



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2011-1

2011 Annual Dues Reminder

This is the start of a new year, and it's time to submit your Annual Dues for 2011. The amount is only \$5.00 per member. If you are a new member and paid your dues anytime in October, you are good until 2012. Please make out your check to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club, complete the form attached at the end of the newsletter. Please **mail** to Bob Perez, 65187 E. Desert Sand Court, Tucson, AZ 85739, **do not hand deliver**.

Post Mortem on Maps and GPS Fundamentals Seminar

Roy Carter

The club sponsored a two-day seminar called **Maps and GPS Fundamentals** on the mornings of November 11 and 12. Twenty six club members participated in the event, culminated by a one week Geocache Competition that involved finding four predetermined locations armed with only their GPS and a sheet of paper containing the coordinates and elevations of the locations. We are extremely happy to report that fourteen seminar members found all four locations. The winners of the competition, determined by a lottery drawing of the fourteen successful cache finders, were Geary Rise and Bob Kolenda (who worked as a team since they had only one, borrowed, GPS). They split the \$25 prize money. Look for a more substantive report in the SaddleBrooke Progress.



A follow-up, condensed (one day) version of the seminar for people who couldn't make the November date is being planned. However, it will take place at my house, so opportunities are limited. If we get a sufficient number of interested people, we could move to a SB conference room. Although the date has not been set (it will be scheduled to accommodate the people who have already expressed an interest), drop me an email if you would like to be included.

Hiking News

Roy Carter and Frank Brier

Elsewhere in this newsletter, an update on the planning for new May's Grand Canyon National Park outing is presented by Susan Hollis, the lead guide on this project. Please read her informative article and request the materials she has prepared. We want to emphasize that if you plan to participate in this activity, you need to make lodging reservations NOW. Lodging, both motels and campsites, are at a premium during the last week in May, so don't be left out.

Several trails have been cleared recently and are ok to hike: Pima Canyon to the Spring, Ventana Canyon to Window Rock, Nugget Canyon, Charouleau Gap to Mules Ears, and Hidden Canyon/Peak from the trailhead off Golder Ranch Road. All of these trails were difficult to hike in recent months because of vegetative growth.

For the upcoming two-month period, a plentiful slate of hikes is being offered, including 4 A's, 16 B's, 23 C's, and 11 D's. One of these (a two-day outing on Canelo Hills East and West) is on the Arizona Trail, but Larry assures me that additional hikes may be offered, depending on the weather and his busy schedule.

Please welcome two new hike guides to our ranks: Geary Rise and Bob Kolenda.

Geocache Adventure

January 6, 2011

Walt Shields

Bill Leichtenheimer and Walt Shields will be offering a new experience for club members to introduce them to the world of geocaching. Think of geocaching as a high tech treasure hunt using handheld GPS units to locate hidden containers (caches) that people have placed in interesting and sometimes remote locations. Map coordinates are published to identify the locations of the caches. The GPS devices will get you to the general location and then the real fun begins because the caches are often concealed by rocks, brush, etc. Once found, there is generally a sign-in sheet and numerous objects within the cache containers. If an object is removed, the etiquette is to leave something of equal or greater value. There are a number of geocache locations within 20 miles of SaddleBrooke and we will attempt to find 5 or 6 of them.

This Adventure will not be a hike as much as a process of discovery that is mostly off of established trails and may involve some bushwhacking over uneven terrain. The group will be limited to 5 club members for this first outing. For more information about this growing new outdoor sport, visit the website: www.geocaching.com.

Orientation to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club

Wednesday, January 19, at 3 p.m.

West Ballroom, MountainView Club House
Social Hour at 4:00 p.m. in the MV Lounge



If you are new to hiking in Arizona you may want to learn about area trails, guided hikes, and recommendations for hiking in this climate and terrain. Lead guides Frank Brier and Roy Carter, assisted by fellow guides Jan Wilson and Walt Shields, will share informative materials and helpful hiking tips based on their experiences. You will have

an opportunity to meet additional guides and members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club, learn about early morning conditioning walks within Saddlebrooke, and hikes selected especially for novice hikers and those new to Arizona. For further information, call Frank (818- 0493) or Roy (818-3137). We hope to see you and your newcomer friends at this program.

Special Hike in the Dragoon Mountains

Dick Krueger

Jessica Lambertson, a wildlife biologist with the Sky Island Alliance, will lead us on a hike into Jordan Canyon in the NW corner of the Dragoon Mountains. The Dragoons are a visually striking and historically significant mountain range east of Tucson. On the way into Jordan Canyon, we will stop at the ruins of a Butterfield Stagecoach station from the late 1850's. While hiking in the canyon, Jessica will give us a brief lesson on animal tracking. We'll also stop at remote cameras placed by the Sky Island Alliance for wildlife photography and will be the first to view recent photos taken by the cameras. Then we'll climb out of the canyon to an overlook with great views, where we will have lunch. Hikers should be prepared for some off-trail bushwhacking and a steep climb to the lunch spot.



Sky Island Alliance is a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the rich natural heritage of native species and habitats in the Sky Island region of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. Sky Island Alliance works with volunteers, scientists, land owners, public officials, and government agencies to establish protected areas, restore healthy landscapes, and promote public appreciation of the region's unique biological diversity <http://www.skyislandalliance.org>

Backpacking the Most Scenic Trail in America
with Larry Simkins and Ellen Shopes
3 p.m., Wednesday, February 16
Mountain View Clubhouse, West Ballroom



Called 'the most scenic trail in America', the John Muir Trail traverses along the crest of the Sierras in California for over 200 miles. The trail spans Yosemite National Park, Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park, and Forest Service wilderness units, including Mount Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous United States. As older folks who had experienced many hiking adventures, Larry Simkins and Ellen Shopes decided to push their limits. They have backpacked the John Muir Trail three times and have completed 1200 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Larry Simkins (age 71) retired from the Grand Canyon National Park after 20 years. He enjoys photographing natural wonders. He completed intensive training in photography at the Rocky Mountain School of Photography. Ellen Shopes (age 57) is a nurse anesthetist who loves to plot and plan their adventures. Together, they have spent hours researching the trail, the equipment they use, the food they eat, the packs they carry, and any other miniscule detail of their trip.

