa Catalina Mountains. We then hike down to the Sutherland Wash, take the Trail Link to the Sutherland Trail, and head back into the park. Hike 7.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com].

Wednesday, December 01, 2021 SBHC BOD Mtg. HOA#1 Coyote Room North 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Wednesday, December 01, 2021 SBHC Guides Mtg. HOA#1 Coyote Room North 3:30pm to 5:00pm

Thursday, December 02, 2021 Garwood Dam/Wildhorse Tank Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [198, 08:00 AM, \$8]. From the end of Speedway on the east side of Tucson we enter Saguaro National Park East. Following several trail that circle Wildhorse Trail (but never actually on it) we make our way south to a junction with the Garwood Trail and turn south to visit the site of the old Garwood Dam. We then take Carillo Trail to intersection with the Wildhorse Trail turning south to reach the pools of

Wildhorse Tank. We return on the Garwood Trail to resume our loop hike back to the parking area. After the hike we might have the possibility of lunch at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch which is across the street from our parking area. Limited to 8 hikers. Bring plenty of water and a snack. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2770; net elevation change 470 feet; accumulated gain 740 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Thursday, December 02, 2021 Oracle Ridge / Red Ridge Loop. Rating: B*. Pace: Moderate [303, 07:00 AM, \$13].** The hike begins at the Red Ridge Trailhead and descends steeply on a rocky trail to Catalina Camp. From there, we will climb via Trail 401 east to Dan Saddle, south up the Oracle Ridge Trail to its trailhead just below the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station, then back along Catalina Hwy for about a mile to complete the loop. Both trails are very steep and have numerous stretches of loose, slippery rock making stable footing a challenge. An alternative is to position vehicles at both trailheads to avoid the trek along Catalina Hwy. Along the way, there are great views of the Reef of Rocks and Samaniego Ridge to the west, and the Biosphere II and Oracle to the north. The hike may be done in reverse, but both ways are difficult for a hike of this rating. Hike 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 8160 feet; net elevation change 2380 feet; accumulated gain 2636 feet; RTD 131 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, rparktucson@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 02, 2021, Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [323, 07:30 AM, \$6]. 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: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

Monday, December 06, 2021 Middle Tank/Dude's Rest. Rating C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 08:00 AM \$4]. From the Lower Corral parking area the hike proceeds along the Baby Jesus trail to the junction with Middle Tank trail. We then head north on the Middle Tank trail to the lunch spot in the trees near the Square Tank. After lunch we take a rudimentary trail above the treed area up to the actual Middle Tank spring with its stone tank and the grave marker for well known local cowboy Dude Fanning. We will return via a "secret" passage back to the Baby Jesus trail and out. Hike 6.3 mi, trailhead elevation 3200 ft, net elevation change 850 ft., accumulated gain 1325 ft, RTD 12 mi (dirt). [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, email: azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 07, 2021 Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [354, 08:00 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, 520-404-8998, waltshields@mac.com.]

Tuesday, December 07, 2021 Middle Gate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [524, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This is a pleasant hike from the Upper Corral parking lot to the Middle Gate using mostly social trails. The route largely avoids the busy 50 Year trail except for a 0.4 mile stretch. This is a relatively flat hike with great, open views of Samaniego, Pusch, and Baby Jesus Ridges. Hike 4.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 160 feet; accumulated gain 290 feet; RTD 10 miles (dirt). This

hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Seth Basker, seth@basker.com, (425)391-5000.]

Wednesday, December 08, 2021 Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs Loop from the south.. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [98, 08:00 AM, \$4].** This hike begins at the CSP North Gate. It takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash. The Sutherland Wash Rock Art District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and vistas of Pusch Ridge. ***The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail and uneven footing at times. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest on rocks near one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 4.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2950 feet; total ascent: 722 ft, net elevation change: 431 ft. RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 09, 2021, Tortolita Mountains: Javelina Figure Eight. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [459, 06:30 AM, \$4].** The hike begins by hiking from the Ritz Carlton Hotel hiker parking lot and following an easy 1 mile path alongside local roads to hook up with the south end of the Upper Javelina Trail which is close to the new golf course. We then proceed along the Upper Javelina Trail for 3 miles to the intersection with the Lower Javelina Trail where we make a left turn and complete the Upper Javelina Loop. Now we follow for 2 miles the Lower Javelina Trail. When we return to the lower junction with the Wild Burro Trail at the Wild Burro Canyon, we go a short distance to the left back to the parking lot completing the figure eight. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 642 feet; accumulated elevation 1270 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg: askus3@centurylink.net]

Thursday, December 09, 2021 Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW - Moderate [499, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. After starting on the Fifty-Year Trail hikers will turn left onto an unmarked trail and hike along a rugged, scenic ridge line trail for about 2 miles. At the junction with the Fifty-Year Trail we return to the Equestrian Center via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike is 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 386 feet; total ascent 446 feet. RTD 24 miles[Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]

