



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

GUIDING: "YOU GET TO TELL FOLKS WHERE TO GO!"

Just a little guide humor to draw your attention to the second most critical element in our club. First critical part is you: Being a Member and participating in the club. But you are not going anywhere without your "guide" colleagues who plan and lead hikes.

The SBHC now has over 600 members but only 22 guides (at this point), which is a very high member to guide ratio of 27 to 1. We need and want more members to consider leading hikes. These friends and colleagues (fellow members) have become guides, and so can you. Say thank you when you see them next.

SBHC GUIDE SINCE:

Seth Basker 2019, Tim Butler 2013, **Ruth Caldwell 2018 - Now Chief Guide**, Roy Carter 2008, Dave Corrigan 2011, Frank Earnest 2015, Janet Frost 2019, Karen Gray 2003, Susan Hollis 2010, **Michael Hovan 2019 - Now Associate Chief Guide**, Beth Jones 2020, Seana Kobak 2020, Kathryn Madore 2018, Phil McNamee 2015, Randy Park 2015, Michael Reale 2006, Aaron Schoenberg 2015, Walt Shields 2007, Rob Simms 2014, Tom Stafford 2019, Don Taylor 2005, and Elisabeth Wheeler 2004.

A special thank you to the many previous guides who have led us down the trail to here. You have showed thousands of our members the trail.

Guiding is fun, and we have considerable resources to help you become a guide at your pace. Walt Shields wrote a wonderful article for our March-April Newsletter: "What Does it Take to Become a SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Guide", which is published again in this newsletter. Thanks Walt.

Please ask any of our guides or chief guides about joining the corp. We have some great role models

leading "your" hikes. Their contact information can be found on the SBHC web page in the "Contacts and Member Listing" tab. Select the "SBHC Contacts" link. To access the document, please use the password noted in Ken Wong's latest communication. We look forward to seeing you join our hike leaders.

Thank you, Rob Simms, President

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB GUIDE?

Submitted by Walt Shields

You have all seen them. They are the nice folks that greet you in the parking lot on the morning of your hike with a smile and a green tag on their pack. They make sure you get paired up with a driver and arrive at the correct trailhead. They lead your hike and try to make it a safe and enjoyable experience and complete it as planned. They love to share with you their enthusiasm for the beautiful place in which we live and maybe add a few tidbits of trivia about the desert environs. In short, they are the foundation of the SBHC, without whom there would be no hikes - no club. They are your **GUIDES**.

So, what is involved in joining this special group of folks? Do you have to be an "A" level hiker and know all of our hiking trails? Absolutely not!

- The main requirement is an enjoyment in helping others experience this environment in a way they probably would otherwise never see.
- A guide needs to be competent to confidently handle the terrain on the hikes they schedule.
- They frequently begin by leading hikes on a few trails that they know and like and gradually expand their repertoire as they gain more experience.
- Some guides only lead D level hikes, for which there is a great demand.

The steps to becoming a guide are fairly straight forward.

1. Any SBHC member who has completed at least ten (10) Club hikes in a variety of locations may contact the Chief or Associate Chief Hiking Guide to express their interest in starting guide training.
2. He or she will need to accompany an active guide on three of their hikes during which the active guide will serve as a mentor to demonstrate various aspects of hike organization, leadership and decision making.
3. Following completion, the prospective guide will schedule two hikes of their own during which an active guide will accompany them to observe and assist.
4. They are then considered an active guide and may proceed with their own hike schedule.
5. All active guides are expected to lead at least 4 hikes/year.

New guides and active guides are expected to remain current in first aid training, leadership and decision making. The Club provides an annual full-day course with instruction in recognition and management of accidents and medical conditions.

Time is spent reviewing actual incidences and the decisions that went into how they were managed. What could be done better or different is discussed.

As part of the training, a trail “accident and incident hike” is scheduled during which guides take turns being lead guides and victims. Guides learn to manage the incident with the resources they have available in the field with feedback from the group.

Our guides are the life blood of the SBHC! It is immensely rewarding to enable Club members to be able to experience the beautiful and varied trails we have here. In addition, we make new friends during the camaraderie of a hike and get some good exercise as a bonus.

It is essential for the continuance of the club that we have new guides coming on board to replace ones that move or retire.

If you think you might have an interest in becoming one of the guide corps, contact:

Chief Hiking Guide
Ruth Caldwell
azcaldwell3@gmail.com

or
Associate Chief Hiking Guide
Michael Hovan
michaelhovan@ameritech.net

for more information. You will be in for a very rewarding experience.

ARE YOU A PERFECT 10?

Submitted by Ruth Caldwell



1. Do you have contact information and medical alerts on your pack at all times?
2. Do you arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time for a hike?
3. When you email to schedule a hike, do you let the guide know if you are able to drive?
4. Do you wear or bring appropriate clothing for changing weather conditions (layering)?
5. When you email to schedule a hike, do you let the guide know that you have a State Land, State Park, or National Park Pass?
6. Are a hat and sunscreen part of your normal hiking items?
7. Do you always carry an extra water bottle and power bar for emergencies?
8. Do you carry a first-aid kit?
9. Do you have a whistle in or on your pack and know how to signal an emergency?
10. As a member of the SBHC - have you considered contributing to the club as a guide or committee member?

If you answered yes to all ten questions, you are a PERFECT 10!

