



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

2020

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF GUIDE RUTH CALDWELL AND PRESIDENT ROB SIMMS

Year 2020 is perhaps the most challenging year the SaddleBrooke Hiking club has encountered since its founding. The societal impact of the Coronavirus and the regional devastation caused by the Bighorn Fire are unprecedented in our relatively short history. Almost a lost year. Fortunately, our spring hiking trip to Death Valley occurred very early in the year - January.

As many of our members are aware, the Coronado National Forest has closed the fire ravaged Santa Catalina Mountains through November 1 - as of this point. Although the order will be reviewed regularly, many of our prime hiking locations will be closed for some time. They recently opened the highway to Summerhaven, but the surrounding national forest land remains closed.

Catalina State Park recently opened but the fire ravaged areas remain closed. All hiking must remain inside the park boundaries. The Sutherland Trail, Romeo Trail, and Alamo Canyon Trail are closed at the park boundary where they enter the National Forest land. The monsoon rain(s) may lead to flooding that could cause even more devastation inside and outside the park.

It has become increasingly difficult to find appropriate and available hikes for our club during the warmer weather months given these circumstances. Please realize that fewer hikes may be listed in this and future newsletters. Some later fall hikes may be posted with the hope that areas may re-open sooner than later, but cancellations could still occur. Our near-term hiking in the Catalina Mountains and foothills will be very dependent upon the impact of the monsoon season. The good news is that as temperatures come down, and we will have

more trails available to us that were not in the burn areas.

However, we continue to be impacted by the Coronavirus which is still a significant factor. The club guidelines developed by hike leaders remain in place, and are repeated below for reference:

When hiking does resume please expect some changes. We received feedback from 15 club guides expressing their ideas about leading hikes. Some guides do not plan to post hikes until the fall; others will have a limited schedule. Several general themes emerged:

- Guides generally will not arrange carpooling or co-riding at this time. Plan on driving to the trailhead. However individual hikers may make their own arrangements. Thus, no key-exchange or car-shuttle hikes.
- Decreased group size. Hikes may be limited to 4-8 hikers.
- Definite social distancing when on the trail.
- Several guides indicated that hikers should carry a mask, if needed.

Each guide will decide on the parameters they find necessary to safely conduct hikes during this time. And they will likely differ between guides. Hikers will have to make their own decisions about their comfort level with what each guide requires of them. Please respect that guide's decisions.

Finally, we do not know when group meetings, programs or gatherings will resume (be permitted by the HOAs) in our community. The Hiking Club Board of Directors has canceled the fall programs for October and November. We will re-evaluate when it is feasible to resume the programs at the Hiking Club BOD meeting in early October.

The fall picnic originally scheduled for October 30 has also been canceled. Although Catalina State Park

has reopened, there is a notice posted that the group areas are closed until November 1. However, even if the areas open, we are still faced with the group gathering concerns this fall as it now appears. And if we could assemble (widely spaced) there is almost no possibility of a “picnic” with common food service.

The planned fall hiking trip to Flagstaff will occur but on a smaller scale. It is addressed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Fortunately, hiking opportunities, albeit limited, remain and should expand with the onset of fall weather. Thank you for being members of a great hiking club! We may have stumbled a bit on this uncertain trail, but we will soon find our way again.

Regards, Ruth & Rob

UPDATE ON THE CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST CLOSURE AND CATALINA STATE PARK REOPENING

Submitted by Tim Butler

We are all anxious to return to our favorite trails in the Santa Catalina Mountains to see what impact the fire has made. However, the Coronado National Forest remains closed until November 1.

As the Santa Catalina District Ranger stresses, conditions in the closure area remain dangerous, and there are significant penalties for violating the closure order. In fact, on August 7 the ‘Arizona Daily Star’ ran an article about citations and warnings being given out to individuals found to be in violation of the closure order. Please read the whole article here: https://tucson.com/news/local/trespassing-hikers-cited-on-mount-lemmon-during-post-fire-closure/article_15ac1853-608d-5d8f-8c4c-8a5ccea3cba3.html?hidenav=1&hidefooter=1&utm_source=nativeapp&utm_medium=mobile&utm_campaign=link

The article not only discusses the issuance of citations (the penalty for which can be up to \$5,000 per individual and \$10,000 per group) but also contains quite a bit of information about the many hazards which remain from the effects of the fire.