Share the adventure of the John Muir trail with them, along with the preparations needed to get ready to tackle the miles, the elevation, the weather, and the effort.

May 2011 Grand Canyon Hiking Trip
by
Susan Hollis

The Hiking Club's May trip to the Grand Canyon is a little different this year. We will feature several interesting hikes on the south rim that the club has not explored before and hikes of different levels of difficulty so more hikers can be included in the experience of hiking the Grand Canyon. The current plan is to drive up to the Grand Canyon on Monday, May 23rd, hike four days and return to Saddlebrooke

on Saturday, May 28th. Club members will need to make their own arrangements for transportation to the Grand Canyon, food and lodging. Each day, there will be 3 or 4 different hikes offered. However it is not necessary to stay all four days or to participate in each day's hike if members want to do some site seeing on their own.



The hikes currently scheduled are Hermit's Rest to Dripping Springs (B/C), Hermits Trail/Boucher Trail to Yuma Point (A), Rim Trail West (C/D), South Kaibab Trail to Ooh Point (D), South Kaibab Trail to Cedar Ridge and Skeleton Point (C/B), Bright Angel Trail to 1.5 mile Rest House (C), Bright Angel Trail to Indian Gardens and Plateau Point (B/A), Rim Trail East (C/D), Grandview Trail to Horseshoe Mesa (B) and Shoshone Point (D). Also scheduled are 2 hikes on the Arizona Trail (Passage 37) that pass through the National Park and the Kaibab National Forest in ponderosa pine forest (C and A level hikes). A special one day Rim-to-Rim hike (A!), which is Passage 38 of the AZT, is being included for those interested in a challenge. Hiking guides helping to make this trip possible are Roy Carter, Elisabeth Wheeler, Don Taylor, Frank and Virginia Brier, Larry Linderman and Susan Hollis.

Information packets on logistics (RV, tent camping, motels, transportation, etc.) and detailed descriptions of the hikes are available. Please contact Susan Hollis (slhollis@yahoo.com or 825-6819) to request both documents. You should make lodging reservations as soon as possible since the demand for housing in and near the south rim during late May is very high. There are usually no penalties for GCNP lodge/cabin cancellations at least 72 hours before the day of arrival, so, as the time draws near, we will see if any rooms can be released a few weeks before the trip.

Those interested in the one day, rim-to-rim hike should be aware that reservations have been made for the night before that hike on the north rim, providing space for up to 12 people. The spaces are available on

a first-come first-serve basis (email Larry Linderman, llinderman@q.com).

News You Can Use		
Social Hour	Jan. 19th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Feb. 2nd	2:45 p.m.
Guide Meeting	Feb. 2nd	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour	Feb. 16th	4:00 p.m.

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at the SaddleBrooke and DesertView Fitness Centers. You may print copies from our web page at www.saddlebrooke.org.

General Hiking Information

Reservations: Call the guide to make a reservation for a hike. Let the guide know if you would be available to drive and whether or not you have a 'park entry pass' for the area. If you are unable to go on the hike after making a reservation, call the guide to cancel. The guide will call if a hike is canceled.

Arrival Time and Departure Area: The time listed for the hike is the departure time. It is important to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time. All hikes leave from the left front parking lot of the MountainView Clubhouse (just east of the tennis courts) unless otherwise noted.

Medical Conditions: Prior to starting the hike, inform the guide of any special medical conditions or medications you may need.

Voluntary Driver Donations: Voluntary driver donations are shown in the table of Hikes Offered. If there are two entries under driver donation, for example \$7 + \$2, the first is for the driver and the second for any required entry and/or parking fee. If a state park pass is used for entry, the second amount should be given to the pass holder (whether he/she is the driver or not). Other persons in the vehicle who also hold park passes would not be responsible for the second amount. Note, that some hikes may require additional fees. Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated. Since a

driver may not have change, we would ask that, if you see two entries for the driver donation, you try to have the amounts for each. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView.

Items to Bring: Every hiker should carry identification and any medical alerts in a waterproof container. Always bring ample water (this can vary from a pint on a winter fitness walk to 3 or 4 quarts on a summer hike). On strenuous hikes or in very hot weather you may need to replace electrolytes (eat salty snacks, add electrolyte mix to water, or use sport drinks). A wide brim hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hiking stick or trekking poles are recommended in Arizona. Other suggested items include comfortable hiking boots, whistle, map, compass, tweezers, first-aid kit, and moleskin. Layered clothing works well due to possible changes in weather conditions. In addition, you should bring a snack or lunch depending upon the hike. High complex carbohydrates (nuts, trail mix, and etc.) are good.

Choosing Hikes: Hikes are more difficult than walks in SaddleBrooke due to elevation change and our Arizona terrain. It is not unusual to encounter rocks, unsteady ground, and steep inclines. It is your responsibility to choose an appropriate hike that matches your physical abilities. The hike description is a great tool. Look closely at the length, elevation change, and comments in the description to determine if a hike is within your physical ability. If you aren't feeling "up to snuff" on the day of the hike, don't hesitate to cancel until a better day

Assumption of Risk: When you joined the club, you were asked to sign a "Release of Liability". **We want to reinforce the fact that by signing the release you acknowledge that participation in the club's activities involves an inherent risk of physical injury and that you assume all such risks. Accidents can happen.** Learn about the risks and how to avoid them. Take an active part in protecting yourself and fellow hikers. We are an organization of volunteers who share their skills and love for the wilderness with one another.