A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK AT THE JANUARY, 2020 HIKING CLUB TRIP TO DEATH VALLEY

Submitted by Tim Butler

In late January of this year, 95 SBHC hikers and guides travelled to Death Valley National Park for our Spring club trip. This was before the COVID Pandemic showed its ugly presence, and we were all blissfully unaware of what was to come. Since we have endured so many months of concern, stress, and being mostly unable to carry on our normal social interactions, I thought it would be fun to revisit some of the highlights and pictures of this wonderful adventure back when life was still “normal”.

Death Valley National Park is the largest National Park in the lower 48 states; and it is home to Badwater Basin, the lowest spot in the US at 282 feet below sea level. As if to showcase the extremes of this incredible place, the highest point in DVNP (Telescope Peak) is less than 20 miles from Badwater Basin and rises nearly 11,300 feet above the Basin. The ruggedness and harshness of the scenery contrasts with a remarkable mix of plant and animal inhabitants. These contrasts keep reminding one of the descriptions “other worldly” for this place. It is awe inspiring, intimidating, and enchanting all at the same time.

The Park is so huge that there was no hope of seeing all of it in the three days of scheduled hikes. Instead, we concentrated our activities in the southeast portion near the Furnace Creek Visitor’s Center. Furnace Creek Ranch was our gathering place for each day’s activities.



Old Death Valley RR Locomotive at Furnace Creek Ranch.
Photo: Elisabeth Wheeler

A total of 17 hikes were offered over 3 days. The hiking was actually quite varied: travelling over sand dunes, exploring fairly wide canyons like Golden Canyon, and negotiating some fairly narrow canyons with even narrower slot canyons branching from the main trail (Sidewinder Canyon). Here are a few pictures to give you a glimpse of what it was like.

Let’s start off at the lowest point in North America:



Sign at Badwater Basin. Photo: Rob Simms



Polygonal salt ridges in Badwater Basin. Photo: Rob Simms

Golden Canyon/Gower Gulch was such a popular hike that we offered it all three days!



Hikers gathering at beginning of Golden Canyon. Photo: Bernie Nagy



Hikers on the steep climb up into Golden Canyon. Photo: Bernie Nagy

The combination of Mosaic Canyon and Mesquite Dunes was also offered on all three days.



Some hikers chose to “butt slide” on the polished rocks going in and out of Mosaic Canyon. Photo: Tim Butler



Here is an example of why it’s called “Mosaic Canyon”. Photo: Tim Butler

After hiking Mosaic Canyon, we travelled back to explore the massive Mesquite Dunes.



Hikers on a ridge at Mesquite Dunes. Photo: Tim Butler

It is difficult to capture a “clean” image (one without a million footprints in the sand) at Mesquite Dunes but our own Frank Earnest managed to do so by going out very early in the morning after a night of high winds which erased them. Here is his very beautiful rendering:



Sunrise at Mesquite Dunes. Photo: Frank Earnest

On the last day, a group of us led by Ruth Caldwell had a great time exploring the slot canyons which branch off from Sidewinder Canyon.



Entering one of the slots. Photo: Tim Butler



Lunch at the entrance to another slot. Photo: Tim Butler

I hope you enjoyed this “time travel” back to happier days and I hope you enjoyed the pictures. Many thanks to my contributing photographers for their great images.

And lastly, although it wasn’t a hike destination, I will leave you with a picture of another quite well-known feature in Death Valley (at least among photographers). It is called Artist’s Palette. It is located on a one-way loop road between Furnace Creek Ranch and Badwater Basin called Artist’s Drive. This is a very interesting formation which, for most of the day, looks quite monochromatic and unremarkable. However, for a few minutes during the sunset when the angle of the light is just right, its subtle hues seem to leap out of the surrounding rock.



Artist's Palette at sunset. Photo: Tim Butler

Here's to the time when we can enjoy trips like this again!

HIKING CATALINA STATE PARK AFTER THE FIRE

Submitted by Karen Gray

On September 10, a warm morning in a long string of warm/hot mornings this summer, eight people went to Catalina State Park to hike three loops. It was a hike of contrasts.



Left to right: Yvette Sabulski, Jeff and Susan Love, Arlene Daigle, Carol Burke, Dave Lancaster, Bruce Landeck, and Leslie Hawkins. Photo by Karen Gray.

We first went to the Nature Trail, which had not been damaged by the fire. For some of this group, who had not seen the park prior to the fire, this was a good way to show them what had been lost when the fire swept through the rest of the park.

We then went to the Canyon loop where we saw terrible damage and some life returning. We had a little snack at the top of the stairs and looked at all

the burned areas and how many green areas remained.

We then finished up on the Birding Trail where some areas looked pretty good with little burned and other areas were very bad. I pointed out along the burned trails what the firefighters had managed to save, so the hikers could better appreciate the amazing job the firefighters had done for the park.

ANNUAL SBHC SPRING PICNIC MARCH 19, 2021

Submitted by Missy Rodey and Seana Kobak, Co-Chairs

The annual SBHC Spring Picnic is scheduled for March 19, 2021. A Business Meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. with the picnic following. We are hopeful that improved pandemic conditions will allow the gathering to take place as planned.

As with all events, we are in a "wait and see" position. Further details will be provided in January and February.

ARE YOU READY FOR OUTDOOR EXERCISE THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club is enlisting volunteers to do trail work on the Oracle Passage of the Arizona Trail. Safety precautions will be in place.