For your information, here is the link to the Closure Order: and a map of the closure area:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/coronado/alerts-notices/?aid=60148>

Catalina State Park is now open again. However, there are several restrictions in place for the near future. Please visit the CSP website for the complete listing here:

<https://azstateparks.com/catalina/explore/facility-information>

Thanks to our own Karen Gray here is a quick summary of the current situation in the State Park. First, the National Forest is still closed. This means that trails which lead into it are closed at the Forest boundary. That affects the Sutherland Trail at the Dripping Springs junction, the Dripping Springs Trail, the Romero Pools Trail, the top of the Alamo Canyon Loop Trail, and the trail leading over to Ram’s Tank.

All the other popular trails are open but some have fire damage.

Be sure to check with the Park Rangers if you have any questions about hiking there.

2021 SBHC MEMBER DUES SUSPENDED DUES FREE YEAR

The SBHC Board of Directors voted to suspend the payment of “Membership Dues” for 2021. All current members will have their membership automatically extended through 2021. Those members who have paid for multiple years (pre-paid for 2021) will have their membership extended for an additional year.

The club activity this year has been significantly reduced by the Corona Virus. Plus, the Big Horn ‘Fire Closures’ have restricted access to many of our favorite hiking trails further impeding hiking opportunities.

Subsequently our club expenses have also declined (i.e. no picnics, minimal guide expenses, no speaker honorariums, etc.). These factors will allow us to

continue normal operations through 2021 without additional dues.

Thank you for making this a great hiking club.
-Regards, Rob Simms, President

BEAUTIFUL WILDFLOWERS

Submitted by Kaori Hashimoto

It was so heartbreaking to see our beloved Mt. Lemmon and Santa Catalina Mountains engulfed in flames day and night during the Bighorn Fire. However, my love and urge to hike has not subsided and with handful of fellow hikers we made several outings to the Santa Rita Mountains this summer.

Club hikes are different now without carpooling which means long solo trips to the trailheads and social distancing, but we are still blessed to have places to hike in the summer months!

Here are some examples of beautiful wildflowers we encountered on our way to McCleary Peak, Florida Peak, Josephine Saddle, Roger's Rock, etc. on different occasions. With monsoon moisture, we see variety of flowers spring up each time we visit.



Cardinal catchfly (*Silene laciniata*)



Firecracker bush (*Bouvardia ternifolia*)

On many instances I either forget or cannot identify the flowers. When I do not get a perfect match after searching images on the internet, I consult Tim Butler and Elisabeth Wheeler - our wildflower experts. To my delight, they have always come back with answers! Some were more difficult to identify, but we certainly enjoy our ongoing flower ID challenge and I truly appreciate their expertise.



Fendler's meadow-rue



Golden columbine (*Aquilegia chrysantha*)



Velvet mimosa (*Mimosa dysocarpa*)



White prickly poppy (*Argemone polyanthemus*)



Scarlet cinquefoil (*Potentilla thurber*)



Clasping milkweed (*A.amplexicaulis*)

FLAGSTAFF HIKING CLUB TRIP

October 13-15, 2020

'GO/NO GO'

DECISION MADE – IT'S A 'GO'

Submitted by Dale Leman

When the Flagstaff hiking trip was originally announced, none of us were aware of the pandemic that we are living through. Many who signed up have since had second thoughts. Knowing this, the trip planning committee met on August 3 to make a 'Go/No Go' decision.

The committee decided to continue with the trip; however, on a somewhat reduced scale. Since most

of us have not been hiking much during the pandemic, especially at higher altitudes, all level hiking options will be available - with an emphasis on “C” and “D” hikes.



Planned hiking dates are October 13, 14, and 15 (Tuesday – Thursday). Most will want to arrive on or before Monday, October 12, and depart Friday, October 16.

If you plan to attend, but have not signed up yet, please do so. Details on the trip, including registration requirements, are posted on the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club website under the “Programs & Club Trips” tab.

To participate, you must register. Hikes are currently being researched and registration is still open.

A SUMMER OF DRAMATIC CHANGE FOR SBHC

Submitted by Frank Earnest

In the summer, Tucson hikers are used to high temperatures and long car rides up the Catalina Highway to Mt. Lemmon or south to the Santa Rita Mountains. However, 2020 has been a year for the record books - and it is only August!

In March, once the coronavirus started to spread in the United States, the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club suspended club hikes. We needed to know how to protect our hikers from infection and restart our activities safely. Hiking began again in May after

implementing precautions, including limiting the number of hikers on our hikes and practicing social distancing, both during the hikes as well as riding to and from the trailheads.

As we all know, the coronavirus pandemic has spread from the Northeast and West Coast to the South and Southwest, resulting in continued alteration to our routines and daily activities. We never anticipated that a second event, a natural disaster, was also in our future.