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Work Days	Jim Strickler, 825-8735; sherabjim@wbhsi.net

Hike Elevation, Ratings & Pace

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

- **Net Elevation Change** is the change in elevation obtained by subtracting the starting elevation from the elevation of the destination, 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.
- **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 generally 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

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.

Pace: Pace is described in terms of average speed in miles per hour (MPH) over the course of a hike from start to finish (excluding lunch). Average speed is affected by speed and length of stride, number of rest stops, incline, type of terrain, and trail conditions. The following four categories are used to describe pace in the hike descriptions:

<u>Hike Rating</u>	<u>Distance (Mi.)</u>	<u>Accumulated Gain in Elevation (Ft.)</u>
A	>14	>3000
B	8 to 14	1500 to 3000
C	4 to 8	500 to 1500
D	<4	< 500

<u>Pace</u>	<u>Average Speed (MPH)</u>
Leisurely	<1.5
Slow	1.5 to 2.0
Moderate	2.0 to 2.5
Fast	>2.5

Fitness Walks Five Days A Week

Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. Enjoy the company of other hikers while perusing SaddleBrooke. The sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. No advanced signup is required to participate in these walks. Below is a chart for the start times for all the walking groups led by Bill Leightenheimer, Martha Hackworth & Judy Barenkopf.-

Date	Start Time
March 1st	6:30 a.m.
May 1st	6:00 a.m.
September 1st	6:30 a.m.
November 1st	7:00 a.m.

Hikes Offered

The hikes for the next two months are listed in the table on the following pages. Any symbols are explained immediately below the table, and trail descriptions follow the table.

Please remember to call a few days ahead of time to ensure the guide has time to plan hike logistics.

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike^a	Hike Rating^b	Pace^c	Leave Time (a.m)	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
1/3	Mon	Oracle Ridge	C		8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
1/4	Tues	Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang/Wild Burro Canyon Loop	B		8:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
1/4	Tues	Tortolita Mountains: S. Wild Burro Canyon/ Alamo Springs Loop	C		8:00	Geary Rise	818-2913	\$4
1/5	Wed	Pima Canyon to 2 nd Dam	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$3
1/5	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast	7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	0

To avoid future confusion, the club is posting this chart every two months in our newsletter to remind members who participate in the morning walks what the start time will be for that time of the year.

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. If you have any questions please contact Martha at: 818-2573, or Bill at: 825-5756.

Judy's Tuesday walking group will start the Fitness Walk at the Mountain View Parking lot. On Thursday the walk begins at the SaddleBrooke Tennis parking lot. We walk for an hour and complete about 3 or 4 miles according to where we walk. Most of our walks are touring SaddleBrooke and the few times we leave the premises it is discussed amongst the walkers. We leave exactly at the time designated and wait for no one. For more information call Judy at 825-7077 or email at: mbarenkopf@msn.com.