- Volunteers will drive their own cars to the designated location.
- Volunteers will bring their own gloves, snacks, and water.
- Safety helmets and sanitized tools will be provided.
- Physical distance between workers will be maintained.

However, the camaraderie and fun of working together will still be enjoyed!

NOVEMBER ARIZONA WORK PARTY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler



Arizona Trail Work Party before the Pandemic. Photo by Zach MacDonald

The November Arizona Trail Work Party will be Wednesday, November 18, departing from SaddleBrooke at 7:30 a.m. After a safety briefing, volunteers will be assigned to small work teams. Trail work will include brushing the overgrowth and improving the trail tread. After 3 hours of work, the tools will be gathered and appreciation will be expressed by trail leaders. To sign up, send an email to:

Seana Kobak, seanabk88@gmail.com.

SADDLEBROOKE HIKING FRIENDS PHOTO SHARING SITE

In August, we started a photo sharing site on Facebook called SaddleBrooke Hiking Friends with just 11 participants. It is NOT an official SBHC site but rather a private, closed site where participants can share photos from local or international hikes and trips. Upon consulting SBHC president Rob Simms and the BOD, they were comfortable with this being an informal FB site for HC members that wish to participate. Also, agreed was that photographers will ask permission of hikers before posting “people pictures” on this site. I understand not everyone likes nor uses social media.

However, if you are so inclined, please join our informal, private, and cordial site where we can share, admire, relish beautiful outdoor images from

endless hiking trails we explore - not just the club hikes but from all over the world. This is restricted to SBHC members, and we can verify membership through SBHC’s password protected website. You may find us at the following link to consider joining: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/314000949666119>

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

Thanks!

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



MADERA CANYON NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Ruth Caldwell

The heat continued into October! Our go-to-spot to get out of the heat has always been Mt. Lemmon, which is still off limits after the Big Horn Fire.

On October 6, eight hikers from SBHC drove down to Madera Canyon where we enjoyed the beautiful Nature Trail for five-and-a-half miles with a 1000 ft. accumulated gain to over 5400 ft. elevation.



We enjoyed being outdoors, socializing (distantly), getting exercise, plus seeing some fall colors and wildlife. Several deer and wild turkeys came out to check out our group. This is a beautiful non-desert hike just south of Tucson in Green Valley, AZ.

Hikers were Bill and Kathy Johnston, Arlene Daigle, Jack Jeffreys, Michael and Jeanne Reale, Don Taylor, and Ruth Caldwell (guide).

CATALINA HILLS CLEANUP

Wednesday - November 4, 2020

Submitted by Walt Shields, Project Coordinator

It is that time of year again when we need a few good folks to help out with the Catalina Hills Drive Road cleanup on Wednesday, November 4. Our club has participated in this project for a number of years as part of the Pinal County Adopt-A-Highway Program.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the usual site at MVCC and drive individually to a parking site on Catalina Hills Drive. Eight volunteers will divide into groups

of two to clean approximately a mile of the road. Usually, we are finished in 1-½ hours.

Safety vests and pick up devices are supplied. Plan to wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, and bring gloves. This is a project that can be easily done within the safety guidelines of the CDC.

Please join us in this effort to keep our community beautiful. For information and to sign up, contact:

Walt Shields (waltshields@mac.com)

SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB FITNESS WALKS PROTOCOL APPROVED BY THE SBHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OCTOBER 7, 2020

In response to your request to:

- Develop the protocol on how the walks will be safely conducted under CDC, state, and local guidelines.
- Determine how walk leaders will be identified and made aware of those expectations

The following indicated their willingness to lead the morning Fitness Walks:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Michael Reale | Mary Kopp |
| Aaron Schoenberg | LaVerne Kyriss |
| Jan Springer | Stan Strebig |
| Michael Hovan | Leslie Hawkins |
| Melissa White | Roland Horst |

All but Melissa and Roland participated in a meeting on Monday, October 5, to address the protocol:

1. Masks must be worn when the group first assembles. Thereafter, they must also be worn unless the walkers can maintain 6-foot social distancing. They should choose a mask that is effective, yet comfortable, for extended use while walking. Disposable paper masks may be suitable.
2. The leader must advise the group to don masks when approaching an intersection where it is not practical to maintain the 6-foot separation because of interference with vehicular traffic.
3. Walkers should consider not participating at this time if they or a member of their

household are at increased risk of contracting COVID-19.

4. If a walker tests positive for COVID-19, he or she must notify the Assistant Chief Hiking Guide immediately. If that individual cannot be reached, any other member of the BOD must be notified. Fitness Walks will be suspended for 14 days.
5. To enable contact tracing, the Assistant Chief Hiking Guide will send an email blast to the walking group, informing them that a person tested positive on a certain date and that he or she might have been exposed during a walk a week prior or after that date. Those in contact should consider getting tested.
6. The leader each day will Inform a new walker that he or she must be a member of SBHC, and of the precautions we are following.
7. A member's guest will continue to be allowed to walk with the group provided the member has informed the person of the above precautions and that the guest adheres to them.

We have designated leaders and substitutes for each day of the week.

**HUACHUCA PEAK CIRCULAR
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020**

Submitted by Aaron Schoenberg

I led two others from the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club on a hike that provided challenges and exploratory opportunities, spectacular scenery, and amazing discoveries. We approached the scenic summit of Huachuca Peak on the Fort Huachuca Reservation from the west, via a myriad of trails. It was an all-day adventure. We watched the sunrise as we drove there and the setting on our return trip. In between, it was a glorious bright, sunny day in the low 80's.