On Friday evening June 5, a lightning strike started a wildfire along the northwest slope of Big Horn Mountain on Pusch Ridge. By the time the Big Horn fire was finally contained, it had burned for nearly a month, scorched over 100,000 acres, and closed most of the Coronado National Forest until November 1. Both Catalina State Park and the Arizona Trust Land in the Golder Ranch area were also closed for nearly two months and have only reopened in the last week.

Many summer hikes were either cancelled or redirected to the Santa Rita Mountains. Since Madera Canyon has been the only upper elevation hike destination in Tucson this summer, it has been very crowded. Early departures from SaddleBrooke by 5 a.m. were necessary to avoid very high daytime temperatures for much of the summer, to finish hikes before afternoon thunderstorms, and to find parking close to the trailheads.

I led two hikes in the Santa Rita’s in July. The first was a loop hike up the Vault Mine Trail, which is short but very steep and grades sometimes exceeding 25%. The Vault Mine Trail then connects to the Agua Caliente Trail, traversing to Josephine Saddle, and then descends on Old Baldy Trail - 6.3 miles, 2275-foot accumulated gain. I was joined by Aaron Schoenberg, Linda Eglin, Missy Rodey, and Kaori Hashimoto.

Several weeks later, our group returned to Madera Canyon to hike to Josephine Saddle and Roger’s Rock. Our hikers included Frank Brier, Linda Eglin, Kaori Hashimoto, Aaron Schoenberg, and Elisabeth Wheeler. After hiking up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle, we started down the Super Trail

where Frank Brier led us on a variation of the traditional route using several different social trails - 5.8 miles and 1817-foot accumulated gain.



Rodger's Rock has breath-taking views to the northwest, over Madera Canyon to Green Valley

Common themes in our conversations along the trail included:

- how happy we were to be hiking
- how much fun it was to see each other
- how fortunate we are to have the fellowship of our hiking community
- how fortunate for the comfort and safety we have compared to so many people in our country

We are all saddened by the difficult times caused by this terrible virus, the resulting economic distress throughout the country, and praying for better days to come. As summer winds to a close, we can anticipate the return of our snowbird hikers, much

cooler temperatures, and revisiting so many great trails closer to SaddleBrooke!

MOGOLLON RIM HIKES

Submitted by Susan Hollis

For those of you new to Arizona, 170 miles north of SaddleBrooke is a unique topographical and geographical feature - the Mogollon Rim. This escarpment cuts across the northern half of Arizona, starting in northern Yavapi County and ending at the Arizona/New Mexico border.



It is about 200 miles long. The Mogollon Rim forms the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau in Arizona. Its most spectacular portions are characterized by high cliffs of limestone and sandstone.

The escarpment rises to about 8,000 ft elevation, and the plateau above the rim is covered with an extensive Ponderosa Pine forest - some say the largest continual Ponderosa Pine Forest in the US. In other words, a great place to visit in the summer for cooler temperatures and hikes in the forest. Flagstaff, Show Low, and Pinetop/Lakeside are located above the Mogollon Rim.

In early June, several groups of SaddleBrooke hikers traveled to the Mogollon Rim area near Forest Lakes to escape the Tucson heat and enjoy hikes in the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest. Some camped at Canyon Point National Forest Campground, and others stayed close by in Forest Lakes and Heber-Overgaard.



Three "B" rated hikes were organized by Randy Park and Susan Hollis on June 2, 3, and 4. Hikes included a loop hike near Willow Springs Lake; a hike on the Rim Trail and General Crook Trail with great views overlooking the Mogollon Rim; and a loop hike that included the Drew Trail, Highline Trail, See Canyon Trail, General Crook Trail, and Aspen Trail.

It was a good selection of hikes. Hikers enjoyed Ponderosa Pine forests, lake views, a beautiful stream (Christopher Creek) with yellow columbine in bloom, and of course the great views along the Rim Trail. The Drew Trail had us hiking down the Mogollon Rim, and the See Canyon trail took us back up the rim which had an elevation loss and then a gain of about 2,000 ft.

Three "C" rated hikes were done the following week, with another group of hikers from SaddleBrooke joining Randy and Susan on June 8, 9, and 10.

- The first hike we did was the loop hike around Woods Canyon Lake. There we saw Osprey fly overhead and learned about the bald eagles that were nested nearby.
- The second day we did a 6-mile hike around Willow Springs Lake, where we stopped and had lunch in a secluded spot along the lake.
- The third day we enjoyed a short hike on the Rim Trail. Once again enjoying the great views.

What a great place to visit and hike when temps are in the 100's back in Tucson.