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike^a	Hike Rating^b	Pace^c	Leave Time (a.m)	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
1/6	Thurs	**Geocache Adventure	C!	Slow	8:00	Bill Leightenheimer & Walt Shields	825-5756	\$2
1/7	Fri	Romero Falls	A		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2+2
1/8	Sat	**CDO/Big Wash Walk	D		8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
1/10	Mon	Brown Canyon Nature Tour	C	Slow	7:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$15+\$4
1/12	Wed	Deer Camp/Samaniego Roost Loop	C	Slow	8:00	Michael Reale & Walt Shields	825-8286	\$2
1/14	Fri	**Goldfields: Quartz Crystal - Exploratory	B!		6:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$12
1/15	Sat	Tanque Verde Ridge Trail	B		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$6
1/16	Sun	Bridal Wreath Falls	C		8:30	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$6
1/17	Mon	Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground	B		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$6
1/18	Tues	**Safford Peak – Exploratory	C!		8:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
1/18	Tues	Rams Creek Basin	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
1/19	Wed	SBHC Program - Orientation to SBHC, West Ballroom, MountainView Club House			3:00 p.m.			
1/19	Wed	Social Hour – Palo Verde Lounge, MV Club House			4:00 p.m.			
1/20	Thurs	Pima Canyon to 1st Dam	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$3
1/20	Thurs	**Charouleau Gap Rd. to a Former Dam	C		8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$1
1/21	Fri	Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon	A		7:00	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$4
1/21	Fri	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		8:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$2
1/24	Mon	Linda Vista Loop	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
1/24	Mon	**Jordan Canyon, Dragoon Mts. led by a Sky Island Alliance wildlife biologist	C		7:00	Dick Krueger	818-2671	\$18
1/25	Tues	Pontatoc Ridge	C!		8:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$4
1/26	Wed	Soldier Trail	B	Slow	8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$6
1/27	Thurs	Seven Falls	B		8:30	Larry DuKatz & Virginia Brier	825-7097	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike^a	Hike Rating^b	Pace^c	Leave Time (a.m)	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
1/28	Fri	**Wood Canyon Upper Rim Exploratory	B!		6:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$12
1/28	Fri	Canyon Loop, & Birding Trail	D		8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2 + 2
1/29	Sat	Alamo Canyon	D	Slow	8:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$2+\$2
1/30	Sun	Peppersauce Canyon (short version)	D		12:30 p.m.	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$5
1/30	Sun	Esperero Trail	B		8:30	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$4
2/1	Tues	Finger Rock to Spring	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
2/1	Tues	Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail	B		8:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$5
2/2	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast	7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	0
2/2	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			2:45 p.m.			
2/2	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			4:00 p.m.			
2/3	Thurs	Deer Camp – historical narrative included	C		8:00	Bob Simpson	818-2610	\$2
2/4	Fri	Wasson Peak via Hugh Norris Trail	B		7:30	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$6
2/4	Fri	**Goldfields: 11 Miles Double Loop – Exploratory	B!		6:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$12
2/7	Mon	Charouleau Gap to Hidden Canyon	B		9:00	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	0
2/8	Tues	Honey Bee Canyon North	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
2/8	Tues	Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang/Wild Burro Canyon Loop	B		8:00	Geary Rise	818-2913	\$4
2/9	Thurs	Panther Peak	C!		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$5
2/10	Thurs	Phone Line Trail	B		7:00	Larry Dukatz	825-7097	\$4
2/11	Fri	Fifty-year Trail-South End	D		8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
2/11	Fri	Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail	B		8:00	Margaret Valair	977-3992 Call after Feb. 1	\$5
2/14	Mon	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs –historical narrative included	C		8:00	Bob Simpson	818-2610	\$2
2/15	Tues	Blackett's Ridge	B		8:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$4
2/15	Tues	Bluff Loop Trail- Sabino Canyon	D		8:15	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike ^a	Hike Rating ^b	Pace ^c	Leave Time (a.m)	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
2/16	Wed	SBHC Program- Adventure on the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail - MountainView W. Ballroom			3:00 p.m.			
2/16	Wed	SBHC Social Hour MV Club House			4:00 p.m.			
2/16	Wed	Arizona Trail: Work Session	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$5 pd by Club
2/17	Thurs	Window Rock	A		7:00	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$4
2/17	Thurs	Romero Pools	C		8:00	Kathy/Philip Cotton	825-2243	\$2+\$2
2/17 & 2/18	Thurs/Fri	AZ Trail: Canelo Hills, East and West	A	Fast	6:30	Larry Linderman	818-1977	TBD
2/18	Fri	**Goldfields: Gateway Canyon - Exploratory	B!		6:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$15
2/18	Fri	Sausalito Canyon to Honey Bee Canyon	D		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$3
2/18	Fri	Seven Falls (with Tram)	C		8.00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$4+Tram
2/22	Tues	Bug Springs #1	B		8:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$7
2/22	Tues	Superstitions: Peralta Trail	C		8:00	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$14
2/23	Wed	Rillito River Hike #2	D		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$3
2/23	Wed	Blackett's Ridge	B		8:00	Margaret Valair	977-3992 Call after Feb. 1	\$4
2/24	Thurs	Coffee & Cookies at Romero Pools ^d	C		8:30	Virginia Brier	818-0493	\$2+\$2+\$1
2/25	Fri	Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West	B!	Slow	8.00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$10+\$5
2/27	Sun	Superstitions: Lost Dutchman State Park (Sampler)	C		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$13
2/28	Mon	Phone Line Trail with Tram Down	C		8:30	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$4+tram

a– New hikes not yet included in the Hike Database are indicated with “**”.

b – Hike ratings are base on round trip distance and accumulated elevation gain, where available. Ratings flagged with a “!” indicate special trail conditions that might be of concern to some hikers. Please read the hike descriptions before deciding whether to sign up. Ratings flagged with a “☺” indicate an easier, smoother trail than normal at that rating.

c – Pace is moderate unless otherwise stated.

d - Virginia will bring the coffee and homemade cookies. Optional lunch at IN-N-Out Burger will follow the hike.

Hike Descriptions

Alamo Canyon. Rating D. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is gradual. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no water crossings. Hikers will stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 423 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West. Rating B!. Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful, pristine canyon, a favorite for all who have been there. Expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Wear shorts, socks, and shoes (that can get wet) with good traction (for wet rocks). Bring dry shoes/shorts/shirt for drive home if desired (and a plastic bag for wet items). Aravaipa Canyon is a wilderness area with no trails, signs, or facilities. Hiking stick is recommended. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt).

Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating C. This is one of the Hiking Club work days. Come join the fun - it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain and report conditions for the section of the Arizona Trail called, "Black Hills/South," for which our club is responsible. This 6-mile section starts on Tiger Mine Road, off Hwy # 77, just north of the Oracle State Park. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, and pruning, and for some, repairing cairns, adding erosion control devices and other trail work (depending on rains). Bring along gloves, hat, and hand clippers. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The session usually lasts about 4 hours, with a return to Saddlebrooke by 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring water and snacks. Hike 3 to 6 miles; RTD 50 miles (dirt). The club will pay drivers' expenses.

Arizona Trail: Canelo Hills West and Canelo Hills East. Rating A. The hike involves an early drive to Patagonia and a return home late the next day. On the first day, we drive to Canelo Pass and hike 16 miles from Canelo Pass to Patagonia. The accumulated gain is 1035 feet and the starting elevation is 5340 feet. The trail goes gradually downhill for the first 7 miles, is fairly level for 5 miles, and then slightly climbs before going downhill the last 5 miles. Hikers will stay the night in a Patagonia motel. On the second day, we will hike 14 miles from Parker Canyon Lake to Canelo Pass. The starting elevation is 5700 feet and the net elevation change is 840 feet; accumulated gain is 2350 feet. We will traverse these trails from east to west to better enjoy the diverse vistas of grass hills, oak savannas, mesquite groves and riparian canyons. Hike 30 miles over two days; trailhead elevations (see above); net elevation changes (see above); accumulated gains/losses (see above); RTD 230 miles (some dirt).