One of our participants, Kaori Hashimoto wrote:

“We explored the Huachuca Mountains not far from the Mexican border. The trailhead was a 2:20 drive and 107 miles one way, so I rarely go down there. From dawn to dusk, the three of us - Aaron Schoenberg (our guide), Beth Jones, and myself - had a 13-mile hike filled with adventure, to the

8,410- foot summit of Huachuca Peak and around.”

Part way up our ascent, I spotted a seashell. Then shortly further, another and then another. Near the summit, we found a treasure trove of these. What are sea shells doing way up on this mountain? That is peculiar. Well that piqued Kaori's curiosity, so a couple of days after the hike I get this e-mail.

Kaori's investigation shed light on the subject:

“I figured out the mystery about the ‘sea shells’ we found along the higher part of the Huachuca Mountains. They were *Sonorella huachucana*!!! Snails! <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonorella>. This I found quite fascinating, and it made our hiking adventure even more intriguing.”



Our Snail/Seashell Discovery

Photo by Kaori Hashimoto

We climbed and climbed as we ascended this mountain. It involved a steady rising trail where we went up 2,445 feet in six miles (averaging over 400 feet every mile) which took us four hours to ascend.

From the summit, we saw all the way from Mexico to the south and the border wall across the desert to the lofty Mt. Wrightson near Tucson all the way to the north. The city of Sierra Vista sat directly below us and the rest of the Huachuca Range including Miller, Carr, and Ramsey Peaks sat just across from us.



Beth Jones & Kaori Hashimoto at the Huachuca Peak summit with the Huachuca Range in the background

Also, at the summit we came upon thousands of ladybugs whom we had to share our company with as they made their home here. Kaori realized later on into the hike that she took a few of them back down the trail with her to start a colony somewhere else.



Colony of Ladybugs

Photo by Kaori Hashimoto

We also saw “stone foundations here from a weather station. In 1909, Fort Huachuca was home to an aviatory, and ten Wright Brothers-type planes were used by Signal Corps pilots.” This was quoted from Trails of the Huachucas by Leonard Taylor, 2011.

Now we left the summit and started our descent. I chose a different route for our return. I was hoping to seek out a plane wreck that according to my guide book we were supposed to find. However, the trail was a bit obscure, and I was not sure if when we

descended into the canyon, we might overshoot this landmark. I was right on the money as our route smacked right into it. What a discovery! "This is a circa 1968 Ryan 147 Firebee drone. Note the turbojet engine, which propelled this early UAV to over 600 mph." This also was quoted from Trails of the Huachucas by Leonard Taylor, 2011. I then went to my friend Mark Schwartz who is a hiking club member and retired military pilot and he embellished some of the information about our finding.

“This was part of a family of drones from the early 1950’s, when the Air Force & Navy asked for unmanned aerial gunnery targets. Ryan Aviation was located in San Diego and produced this remotely-piloted vehicle for many years. During the 1970’s & 1980’s when I flew the F-4, they were targets for our Sidewinder & Sparrow missiles. The Air Force firing range for these was Eglin AFB, in the Florida panhandle. Other Firebee variants flew recon sorties against North Vietnam in the 1970’s, with a very poor reliability record. They launched from C-130 transports with special stations for operator crewmen in the C-130’s back end. Davis-Monthan has long had the special ops C-130s that carried/controlled this drone, and likely the crashed Firebee came from a Davis-Monthan aircraft. As for "Bendix" -- that company made aircraft electronics, "black boxes" like gyros and navigational systems. The Firebee may have carried Bendix products.”



Plane wreck discovery

Photos by Kaori Hashimoto



Plane wreck discovery

Photos by Kaori Hashimoto

Lastly, on our final miles out, I lost the trail. It just disappeared. Maybe we made a wrong turn. We were tired and the last thing we wanted was to flounder around.

Our trusty GPS came into service and led us to a trail intersection. It turned out we actually saved time, as we did not have to climb a 400-foot ridge on the trail. Instead, we headed directly to the trail at the base of the hill which was the Arizona Trail – this took us directly to the cars saving about 15 minutes time overall, and the bushwhacking was not that bad. Perfect ending to a gorgeous day.

ARIZONA TRAIL IN A DAY 2020

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

“AZT In A Day” is a 24-hour challenge to cover almost 800 miles of the Arizona National Scenic Trail in a day. Some burned sections of the trail were inaccessible.

Six SaddleBrooke hikers joined other hikers, bike riders, and equestrian riders in this quest.

- Ray Peale, Susan Hollis, and Missy Rodey hiked 7 miles of the Oracle Passage through Oracle State Park with a snack break at the Windmill.



Ray Peale signing the Oracle State Park sign-in sheet

Photo by Missy Rodey



Hikers Susan Hollis and Ray Peale at the Windmill for snack time during AZT In A Day.

Photo by Missy Rodey



Hikers: Susan Hollis, Ray Peale, and Missy Rodey Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler

- Elisabeth Wheeler with Ken and Mary Riemersma hiked 4 miles round-trip to the

historic High Jinks Ranch. They enjoyed a snack break and historical talk at the Ranch with trail steward Serena Dufault.