CANCELATION OF PROGRAMS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Submitted by Michael Caryl

Back in March, the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Board canceled the April and May programs due to COVID. During the summer, the number of infections in Arizona has multiplied, as have deaths in Arizona - including some here in SaddleBrooke.

The Hiking Club's Board voted a couple of days ago to 'CANCEL' the Fall Programs for October and November, 2020. (There is no program normally scheduled in December.) At this point, there is little possibility that our programs might occur.

No SaddleBrooke member venues are open for group events at this point, and there is no assurance when space might become available in the near future. Even if such venues were to become available, the Board could not imagine how the Club might accommodate attendees - given social distancing, face coverings, etc. Thus, there is no way to adequately plan for these contingencies and expect speakers to remain in limbo.

The Club's next Board meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2020; and at this meeting, the Board will revisit this issue for programs starting in January, 2021.

The Club will pass on to members via the Club's Bulletin when the 2021 programs may commence - once it is clear that they can be presented safely.

AZT IN A DAY

Saturday - October 10, 2020

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

The Arizona Trail Association invites you to join your trail community as we hike, bike, ride, and roll our way across the state.

For the last two years, AZT in a Day has been a coordinated effort to complete the entire 800-mile AZT in one 24-hour period. However, with over 100 miles of the AZT affected by wildfires and the damage of the COVID-19 pandemic, not all section be safe to visit by the big day – October 10, 2020.

So, this year we are putting less focus on the full completion and more on health, happiness, and our shared love for the AZT. On October 10, commit to getting active, connecting with nature, and reinvesting in the trail.



Hikes being offered to SaddleBrooke hikers:

Hike #1 - Hikers will hike 4 miles round trip from American Flag Trailhead to Webb Road along the Oracle Passage of the Arizona Trail. This section features rolling hills, interesting rock formations, and views to the Galiuros. Limit 8 hikers - following CDC guidelines for masks and physical distancing. Hikers will drive in their own cars from SaddleBrooke at 7:30 a.m. to the American Flag Trailhead in Oracle. Register with Elisabeth Wheeler hikerelisabeth@gmail.com.

Hike #2 - Hikers will hike 8.7 miles on the Oracle Passage from American Flag Trailhead to Tiger Mine

Trailhead. Full description in Hikes. Limit 6 hikers - following CDC guidelines for masks and physical distancing. Hikers will drive in their own cars at 6:30 a.m. to the American Flag Trailhead in Oracle. Register with Elisabeth Wheeler hikerelisabeth@gmail.com.

FALL PICNIC HAS BEEN CANCELED

Submitted by Seana Kobak and Missy Rodey

Though Catalina State Park has recently reopened, the group area will be closed until November 1. While social distancing might be possible in the outdoor venue should it become available, communal food service in keeping with coronavirus precautions would not.

Based on this and in keeping with the Board's emphasis on maintaining safe COVID-19 protocols, the Fall Picnic scheduled for October 30, 2020, has been 'canceled.'

Many of us are anxious for some social time together and are extremely hopeful that in March, 2021, a spring picnic, will be possible - hopefully at Catalina State Park. Stay tuned!

ARIZONA TRAIL 'WORK PARTY'

October 21, 2020

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler



The next SaddleBrooke Hiking Club 'Work Party' on the Arizona Trail is **tentatively** scheduled for

Wednesday, October 21, 2020, from 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Due to Covid-19 safety protocols, the work session will be limited to 8 participants. Volunteers will drive themselves to the work site and provide their own gloves and face masks.

Tools will be sanitized before and after being used. Physical distancing will be practiced.

To receive more information and to sign-up contact:
Ray Peale, ray.peale@gmail.com
or
Seana Kobak, seanabk88@gmail.com

**CATALINA STATE PARK
AFTER THE FIRE**
Submitted by Karen Gray

I visited Catalina State Park as soon as it opened on August 2, 2020, to see the extent of the damage. I started on the part of the Canyon Loop Trail that leads toward the Sutherland Trail, and some areas were completely burned.



The firefighters had done an amazing job to keep the fire from the ridge to the west of the trail where there

is a beautiful stand of Saguaros. I continued up the trail and saw some hopeful signs - there was new growth coming up next to what looked like badly burned mesquites and Cat-Claw Acacias.



Farther up the hill some of the steep slopes looked like debris flows waiting to happen if there is a good monsoon rain.



Since it has been a month since the fire burned this side of the mountain, there was a surprising amount of new growth coming up from trees, shrubs, and plants - some of which may flower with a little rain. In another area (which had been grassy with scattered mesquites) looked very burned. However, some of the mesquites burned at their bases had partially green crowns. These desert plants are so resilient.