Monday, December 13, 2021 Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [402, 07:00 AM, \$20]. 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 883 feet; accumulated gain 1695 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide: Frank Earnest, fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Monday, December 13, 2021 Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [172, 08:00 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 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs Loop from the south.. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [98, 08:00 AM, \$4].** This hike begins at the CSP North Gate. It takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash. The Sutherland Wash Rock Art District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and vistas of Pusch Ridge. ***The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail and uneven footing at times. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest on rocks near one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 4.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2950 feet; total ascent: 722 ft, net elevation change: 431 ft. RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: ROB SIMMS, Spartan7375@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 16, 2021 Pima Canyon to 1st Dam. Rating: D*. Pace: SLOW [335, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. There are pools of water at the dam most of the year. ***The trail is rocky at some points and involves some steps-up and steps-down but is not difficult. Hike 2.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 320 feet; accumulated gain 487 feet; RTD 42 miles [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]

Monday, December 20, 2021 Tucson Downtown Mural Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate/Slow. [NEW, 08:00, \$5]. Fun walk around an area of downtown Tucson and north to University. We will visit over 20 beautiful murals along the way. We will also pass the Ronstadt House and the Historic YWCA. Great way to acquaint yourself with Tucson! Walk 3.8 mi, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation change < 50 ft, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 mi. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, email: azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Monday, December 20, 2021 Blackett's Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [108, 08:00 AM, \$6]. 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, fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 Fifty-Year Trail Area. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [183, 08:00 AM, \$2]. The hike begins at the Golder Ranch parking area. The trail starts on the Fifty-Year Trail and follows social trails toward the Sutherland Wash. The trail then loops back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 234 feet; RTD 10 miles. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 23, 2021 Petroglyph / Madonna Loop. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [525, 08:00 AM, \$4].** This hike is a grand loop that takes us to several iconic locations but in a shortened version. More bang for your buck! It starts at the north gate of Catalina State Park on state land. We hike into the Sutherland Rock Art District where we visit 2 separate areas of petroglyphs. The trail then joins a spur up to the Baby Jesus trail where we head south to visit the rock formation known as Madonna and child (for which the trail was named). We will continue south to a junction with FR 643 for a short trek down a rocky jeep road (only 0.3 mi) - but with a stop at a lovely oasis in Cargodera Canyon that has beautiful Sycamore and Ash trees & often running water. Our final turn is onto an unnamed trail that will complete our loop back to the trailhead. ***This loop has beautiful scenery, but some fairly steep climbs with loose rock. Hiking poles are recommended. Hikers that have successfully completed several difficult C hikes will enjoy this hike. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2968 feet; net elevation change 852 feet; accumulated gain 1033 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Friday, December 24, 2021 Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [499, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. After starting on the Fifty-Year Trail hikers will turn left onto an unmarked trail and hike along a rugged, scenic ridge line trail for about 2 miles. At the junction with the Fifty-Year Trail we return to the Equestrian Center via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike is 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 386 feet; total ascent 446 feet. RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com]

Monday, December 27, 2021 Two Crested and a Bushwhack Trail. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$4].** From the Upper Corral parking area the hike proceeds along the diagonal trail to the Middlegate. After passing the gate we will follow cow paths for a bit before climbing up a rudimentary/bushwhack trail to a beautiful crested saguaro. ***The climb involves steep areas with some loose rock - hiking poles recommended. After leaving the saguaro we will continue east until we intersect the Middlegate Trail, then turn north following that trail back to the Middlegate. Along that trail we will

see another iconic crested saguaro. After passing through the gate we retrace our steps to the parking area. Hike 5.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3240; net elevation change 300 feet; accumulated gain 650 feet; RTD 10 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 28, 2021 Phone Line Trail with Tram Ride Up. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW[325, 08:00 AM, \$6 + \$tram]. The hike begins from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After the ride up Sabino Canyon to tram stop 9, we hike up to the Phone Line Trail and then back down the trail to the Center. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road and provides outstanding views and photo opportunities of the canyon. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change minus 1035 feet; accumulated loss minus __ feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]

Tuesday, December 28, 2021 Pair O' Chutes. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate. [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$4]. Nice hike with some rolling hills from the Upper Corral parking area. This hike combines a couple of the "Chutes" trails in the northwestern part of the 50 Year trail area. There are great views of the Catalina mountains as we hike north before circling back along a ridge and then return on a trail alongside some beautiful juniper trees. Hike 4.0 mi, trailhead elevation 3260 ft., net elevation change 175 ft., accumulated gain 340 ft. RTD 10 mi (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Friday, December 31, 2021 Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW -Moderate [6, 08:30 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. This hike can be done on north side trail in-out or as a loop around Alamo Canyon going up one side and returning down the other (clockwise or counter-clockwise). Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is generally gradual. The south-side trail traverses several rocky washes. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. There is a very scenic large flat-rock area above the falls. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no significant water crossings. Hikers may stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 429 feet; RTD 24 miles[Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]