Blackett's Ridge. Rating B. 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 1689 feet; accumulated gain >1735 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Bluff Loop Trail Sabino Canyon. Rating D. From the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, the hike proceeds along the Bluff Trail overlooking Sabino Creek, and is a favorite during the fall due to color changes in the leaves of velvet ash, cottonwood, willow, and Arizona sycamore trees. Bring a camera and a minimum of one quart of water. Hike 3.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

Bridal Wreath Falls. Rating C. The Douglas Spring Trailhead is located at the east end of Speedway Blvd. The hike involves some relatively steep climbing up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles, before turning off on the 0.3 miles spur leading to the falls. The trail is well used and easy to follow. Bring sun protection. Water may be flowing over the falls if there has been sufficient rainfall. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1120 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 80 miles.

Brown Canyon Nature Tour - Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Rating C. This is a beautiful canyon with birding and wild animal spotting possibilities. The hike is in Brown Canyon off Hwy # 286 and will be led by staff of the U.S. Fish and Game Dept. An excellent place for lunch is at a natural bridge along the way. High clearance vehicles required. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 4100 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 152 miles, with 11 miles on dirt road.

Bug Spring Trail # 1. Rating B. From the Lower Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile up the Catalina Highway from Hirabayashi Campground), the hike proceeds southeast along a narrow ribbon of trail carved into the granite hillside. After an uphill set of switchbacks, the terrain mellows out with outstanding vistas and views of granite sculptures. The trail dives down the north side of the ridge into a heavily forested drainage. Upward to the highpoint of the trail, you can see a few big madrone trees and views of the Sierrita Mountains, Baboquivari and the mighty Rincons. The trail descends steeply to the Upper Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile south of General Hitchcock Campground), which is the turnaround point. Return is via the same trail. Hike 9.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change 1625 feet; accumulated gain 2520 feet; RTD 94 miles.

Canyon Loop and Birding Trail. Rating D. 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 3.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 270 feet; RTD 24 miles.

****CDO/Big Wash Walk. Rating D.** The hike will start at a parking area near the In and Out Burger Restaurant in Oro Valley Market Place. We access the path here, then cross over the Canada del Oro via the new footbridge and continue along the wash on a paved path that parallels the Big Wash & CDO. The trail goes behind several stores, and behind the old Steam Pump Ranch property. The group will turn around near Home Depot, and return via the same route. There are some lovely cliffs across the wash at one point. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change and accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 20 miles.

****Charouleau Gap Road to a Former Dam. Rating C.** The hike begins at the Charouleau Gap 4WD parking area off Lago del Oro Road near Saddlebrooke. The hike proceeds from Lago del Oro Road 1.4 miles to the CDO, up the wash to the site of a former dam (behind what is now the Preserve portion of Saddlebrooke) and returns. The walk up the wash involves some rocky terrain. The soil was such that it would never hold enough water to make a lake. The water simply drained out! Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 4-5 miles; trail head elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 1 mile.

Charouleau Gap Road to Hidden Canyon. Rating B. This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of Sutherland Wash with beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. It starts from the 4WD parking area off Lago del Oro Blvd, or from Unit 21. The hike proceeds up Charouleau Gap Road, a rocky jeep road, and continues right on FR # 4432. After reaching a pond (usually dry), we follow the trail to Hidden Canyon. The return uses the same route. Charouleau Gap Road has loose, slippery rocks in some areas. Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 11.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain 1975 feet; RTD 2 miles.

Deer Camp / Samaniego Roost Loop. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area and proceeds easterly, up and out of Sutherland Wash to Deer Camp, then turns southwest on a trail that connects to the Samaniego Ridge Trail. We take the left fork and enjoy a fantastic view at the second "pull out". We return via the Samaniego Trail down slick rock to a grove of ocotillo, past two chollas that are so big they look like trees, through a dry creek bed, to a grove of 100-year old saguaros. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation

change __ feet; accumulated gain 1288 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt)

Deer Camp. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike east up and out of Sutherland Wash, through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Samaniego Peak. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 825 feet; accumulated gain 980 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating B. Hikers drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the Douglas Spring Trailhead. The hike involves moderately some steep hiking on a well-used trail to the campground. Coming back we may take the spur out and back to Bridal Wreath Falls, and follow Douglas Spring Trail back to the trailhead. The trails are mostly open, so bring sun protection. Bring lunch. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 2684 feet; RTD 80 miles.

Esperero Trail. Rating B. 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 7.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1898 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C/B. The walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes in and around SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 to 10 miles; elevation change 500 to 600 feet. Hike duration is 2.5 to 3 hours. Optional breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted).

Fifty-Year Trail - South End. Rating D. The hike starts near the horse corral off Golder Ranch Road and proceeds south to a stream terrace that provides a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area and the Santa Catalina Mountains. There are also good views of Sun City and the Tortolitas. The return is via the same route. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 3200

feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 12 miles.

Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating D. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Taking the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads to Mt. Kimball, we will only go as far as Finger Rock Spring. The trail passes some beautiful rock formations and native desert plant life along the way. The trail is relatively level but there are some ups and downs along the way. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles.

****Geocache Adventure. Rating C!** The objective of the outing is to locate geocaches (i.e., containers placed in hidden but interesting locations) in the area surrounding SaddleBrooke using handheld GPS devices and previously determined map coordinates. Some bushwhacking over uneven terrain may be required and therefore it is recommended to wear jeans. The outing will be around 3 hours and distance will depend on the group's rate of success in finding the caches. This is a great opportunity to become more proficient in the use of your GPS. Each adventure will have a unique trailhead and involve unique trail conditions and RTD. DD to be determined at the end of the hike by the hike leader.