Hikers departing High Jinks Ranch: Elisabeth Wheeler, Mary and Ken Riemersma. Photo by Serena Dufault



Hikers at High Jinks Historic Ranch: Mary Riemersma, Elisabeth Wheeler, Ken Riemersma. Photo by Serena Dufault

This was a fund-raising event to support restoration of trails burned by the wildfires, Wounded Warrior treks and the Seeds of Stewardship program provide outdoor education and empowerment skills to young people. It was a fun day to enjoy hiking on the Arizona Trail and helping to make a difference!

*** NOTE: All events are dependent upon HOA meeting room availability.**

| News You Can Use* | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Catalina Hills Cleanup Meet: MountainView Lot | 11/4 Wed. | 9:00 A.M. |
| AZ. Trail Work Session & Party Meet: MountainView Lot | 11/18 Wed. | 7:30 A.M. |
| SBHC Board of Directors Coyote Room North HOA1 | 12/2 Wed. | 2:00 – 3:30 P.M. |
| SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North HOA1 | 12/2 Wed. | 3:30 – 5:00 P.M. |
| SBHC Guide First Aid Training | 1/14 Thurs. | TBD |
| SB Activity Fair | 1/16 Sat. | TBD |
| SSBHC Orientation to SW Hiking | 1/26 Tues. | TBD |
| SBHC Board of Directors Coyote Room North HOA1 | 2/3 Wed. | 2:00 – 3:30 P.M. |
| SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North HOA1 | 2/3 Wed. | 3:30 – 5:00 P.M. |
| SBHC Volunteer Appreciation Event | 2/23 Tues. | TBD |
| SBHC Annual Spring Picnic | Fri. 3/19 | 11:30 A.M. |

SADDLEBROOKE ‘BACKYARD’ TRAILS
Submitted by Michael Hovan

This article is to introduce club members to a matrix of hiking trails on State Trust and National Forest lands just east of SaddleBrooke that can be easily accessed at the south end of S Arroyo Way (see accompanied map). It is important to make clear that these are not professionally constructed trails as you would find in Catalina or Oracle State Parks. Rather they are paths to prominent geological points in the area that have developed through repeated use.

They allow you to visit “Double Beauty”, an exceedingly rare double crested saguaro, Big Dome Rock, Picnic Rock, the Dodge Tank gorge, and Point 4178, also known as Hidden Canyon Peak. The rock formations, variety of cactus, seasonal wildflowers,

and spectacular views make this a serendipitous garden in our backyard.

There are 7 named routes, from which many loops can be created. The most widely used is the Double Crested/Dome Trail which goes across a plateau, up a small sandy wash, and then climbs a ridgeline up to Big Dome Rock. It is 3 miles long roundtrip, with an 800 ft accumulated gain, beautiful terrain, and excellent views of SaddleBrooke. It has several sections that are steeper than an average “C” level hike. In fact, all these trails have ***Special Conditions, as denoted in the guidelines of the hiking club, for occasional steep sections where they follow the contour of the land and have not been excavated like a professionally constructed trail.

Also, there is no signage or markers, similar to the trails in the Golder Ranch area. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you introduce yourself to these trails through a club hike, or someone that is experienced with these routes. Also, because the paths can be faint in places, it is recommended that you use a GPX track. Although, you can usually see SaddleBrooke, and phone reception is good, it can be a painful bushwhack through nasty vegetation if you get off route.

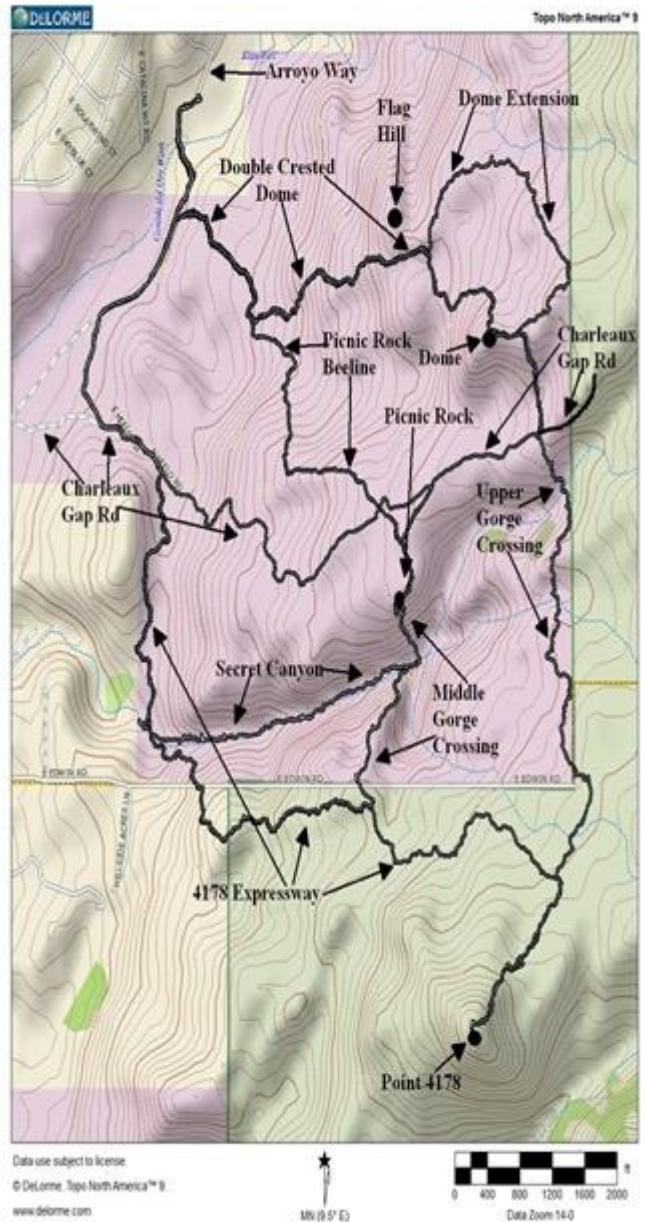
Another great destination hike is the Picnic Rock Beeline Trail which follows the ridgeline south of the Dome to a lookout high above Dodge Tank gorge. This is an area where five arroyos join to form the main channel, with steep rock walls descending into the wash below. This trail makes a wonderful loop when combined with the DC/Dome Trail.