On Tuesday, I went back and hiked the Bird Trail. The trail at the beginning looked like a set for a dystopian movie.



I was very worried about the Big Salt Cedar Tree that is at the start of the loop. Once again the fire fighters did a wonderful job of saving that big tree. There were burned trees on both side of it – but it was alive and well, as was the beautiful big Saguaro seen from the top of the Bird Trail.



As I looked down from the top of the trail, there was even more green than I expected to see, and it gave me hope that much will recover by spring. A friend took a phot of some other strange life on the trails.



News You Can Use		
AZ Trail in a Day	10/10 Sat.	
AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: MountainView Lot	10/21 Wed.	7:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Future Trips		
Destination	Dates	Contact Person
SBHC Trip to Flagstaff	October 12-16, 2020	Don Taylor donald_r_taylor@yahoo.com
The Colonial Cities Tour	October 17, 2020	Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com
Chiricahua Mountain Hiking/Camping/Lodging	October 21-23, 2020	Aaron Schoenberg askus3@centurylink.net

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

REMINDER: Pandemic precautions are in effect as outlined in the article elsewhere in this newsletter. Each guide will explain the safety measures that each hiker will be expected to follow on that particular hike.

Tuesday, September 01, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Upper Javelina and Wild Mustang Trails to Lookout. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [462, 06:00 AM, \$4]. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton Hotel parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, up the Upper Javelina Trail, and connect with the Wild Mustang Trail. The hike continues to a rocky ridge with views of Dove Mountain development, Tucson and Marana. At that point we will stop for lunch/snacks and return to the trailhead. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 795 feet; accumulated gain 950 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Thursday, September 03, 2020 Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [499, 07:00 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: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Friday, September 04, 2020 Double Crested/Dome Trail. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [6:00 AM, \$0].** This hike is on a newly constructed trail to Big Dome Rock that passes a rare double crested saguaro. Many SaddleBrooke residents have a view from their homes of "Dome Rock" - the large dome formation to the east that is bald in the middle with patchy vegetation on both sides, and located about a third of the way up to Charouveau Gap. The hike departs from the south end of S Arroyo Way in Unit 21. We cross Canada del Oro Wash, and then follow the newly developed route east through a small wash, and along several ridgelines to our destination. We will pass through interesting granite formations, with many saguaros and ocotillo forests. One of the highlights along the way is "Double Beauty", a rare double crested saguaro registered with the Crested Saguaro Society. On top of the dome there are great 360 degree views of Saddlebrooke and Catalina. The special condition is that there are several sections that are steeper than an average park constructed trail. We will return by the same route. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Saturday, September 05, 2020 Josephine Saddle. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [234, 06:30 AM, \$13]. The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Hikers will rest at the Saddle and return via the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse, going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1650 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor; donald_r_taylor@yahoo.com.]

Thursday, September 10, 2020 Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace: Slow to Moderate [136, 06:30 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, 520-351 -2058, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Friday, September 11, 2020 Picnic Rock/Double Crested/Dome Loop. Rating: C* Pace: Moderate [6:00 AM, \$0].** This hike uses the newly constructed Picnic Rock Beeline Trail. It departs from the south end of Arroyo Way in Unit 21. After crossing the Canada del Oro Wash, it shares the first 0.5 mile with the Double Crested/Dome Trail across a gentle mesa with prairie grass and mesquite trees. It then climbs up a ridgeline, crossing Charouveau 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. Returning on the same route (Picnic Rock Beeline Trail) produces a 4.0-mile hike, with a 600 ft elevation gain. However, we will extend the hike approximately 0.5 miles by returning for a short distance on Charouveau Gap Road, and then the Double Crested/Dome Trail. Along the entire way are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Samaniego Ridge. The special condition is that there are several sections that are steeper than on an average park constructed trail. Hike 4.5 miles; trailhead

elevation 3200 feet; elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Saturday, September 12, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina and Upper Javelina. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [459, 07:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Ritz Carlton Hotel hiker parking lot. The group will hike up Wild Burro Canyon a short distance to Lower Javelina Trail which we follow for 2 miles, then cross Wild Burro Canyon again to connect to Upper Javelina Trail. We will proceed along the Upper Javelina Trail for 3 miles; the end of Upper Javelina Trail is close to the new golf course. The group will then hike an easy 1 mile path back to the parking lot. Hike 6.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 550 feet; accumulated elevation 910 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor; donald_r_taylor@yahoo.com.]