****Goldfields: Quartz Crystal-Golden Eye Mine/ Arches-Little Chance Canyon Exploratory. Rating B!** Across from the Superstitions is a little noticed range called the Goldfield Mountains, bordered by the Apache Trail Highway on the south and Saguaro Lake and the Salt River on the north. Once a mining district, these mountains are one of Arizona's least know scenic treasures which offer advanced hiking opportunities. Though close to civilization, this range is quite rugged and the backcountry remote and primitive. There are some trails, but only a few peripheral dirt roads in the high country. A few of the off trail routes are marked with cairns. This hike is virtually all off trail (dress accordingly). From near mile marker 204 on Apache Trail north of the town of Goldfield, we begin the Wishbone Loop, branching off on the Gold Eagle's Nugget Trail which leads to the Quartz Crystal Arroyo. We join Rough 'N Ready Canyon, branch off to connect to Willow Springs Basin, then proceed to Golden Eye Mine and Arches. From there we head to Willow Springs Canyon to return through Little Chance Canyon to the trailhead. Hike approx. 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2125 feet; net elevation

change 300 feet; accumulated gain 880 feet; RTD 170 miles.

****Goldfields: 11 mile Double Loop Exploratory.**

Rating B! Across from the Superstitions is a little noticed range called the Goldfield Mountains, bordered by the Apache Trail Highway on the south and Saguaro Lake and the Salt River on the north. Once a mining district, these mountains are one of Arizona's least know scenic treasures which offer advanced hiking opportunities. Though close to civilization, this range is quite rugged and the backcountry remote and primitive. There are some trails, but only a few peripheral dirt roads in the high country. A few of the off trail routes are marked with cairns. This hike is virtually all off trail (dress accordingly). The hike begins on Apache Trail north of the town of Goldfield at the Javalina Mine trailhead. We connect with Rough 'N Ready Canyon proceeding up the west side of the Rough Eye Javalina Loop 3.5 miles to the turnoff for Razorback Knob where we begin our second loop. After the Knob, we continue to Black Glass Canyon in our search for the Triple Arches. In this canyon rock hopping, scrambling, and circumventing boulders the size of houses and water (dry) falls is required. Obsidian and geodes are plentiful. We continue through Black Glass Canyon to Lower Willow Springs Canyon, connecting back to Rough 'N Ready Canyon. We then take the Quartz Crystal Arroyo connector to the Javalina Mine Trail to complete the Rough Eye Javalina Loop and return to the trailhead. Hike approx.11 miles; trailhead elevation 2,180 feet; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 1,350 feet; RTD 170 miles.

****Goldfields: Gateway Canyon, Golden Dome, Arches and Sky Island Exploratory. Rating B!**

Across from the Superstitions is a little noticed range called the Goldfield Mountains, bordered by the Apache Trail Highway on the south and Saguaro Lake and the Salt River on the north. Once a mining district, these mountains are one of Arizona's least know scenic treasures which offer advanced hiking opportunities. Though close to civilization, this range is quite rugged and the backcountry remote and primitive. There are some trails, but only a few peripheral dirt roads in the high country. A few of the off trail routes are marked with cairns. This hike is virtually all off trail (dress accordingly). We start at the Blue Point trailhead on Bush Highway and hike along the Salt River for 2 miles until we reach the mouth of Gateway Canyon. We climb 850 feet in 1.5 miles to the top of the Canyon. In another 1.5 miles we climb an additional 600 feet to Golden Dome for

360 degree views. From the Dome we return to the top of Gateway Canyon where we detour east to locate arches, including Sunrise Arch. Along the route down we will stop at Sky Island overlooking Saguaro Lake. We then descend to rejoin the route along the River leading back to the trailhead. Hike approx. 12 miles; trailhead elevation 1,430 feet; net elevation change 1,680 feet; accumulated gain 2,610 feet; RTD 208 miles.

Honey Bee Canyon North. Rating D. The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes and end for snacks/lunch at a broken dam. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time, this is a real eye opener. Hike 2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 200 feet; RTD 26 miles.

****Jordan Canyon, Dragoon Mountains. Rating C.**

The hike into Jordan Canyon will be guided by a wildlife biologist from the Sky Island Alliance (SIA). On the way into the canyon we'll stop at the ruins of a Butterfield Stagecoach station from the late 1850's. While hiking in the canyon, our guide will give us a brief lesson on animal tracking and we'll also see remote cameras placed by SIA for wildlife photography. We'll climb out of the canyon to an overlook for lunch. Hikers should be prepared for some bushwhacking and a steep climb to our lunch spot. Hike approx. 5 miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change approx. 1000 feet; accumulated gain__ feet; RTD 190 miles with approx. 10 miles on dirt road.

Linda Vista Loop. Rating D. The Linda Vista Trailhead and parking lot is one block east of Oracle Road on Linda Vista Blvd. The hike proceeds into the foothills of Pusch Ridge and is an excellent introduction to desert hiking. The trail gradually ascends to provide excellent views of Oro Valley. Poles may be helpful for rocky steps-up and steps-down. The trail passes through a riparian area and ascends to a rocky outcropping which is a good place for a snack break. There are magnificent saguaros throughout the drainage from Pusch Ridge. Hike 3 miles (mileage may be extended by doing an extra loop – ask the guide); trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 28 miles.

Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon. Rating A. Starting from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way, this rocky trail climbs steadily and follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail passes Linda Vista Saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball," and onto the Pima Canyon Trail. A half mile further and hikers arrive at the top of Mt. Kimball. The return hike is down the same trails. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 4138 feet; accumulated gain 4148 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Oracle Ridge. Rating C. The hike begins in Oracle at a trailhead off the Cody Loop Road. It follows the Oracle Ridge Trail to the junction with the American Flag/Cody Trail there are great views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas to the west. We will lunch on the ridge and return by same route. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 700 feet; RTD 40 miles (dirt).

Panther Peak. Rating C!. The hike begins near Saguaro National Park – West off Picture Rocks Road, with the first mile on old mining roads. Then, a steep, difficult climb begins and you may need to use your hands to climb the trail. The use of gloves, long pants, and a hiking stick is recommended. There are outstanding views from the top; Picacho Peak is visible to the north. The return is via the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2280 feet; net elevation change 1160 feet; accumulated gain 1250 feet; RTD 60 miles.

Peppersauce Canyon (short version). Rating D. From the Peppersauce Canyon Campground, the hike proceeds up Peppersauce Canyon approximately 1.5 miles and returns. There is a good mixture of vegetation to study. Some views, depending on how far we go. Bring lunch. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated elevation ___ feet; RTD 53 miles (dirt).

Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating B. 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 10.4 miles; trailhead

elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain 1375 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Phone Line Trail with Tram Ride Down. Rating C. The hike begins from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot and proceeds easterly for about a mile along a flat sandy trail to the Phone Line Trailhead. The hike continues up the Phone Line Trail, and down to the uppermost Sabino Canyon tram stop, and which takes the group back to the Center on the tram. 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 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

Pima Canyon to 1st Dam. Rating D!. 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 ___ feet; accumulated gain 470 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating C. 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 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 977 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C!. The hike starts at the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," the trail goes up the northwest side of Pontatoc Ridge to just below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area from a saddle along the way. The hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. There are short stretches of exposed trail near the old mines. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 3100 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Rams Creek Basin. Rating C. 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 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 780 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles.

Rillito River Hike # 2. Rating D. The hike begins from Children's Memorial Park on the north side of the Rillito River just west of Oracle Road. We walk down river (west) on an asphalt walking/bicycle path to the bridge at La Cholla Blvd. After crossing the river south on the La Cholla bridge, we walk east on a dirt path. If the river is dry, we cross back over the river opposite Children's Park. If water conditions preclude crossing there, we continue on the south side trail to the Oracle Road bridge, cross over and return to the park on the asphalt trail. Hike 4 to 5 miles (depending on crossing location); trailhead elevation __ feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 40 miles.

Romero Falls. Rating A. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where Romero pools are located. The falls are about 30 feet high and consist of water flowing down a steeply sloped rock face, and are a very unique feature in southern Arizona. The falls are located about 2.6 miles past the Romero pools and about 0.6 miles (and a little less than 500 feet additional elevation gain) past Romero Springs. The springs and falls are located in a very scenic section of the canyon, and have been known to attract quite a bit of wildlife. Lunch will be at the falls. The return is via the same route. Hike 11.6

Romero Pools. Rating C. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route.

Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Safford Peak. Rating C!. Safford Peak, known to locals as Sombrero Peak, is the distinctive bell-shaped peak in the northern-most district of the Tucson Mountains in Saguaro National Park - West. The hike begins at the end of Scenic Drive from a little chapel called Sanctuary Cove. There is no official trail, but faint paths, sometimes with loose footing, can be taken to the top. As we climb, Panther Peak will become visible there are excellent views of the foothills and higher peaks of the Tucson Mountains and the park. We climb severely on the final ascent with narrow traverses, rock climbing, and significant exposure, which makes this hike quite difficult for its rating. If you do not like exposed heights, this hike is not for you. Hikers can sign the register at the summit, where there are great views in all directions, and descend via the same route. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2240 feet; net elevation change 1323 feet; accumulated gain 1490 feet; RTD __ miles.

Sausalito Canyon to Honey Bee Canyon (upper). Rating D. This is a nice, nearby canyon hike with options to extend it within Honey Bee Canyon. The hike heads east, parallel with a fence which eventually turns south for a short distance to the end of the road and near a windmill and concrete dam. Bring water, lunch, snack, camera (optional), and sun protection. High clearance vehicles needed. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 26 miles (dirt).

Seven Falls (with Tram). Rating C. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center with the tram to lower Bear Canyon. From the last tram stop we continue up Bear Canyon to Seven Falls and return via the same route back to the Center. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. Tram fee required. The trail crosses the Bear Canyon wash several times and can involve significant boulder hopping/wading after rainy periods. Ask the guide about current conditions. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 640 feet; accumulated gain 900 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Seven Falls. Rating B. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and continues to lower Bear Canyon, then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls. The return is via the same route. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. The trail crosses the Bear Canyon wash several times in each direction and can involve significant boulder hopping/wading after rainy periods. Ask the guide about current conditions. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 720 feet; accumulated gain 1550 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Soldier Trail. Rating B. This scenic and rocky hike begins at the 1.3-mile pullout on Catalina Hwy. The group hikes 3 miles to Prison Camp (Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Area) for lunch and returns. The first 0.5 miles is very steep. The rest of the trail is mostly up with some level and down stretches. The gorge in Soldier Basin may have water flowing below some rugged cliffs. There are good views of the Tucson area. This trail was used in the 1800s as a cavalry passage into the mountains. Hiking stick is recommended. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3280 feet; net elevation change 1600 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 84 miles.

Superstitions: Lost Dutchman State Park. Rating B, C, or D. The hike explores the Lost Dutchman State Park in the Superstition Mtns. The park is named after the fabled lost gold mine and offers a variety of hiking trails and nature trails. Although not specified here, the chosen trails will adhere to the distance and elevation ranges for a B, C, or D hike. Among the trails that could be included are the Treasure Loop Trail Prospector's View, Jacob's Cross Cut, and the Discovery Interpretive Trail. Hike distance, trailhead elevation, net elevation change, and accumulated gain will be tailored to fit the chosen rating; RTD 175 miles.

Superstitions: Peralta Trail. Rating C. The hike follows the Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle in the Superstition Mountains. There are excellent views of Weavers Needle at the Saddle. This may be the area's most beautiful canyon. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weavers Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. The trail is steep and rocky for most of the way. Hike 5.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2410

feet; net elevation change 1360 feet; accumulated gain 1410 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C. The trail for this hike is gradual and passes through a mesquite thicket with 100-year old saguaros, Arizona poppies/morning glories in season, and eventually reaches an area of many, many petroglyphs. Per the book *Paradise Found* by Kathy Alexander, there are over 1400 petroglyphs in the area. Some rock scrambling is necessary to reach most of the petroglyphs, but nothing very difficult. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3240 feet; net elevation change minus 205 feet; accumulated gain 309 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating B. The hike begins at the Javalina Picnic Area in Saguaro National Park – East off the Cactus Forest Drive loop road, and is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. The hike is somewhat steep in parts as it proceeds up Tanque Verde Ridge. At three miles into the hike, we will view a crested saguaro, but continue on another mile to lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some great photo stops along the way. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1900

Tortolita Mountains - S. Wild Burro Canyon / Alamo Springs Trail Loop. Rating C. 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 loop back to the Wild Burro Trail further up the canyon.. 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 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain 1375 feet; (hike data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles. feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 82 miles.

Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang / Wild Burro Canyon Loop. Rating B. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, connect with the Upper Javalina Trail, and make their way up to the Wild Mustang Trail. The trail will lead the group over the higher elevations of the mountains to the north past at least 3 crested saguaros. Near the upper end of Wild Mustang Trail we take a connector trail southeast down to the Wild Burro Canyon Trail. The trail overlooks the narrow upper canyon which spreads wide with numerous side canyons and tributaries. As we continue down Wild Burro Canyon, we pass a crumbling stone structure and arrive at a boulder strewn falls which thunders with runoff from the upper side canyons and tributaries when it rains. A short distance later we will merge onto Lower Javalina Trail, quickly descending through hillsides covered with enormous boulders and a forest of saguaro cacti. We will then rejoin Wild Burro Trail to return to the trailhead. Hike 10.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 1150 feet; accumulated gain 1630 feet; (hike data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles

Wasson Peak via Hugh Norris Trail. Rating B. From the trailhead near Hohokum Road (off N. Kinney Road past Red Hills Visitor Center), the hike follows the Hugh Norris Trail to and from Wasson Peak. Hugh Norris is the longest trail to Wasson Peak, but the climb is gradual along a ridge with spectacular views. There are excellent 360-degree views from the top. There is little shade; bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 2640 feet; net elevation change 2124 feet; accumulated gain 2400 feet; RTD 73 miles.

Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail. Rating B. The hike begins at the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro (the west extension of Ruthrouff Road) on the east side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike on the Sweetwater Trail through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. There is little shade along the way. Bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 9.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 1887; accumulated gain 2424 feet; RTD 60 miles

Window Rock. Rating A. The hike follows the most direct route up Ventana Canyon. The hike is difficult and steep, and involves lots of difficult climbing. The hike begins at the Ventana Canyon Resort parking lot past the employees' parking lot. It follows that trail past Maiden Pools until it reaches the Esperero Trail # 25, which is used for two miles to reach the Window. Ventana Canyon offers some of the best canyon views in southern Arizona. Views from the Window are fantastic, including such landmarks at Mt. Kimball, Cathedral Rock, and the Montrose Canyon drainage area. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 3840 feet; accumulated gain 4200 feet; RTD 54 miles.

****Wood Canyon Upper Rim Exploratory. Rating B!** If you enjoy off trail, remote hiking with manageable bushwhacking, sweeping near and distant 360 degree views, interesting rock formations, and old ranching history, this hike is for you. At a high point near the beginning of the upper rim you can see Flatiron, Byous Butte, Picketpost Mountain, and Browns Peak. Near the southern end of the range, you can see most all of the prominent rock formation that make up Walnut, Canyon, White Canyon, and the Rincons. Wood Canyon is approached on Arnet Road south of Superior. The hike initially involves a fair amount of up-and-down hill hiking, however later flattens out towards the midpoint near an upper basin. The outer point overlooking Wood Canyon is very steep and loose and requires close attention to footing. The final segment follows an existing jeep trail along the canyon. Hike approx. 8.25 miles; trailhead elevation 2775; net elevation change 1,280 feet; accumulated gain, 1520 feet; RTD 170 miles.

New Members

To join the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club you need to fill out a Membership Application and Release Form available online at saddlebrooke.org or with the SBHC newsletters at DesertView Fitness Center or the SaddleBrooke Fitness Center. To receive the Newcomer Packet (Patch, Information Sheet, Hiker's Log, Hiking Shirt) please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your membership application and membership dues.

Renewing Members

To renew your membership in the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club for 2011 please fill out the attached renewal form and mail it with your membership dues to Bob Perez at the address below.

SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2011

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** _____

Your name and phone number will be added to the membership list provided to the club officers and guides. Your email address will be used to send you the hiking club newsletter and notices of events.

\$5.00 Annual Dues must accompany this Renewal Form. Make out check to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. Mail To: Bob Perez, 65187 E Desert Sand Court, Tucson, AZ 85739.