Monday, September 14, 2020 Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy and Super Trails. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [294, 6:00 AM, \$10]. The hike begins in Madera canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle where we take the Super Trail to Mt. Wrightson. This provides a more gradual ascent to Baldy Saddle, but the last 0.9 mile to the summit is steep and rocky with moderate exposure. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. The return is via the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle and the Super Trail to the trailhead. There is abundant shade along the way. Hike 13.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain >4100 feet. RTD 130 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, September 14, 2020 Middle Gate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [New, 06:30 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. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Saturday, September 19, 2020 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [480, 06:30 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: Don Taylor; donald_r_taylor@yahoo.com.]

Monday, September 21, 2020 Picnic Rock Loop via Dodge Tank Gorge. Rating: C* Pace: Moderate [6:00 AM, \$0].** This will be the inaugural run of this loop using 3 newly constructed trails: Picnic Rock Bee Line, Secret Canyon, and 4178 Expressway. The hike departs from the south end of Arroyo Way. After crossing the Canada del Oro Wash, it proceeds through a mesa with prairie grass and mesquite trees, and then up a ridgeline where it crosses Charouleau Gap Road to a prominent overlook above Dodge Tank gorge. It then descends an extremely steep slope to the bottom of the gorge.

Following the wash for the next mile requires significant boulder hopping, and lowering oneself down 3-4 foot drops. At the mouth of Dodge Tank the route follows the 4178 Expressway back to the start. This adventure explores the Dodge Tank gorge in detail, an area in our backyard, but that is not well known to the club. The special condition is the very steep descent down into the gorge which requires poles, or a padded butt, and the extreme boulder hopping in the wash with several 3-4 foot drop downs. It is only recommended for those with good balance, strong legs, and an enthusiastic mindset. Hike 5.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: S. Wild Burro Canyon / Alamo Springs Trail / Spur Trail Loop. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [461, 06:30 AM, \$4].** ***Special Condition is a steep climb up Alamo Springs Trail in the first mile of over 600 feet. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. The hike proceeds up Wild Burro Canyon to the Alamo Springs Trail, which is followed in a counterclockwise direction. The Ritz Carlton Hotel and new golf course are visible from many points along the trail. After about 3.5 miles, we reach the final "pass," then descend to the Spur Trail, which we follow into Wild Burro Canyon. Soon after reaching the canyon floor, there is an old stone house, and cistern on the right 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 to the trailhead. Hike 5.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1029 feet; accumulated gain 1417 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Thursday, September 24, 2020 Ironwood Picnic Area. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [231, 07:00 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, 520-351-2058, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Saturday, September 26, 2020 Huachuca Peak. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [225, 05:00 AM, \$21]. The hike involves quite a steep, brushy climb but the view from the top is tremendous. Huachuca Peak is among several ridges, with deep canyons on two sides and a view of the other major peaks in the Huachuca Range. We will approach Huachuca Peak from the west on trails that offer sweeping panoramas. If time and inclination permits, we will also climb two other peaks, Lyle & Peterson Peaks in the Huachucas. Plan on a full day and bring a headlamp just in case darkness comes upon us sooner than we'd like. Maximum quota of participants: 6. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 6000 feet; net elevation change 2445 feet; accumulated gain 3800 feet; RTD 214 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

Monday, September 28, 2020 Canyon Loop and Birding Trail. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [135, 07:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. From the main trailhead in Catalina State Park, hikers will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; follow the Canyon Loop Trail, and then come back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. Following this portion of the hike, we will hike the Birding Trail. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 433 feet; accumulated gain 499 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 Wasson Peak at Sunset and Moonrise. Rating: B*. Pace: Moderate [476, 3:00 PM, \$6].** The hike takes place on the evening of the full moon, arriving at the summit in time

to observe sunset , and to watch the city lights turn on in Tucson. Bring a gourmet dinner, and candles. The special condition of this hike is that the return down will be by the light of the moon, and supplemented by red beam headlamps if necessary. We will use the Sendero Esperanza Trail which is well maintained, smooth, and relatively clear of loose rocks. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 1807 feet; accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 Fifty-Year Trail Area. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [183, 07:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Golder Ranch parking. The trail starts by crossing the Fifty-Year Trail and follows social trails toward the Sutherland Wash with several interesting sites along the way. The trail then loops back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. It then moves across the Lower Corral Rd to head on a diagonal toward the MiddleGate and returns via a loop. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 334 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. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Friday, October 02, 2020 Josephine Saddle. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [234, 08:00 AM, \$13]. The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Hikers will rest at the Saddle and return via the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse, going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1650 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Saturday, October 03, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Upper Javelina and Wild Mustang Trails to Lookout. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [462, 07:00 AM, \$4]. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton Hotel parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, up the Upper Javelina Trail, and connect with the Wild Mustang Trail. The hike continues to a rocky ridge with views of Dove Mountain development, Tucson and Marana. At that point we will stop for lunch/snacks and return to the trailhead. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 795 feet; accumulated gain 950 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor; donald_r_taylor@yahoo.com.]

Sunday, October 04, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang Trail to Jeb Peak. Rating: B/C. Pace: Moderate [138, 07:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Wild Burro TH, and proceeds up the Hotel Spur to the Wild Mustang Trail. We then turn on an unmaintained, but well marked spur, and continue the climb to Jeb Peak, the 3rd highest point in the Tortolita range. There are excellent 360 degree views of Tucson, Catalina, and Marana. While the final 100 foot climb to the summit involves an easy rock scramble, good views are also available from a lower knoll. This hike is also appropriate for any strong C level hikers. Return is via the same route. Hike 7.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1390 feet; accumulated gain 1722 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Tuesday, October 06, 2020 Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [253, 07:00 AM, \$13]. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. It starts from the Procter parking area and ascends 3.5 miles up the canyon to the Roundup Picnic Area (el. 5400 feet). Along the way, hikers enjoy the shade of Apache pines, Douglas firs, Emory oaks, Mexican blue oaks, willows, cottonwoods, and

sycamores. The return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 956 feet; accumulated gain 1004 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Tuesday, October 06, 2020 Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [295, 06:00 AM, \$13]. The hike begins in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows the Old Baldy Trail to Mt. Wrightson. The return is via the same route. This trail provides the shortest route to the top (el. 9453 feet) of Mt. Wrightson. The last 0.9 miles to the summit is steep and rocky with moderate exposure. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. There is shade along much of the way. Hike 11.1 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain 4029 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Thursday, October 08, 2020 Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [253, 08:00 AM, \$13]. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. It starts from the Procter parking area and ascends 3.5 miles up the canyon to the Roundup Picnic Area (el. 5400 feet). Along the way, hikers enjoy the shade of Apache pines, Douglas firs, Emory oaks, Mexican blue oaks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. The return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 956 feet; accumulated gain 1004 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Thursday, October 08, 2020 Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace: Slow [136, 07:30 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, 520-351 -2058, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Friday, October 09, 2020 Wasson Peak via King Canyon Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [479, 07:00 AM, \$8]. 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. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 1807 feet; accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor; donald_r_taylor@yahoo.com.]

Saturday, October 10, 2020 Arizona Trail: Oracle (Passage 13). Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [56, 06:30 AM, \$4]. From the American Flag Trailhead the route proceeds in a northerly direction across National Forest Land and State Trust Land, crossing Webb Road and continuing to Oracle State Park. About halfway through the park it reaches Kannally Wash and windmill. A freshly constructed singletrack contours to the west and northwest until reaching a culvert under Highway 77. It passes through the culvert and continues on Old Tiger Road for the last 1.5 miles to the Tiger Mine Trailhead. This will be a key exchange hike. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevations 4416 feet south and 4066 feet north; net elevation change 435 feet; accumulated gains 950 feet northward and 1254 feet southward; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler, e-mail: hikerelisabeth@gmail.com]

Saturday, October 10, 2020 [C] AZT in a Day. New Rating C. Pace: Moderate [7:30 AM, \$4] Hikers will hike from American Flag Trailhead round trip to Webb Road. This section features rolling hills, interesting rock formations and views to the Galiuros. Limit 8 hikers, following CDC guidelines for masks and physical distancing. Hikers will drive in their own cars from SaddleBrooke at 7:30 a.m. to the American Flag Trailhead in Oracle. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation, accumulated gain. ; RTD miles. [Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler, hikerelisabeth@gmail.com].

Friday, October 16, 2020 Sweetwater Preserve. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [432, 08:30 AM, \$5]. This is a dog-friendly hike, so as long as you are in control of your dog, your canine partner is welcome to attend. However, it is not required to bring a dog to participate. 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 preserve made in 2008 by a crew of Pima County trail builders. We shall hike a pleasant and easily traversed loop here. Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2530 feet; net elevation change 160 feet; accumulated gain 250 feet; RTD 50 miles; participant quota: 6. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

Sunday, October 18, 2020 🐾 Tortolita Mountains: S. Wild Burro Canyon / Alamo Springs Trail / Spur Trail Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [461, 7:00 AM, \$4]. This is a dog friendly hike. All members are welcome with or without a dog. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. The hike proceeds up Wild Burro Canyon to the Alamo Springs Trail, which is followed in a counterclockwise direction. The Ritz Carlton Hotel and new golf course are visible from many points along the trail. After about 3.5 miles, we reach the final "pass," then descend to the Spur Trail, which we follow into Wild Burro Canyon. Soon after reaching the canyon floor, there is an old stone house, and cistern on the right 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 to the trailhead. Hike 5.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2810 feet; net elevation change 1029 feet; accumulated gain 1166 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 Middle Gate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [New, 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. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 Josephine Saddle and Rogers Rock. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [237, 06:30 AM, \$13]. The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. We then go down the Super Trail for about a mile and take a turnoff for Rogers Rock and travel about 0.25 miles to the rock. The top provides a wonderful view and is an excellent place to eat lunch. The return is down the Super Trail to the parking lot. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike, 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1839 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 Chiricahua Mountain Hiking Trip. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [New, 06:00 AM, \$28]. We will be camping and/or lodging two nights either at Sycamore NF CG or the Arizona Sunset Inn in Willcox. Note: If lodging, you will have a 1:15 (52 mile) trip each way from the motel to the CG (hike meeting location). This trip involves driving out and setting up camp on Wednesday 10/21 and then traversing the Rock Creek Canyon: class B, elev. gain: 1700 feet. Hike 9.7 miles. Thursday 10/22 we will traverse a loop hike out of the CG over Chiricahua Peak from the west: class A, elev. gain: 3900 feet. Hike 13.2 miles. Friday 10/23 after breaking camp we will traverse a loop hike out of the CG including Johnson & Monte Vista Peaks: class A, elev. gain: 3400 feet. Hike 10.6 miles. Deadline for registration: Saturday, Oct. 10. RTD 280 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg, askus3@centurylink.net.]

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 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]

Thursday, October 22, 2020 Garwood Dam/Wildhorse Tank Loop SNP east. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 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 will have lunch at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch which is across the street from our parking area (if open). 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]

Friday, October 23, 2020 Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [124, 7:30 AM, \$7]. The Brown Mountain Trail is along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts at a trailhead on McCain Loop Road, just south of Kinney Road east of the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. Along this "ridge ramble" are excellent views of the mountains, valleys, and desert vegetation. The route has many up and downs. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 (trailheads at either end are 2640 and 2880) feet; net elevation change 424 feet; accumulated gain 943 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 520-351 - 2058, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Sunday, October 25, 2020 OSP American Avenue. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [306, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$2]. Oracle State Park contains native Sonoran cacti, desert grassland, oak trees, and Manzanita stands, and contains several miles of well-maintained trails. The hike begins at the trailhead off American Ave. on the western edge of the park and proceeds along the relatively smooth Mariposa Trail toward the Oak Woodland picnic area. About 0.25 miles before reaching the picnic area, the group will take the 0.8-mile Bellota Loop Trail which nearly reaches the Group Use Area adjacent the historic Kannally Ranch House before connecting back to the Mariposa Trail for the return. Along the way are excellent views of the Galiuro Mountains and San Pedro Valley to the north and the Santa Catalina Mountains to the south. Hike

3.2 miles; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, slhollis@yahoo.com]

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 Josephine Saddle. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [234, 07:30 AM, \$13]. The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Hikers will rest at the Saddle and return via the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse, going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1650 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, rparktucson@gmail.com.]

Thursday, October 29, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang Lookout at sunset and moonrise. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [462, 3:00 PM, \$4].** The hike takes place on the evening of the full moon, leaving at dusk and arriving at the destination in time to observe sunset, and to watch the lights turn on in Oro Valley, Marana, and Tucson. The special condition is that the return will be by the light of the moon, supplemented with red headlamps if necessary. From the Wild Burro Trailhead we proceed through the wash to the Upper Javelina Trail and then connect to the Wild Mustang Trail. We will continue to the lookout where we will have a candlelight dinner. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 795 feet; accumulated gain 950 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Saturday, October 31, 2020 Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail. Rating: B*. Pace: Moderate [331, 07:30 AM, \$9 + \$2].** From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the lower route to Picacho Peak. *** Special conditions: The climb to the top involves the use of cables to get to the top, which provides 360-degree views of the area. This is a short, strenuous climb, but less so than from the Hunter Trailhead at Barret Loop. Bring leather or rubber tipped gloves and ample water. There are several areas of climbing where the trail is slippery due to loose rock and where the trail is exposed to sharp drop-offs. Park entrance fee required. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 1494 feet; accumulated gain > 1500 feet; RTD 90 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor; donald_r_taylor@yahoo.com.]