From picnic rock the adventurous can descend into Secret Canyon, and either exit through the wash or scale the other side of the gorge toward Point 4178. These routes are bushwhack/boulder scrambling, and not hiking trails.

For another fantastic view, the 4178 Expressway takes you to the top of Hidden Canyon Peak and is a gateway to the Golder Ranch area. This is a 6.7 mile out-and-back route with a 1200-foot accumulated gain. It follows the Canada del Oro Wash from the Arroyo Way trailhead, takes a short jog up Charouleau Gap road, across a small valley, past the mouth of Dodge Tank gorge, and then up the ridgeline to meet Hidden Canyon Loop Trail

(only 2.3 miles from SaddleBrooke). Turning right connects you to the 50-Year Trail and the Golder Ranch area, or you can proceed to the left to summit Point 4178.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information or GPX tracks:
michaelhovan@ameritech.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.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO HIKERS: Some trails listed in this schedule are inside the Coronado National Forest. There are closure orders for many sections of the forest that are within the burn scar. We have not been able to determine which if any of our local trails are affected. The closure order right now expires November 1, 2020 but will most likely be extended for certain areas. Your guides will be scouting out the trails prior to the listed hikes and will have an alternate hike in mind should the trail be found to be in the burn scar. Keep in mind there is a significant fine for hiking in the burn scar area.

Sunday, November 01, 2020 Cochise Stronghold to End of Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [160, 07:00 AM, \$22]. Hikers travel from west to east through the Dragoon Mountains along a spine of granite where the legendary Apache War Chief Cochise kept his many enemies at bay during the Indian wars. There are several beautiful rock formations along the way. Cochise is buried in a hidden location in the area. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 1500 feet; accumulated gain 1796 feet; RTD 221 miles (some dirt). [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, November 02, 2020 Sweetwater Trail (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [433, 08:00 AM, \$6]. The hike begins from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson Mountains and covers about half the distance to the saddle where the Kings Canyon and Sweetwater Trails meet. The return is via the same route. The trail passes through some of the prettiest

saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there are good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. Hiking boots and stick are recommended. Bring binoculars. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; accumulated gain 400 feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Janet Frost 262-385-2478 janetlynnfrost@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 03, 2020 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version). Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [19, 08:00 AM, \$14 + \$5].** ***Hikers should expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful and pristine canyon and a favorite for all who have been there. 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 pole is recommended. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Guide has only 6 permits Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 368 feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt).[Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com]

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [141, 09:00 AM, \$0]. Volunteers are needed for the Trash Cleanup Walk for Catalina Hills Drive which is part of the Arizona Adopt A Highway Program. This is a community service that our club provides for SaddleBrooke and for Arizona. The walk will only take an hour to an hour and a half of your time. Trash bags and safety vests are provided by the Pinal County Highway Dept. Volunteers should wear long pants and shirts and bring gloves. A pickup stick will be provided. Volunteers will meet in the usual location at the MVCC parking lot. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Thursday, November 05, 2020 San Pedro River Exploration. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [385, 08:00 AM, \$20]. The hike passes through the remains of Presidio Santa Cruz de Ferrenate, one of the finest examples of a royal Spanish fort left in the New World. From there we hike to the San Pedro River and the Murphy Springs/Clovis site where we proceed along the shore or wade down the river (if there is water). There are lots of birds in the area. We continue two miles into the old mining town of Fairbank and return via the river or an old road, the San Pedro Trail. The Presidio is located between Benson and Sierra Vista off Hwy # 82. Bring shoes for water hiking and dry ones for trip home. Hiking sticks recommended for balance in the water. Binoculars are helpful for birding. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 4000 feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 200 miles. [Guide:Kathryn Madore; kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 05, 2020 Honey Bee Canyon South-double loop. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW - Moderate [New Hike, 08:00 AM, \$3]. The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. We will explore the canyon, identify some of the vegetation, find a large hole in a rock, and look for animals and animal tracks. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, hat, camera (optional). Hike 3.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 100 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 26 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 520-351 -2058, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Friday, November 06, 2020 Hidden Canyon Loop via Cowboy Slickrock. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [219, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Lower Corral and proceeds down the 50 Year Trail, to the Middle Gate Trail. After a short distance we enter a secluded canyon with centenarian saguaros and striking granite formations. We then take the upper 50 year trail along a ridgeline, past a crested saguaro to the Cowboy Slickrock Trail. We then enter a picturesque, narrow canyon which is the headwater of the Sutherland Wash. We will have lunch on a rock ledge overlooking the valley. Return is via the Hidden Canyon Trail. Hike 7.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 1100 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for

driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Saturday, November 07, 2020 Extended Fitness Walk. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [179, 07:00 AM, \$0]. As the name implies this an extended version of the weekday fitness walks. They will last 2 hours and travel approximately 6 miles over a variety of terrain including paved streets, golf course paths, and wilderness areas. They will start and finish in the same location as the weekday walks in the SaddleBrooke One parking lot. The longer duration will allow exploration of new and more distant areas, including The Preserve. The accumulated gain will vary from 600-1200 feet. Optional breakfast at the Road Runner Grill. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, November 09, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [454, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This hike travels the outer rim of the area. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, to Lower Javalina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail. After ascending the first part, we take a short side trail to a high point overlooking the area to the west. We then continue on the Alamo Springs Trail to our lunch spot in Wild Burro Canyon. We then proceed on a short connector trail to the Wild Mustang Trail until we connect with the Upper Javelina Trail and return to the trailhead via the Wild Burro Wash. The hike offers remote hiking with great views of the Tortolita Mountains and passes several crested saguaros. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 2170 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Monday, November 09, 2020 Dome Extension Trail. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [New, 08:00 AM, \$0].** ***The special condition is that there are several sections that are steeper than on an average park constructed trail. This hike begins on the Double Crested/Dome Trail 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. About 50 yards beyond the double crested saguaro, we turn left onto the Dome Extension which makes a loop around to the back of the Big Dome Rock. 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. We will return on the DC/D Trail. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 Fall Colors at Boyce-Thompson Arboretum and lunch in Superior. Rating: D☺. Pace: Moderate [117, 0745 AM, \$16]. The arboretum (\$15 entrance fee required) features 35 acres of nature paths, towering trees, cacti, mountain cliffs, a streamside forest, a desert lake, and panoramic views. It is located about 100 miles north of SaddleBrooke off U.S. 60 between Florence Junction and Superior. The park is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring your camera, hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes are recommended, although the paved trail is relatively level. Hike is under 4 miles; trailhead elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 164 miles. [Guide: Janet Frost 262-385-2478, janetlynnfrost@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 🐕 Arizona Trail: Oracle (piece of Passage 13). Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [56, 07:30 AM, \$4]. From the Arizona Trail Crossing of Webb Road the route proceeds in a northerly direction across Oracle State Park. About halfway through the park it reaches Kannally Wash and windmill, our snack stop and turn around point. This is a dog-friendly hike. Non-canine companions

are welcome. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation is 4480 feet; accumulated elevation gain 700 feet; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs loop from Golder Ranch. Rating:

C*. Pace: Moderate [186, 08:00 AM, \$2].** ***The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail, some rock scrambling, and a short section of mild bushwhacking. This hike begins at Golder Ranch. It takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash. The Sutherland Wash Rock Art District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and beautiful vistas of Pusch Ridge. There are also two crossings of a wash which may involve some easy rock-hopping depending on the season. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest in the shade of some giant boulders at one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 250 feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 12 miles. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. Starting the hike from this parking location avoids the need for high clearance vehicles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 12, 2020 Esperero Canyon/Bluff Loop Trail Sabino Canyon. Rating: C. Pace:

Moderate [NEW, 8:00 AM, \$6]. From the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, the hike proceeds along the Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake Canyon trails to the Bluff Trail overlooking Sabino Creek and is a favorite with views of the canyon and Sabino Creek with velvet ash, cottonwood, willow, and Arizona sycamore trees. Our break will be at the Sabino Dam. We will finish on the Bajada Nature loop with a beautiful crested saguaro. Bring a camera and plenty of water and snack. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2705 feet; net elevation change 240 feet; accumulated gain 367 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 12, 2020 History Hike: The Dams of SaddleBrooke. Rating C. Pace:

Moderate. [New, 9:00 AM, \$0] Individual car caravan to Willow Canyon Dr. Hike to the top of old Golder dam and see the emergency spillway, hydraulic controls and great view. Learn the dam's history and see old photos of Golder Lake. Descend to the Cañada del Oro to Pierre Charouleau's masonry dam of the 1880s and learn its history. Hike is approximately one mile with 200 ft. elevation gain. C rating due to short steep sections, loose rocks, and uneven terrain. Recommend cleated hiking boots and protective clothing. Barbed wire fence crossing. There will be a post-hike option to view the nearby railroad flat car and suspension bridges over the Cañada. **Limit 8 hikers.** RTD 4 miles. [Guide: Bob Simpson, pinalbj@outlook.com (520) 818-2610]

Friday, November 13, 2020 Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW [6, 08:00

AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. This hike can be done on north side trail in-out or as a loop around Alamo Canyon going up one side and returning down the other (clockwise or counter-clockwise). Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is generally gradual. The south-side trail traverses several rocky washes. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. There is a very scenic large flat-rock area above the falls. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no significant water crossings. Hikers may stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 429 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 520-351-2058, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Friday, November 13, 2020 Samaniego Roost/Deer Camp Loop. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [168, 08:00 AM, \$4].** ***This 0.8 mile section through the wash involves uneven terrain over sand, rocks, large boulders, and seasonal water flow, where the footing is inconsistent. This is the reason for the special condition designation. The hike begins at Lower Corral and heads to the beginning of the Baby Jesus Trail across the Sutherland Wash. It goes past a beautiful stand of large, 100-year old saguaros. The route then turns off-trail into Iron Springs Wash through a beautiful natural canyon, until it intersects the Middle Tank Trail. This hike is appropriate for only strong, agile, and adventurous C level hikers. After heading north for a short distance, the route turns onto the Deer Camp Extension Trail that continues up the wash area over large rock slabs, with several steep sections. Finally, we turn south onto the rather steep, rudimentary trail up to Samaniego Roost. We will have lunch on this rock outcropping. The view from there is astounding and expansive: you can see Biosphere 2 to the north; the Picacho and the Tortolita Mountains to the west; Sombrero, Panther, and Wasson peaks to the southwest; and finally, Baboquivari to the south. We then descend down to Deer Camp and return on the main Deer Camp Trail to Lower Corral. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3245 feet; net elevation change 1013 feet; accumulated gain 1289 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 905 feet; accumulated gain 1235 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Saturday, November 14, 2020 OSP Loop trails near Kannally Ranch House. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [493, 9:00 AM, \$3 + \$2]. Hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House at the Nature Trail. The trail leads to the Windy Ridge Trail and then connects with the Granite Overlook Trail (highest point in the park). The trail descends and meets the Bellota Trail which loops back to the Ranch House. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 ft., accumulated elevation 400 ft., RTD 40 miles. Driver donation \$3+\$2. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Sunday, November 15, 2020 🐕 Extended Fitness Walk. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [179, 07:00 AM, \$0]. This is a dog friendly hike. All members are welcome with or without a pet. As the name implies this an extended version of the weekday fitness walks. They will last 2 hours and travel approximately 6 miles over a variety of terrain including paved streets, golf course paths, and wilderness areas. They will start and finish in the same location as the weekday walks in the SaddleBrooke One parking lot. The longer duration will allow exploration of new and more distant areas, including The Preserve. The accumulated gain will vary from 600-1200 feet. Optional breakfast at the Road Runner Grill. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, November 16, 2020 Hidden Canyon Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [219, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This is a variation on the usual Hidden Canyon Loop hike. From the Upper Corral area we hike to the Middle Gate on social trails and then take the Middle Gate trail east to join the North 50 Yr. Loop at the Sutherland Wash. We climb northeast on the N. 50 Yr. Trail, passing an iconic crested saguaro. Near the top of the N. 50 Yr. Loop we will take the Cowboy Slickrock spur trail northeast to join the Hidden Canyon Trail. We will have lunch on rock slabs with a magnificent view. We then continue north on the Hidden Canyon Trail going around Hidden Canyon Peak in a counterclockwise direction until we rejoin the N. 50 Yr. Trail. We then take the west side of the N. 50 Yr. Loop back to the Middle Gate and then back to the Upper Corral. Hike 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 687 feet; accumulated gain 1209 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]

Monday, November 16, 2020 Sweetwater Preserve (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [507, 08:00 AM, \$6]. The trailhead is at the end of Tortolita Road, one mile off El Camino del Cerro. The 703-acre preserve is in the Tucson Mountains (this is not the Sweetwater Trail which leads to Wasson Peak.) There is a system of trails within the park made in 2008 by a crew of Piima County trail builders. It consists of 12 distinct loops and paths that interconnect so they can be linked together. Each trail is 0.5 to 1.5 miles in length. A map of the area may be found on the website (www.sdmdb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html). Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2464 feet; net elevation change 220 feet; accumulated gain 310 feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 Bluff Loop Trail Sabino Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [110, 08:00 AM, \$6]. 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 250 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Janet Frost, janetlynnfrost@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 4178 Expressway. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [New, 07:00 AM, \$0].** ***The special condition is that there are several sections that are steeper than on an average park constructed trail. The hike begins at the Arroyo Way Trailhead and proceeds on a newly constructed use trail to Point 4178, also known as Hidden Canyon Peak. It begins following the Canada del Oro Wash, takes a short jog up Charouleau Gap road, across a small valley of prickly pear cactus and mesquite trees, past the outlet of Dodge Tank gorge, and then up the ridgeline to meet Hidden Canyon Loop Trail. After a short distance on the bike path, the route proceeds through a meadow and then over slab rock to the summit. The views are wonderful of Catalina, Oro Valley, and the Tortolitas. This is the highest, easily accessible lookout in the front range of the Catalinas. Return is via the same route. Hike 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 978 feet; accumulated gain 1230 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Wednesday, November 18, 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 8.5 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 your gloves, hat, water, and snacks. Sanitized tools will be provided. Safety protocols will be followed. Volunteers will drive separately and wear masks during the safety briefing. Small work teams will be formed, maintaining physical distancing between workers. The work session will be 3 hours. Hike 3-6 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$4 driver donation. [Registrar: Seana Kobak, seanabk88@gmail.com, or Ray Peale, ray.peale@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version). Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [19, 08:00 AM, \$14 + \$5].** ***Hikers should expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Hikers should expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful and pristine canyon and a favorite for all who have been there. Wear shorts, socks and shoes (that can get wet) with good traction (for wet rocks). Bring dry shoes/shorts/shirt for drive home, if desired (and a plastic bag for wet items). Aravaipa Canyon is a wilderness area with no trails, signs, or facilities. Hiking

stick is recommended. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 6-7 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 368 feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt). [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 19, 2020 Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [124, 08:00 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: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 19, 2020 Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace:

SLOW [172, 07:30 AM, \$2 + \$2]. From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 520-351 -2058, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Friday, November 20, 2020 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating:

B. Pace: Moderate [480, 07:00 AM, \$9]. The hike begins at Sendero Esperanza Trailhead off Golden Gate Road. The route follows the Esperanza Trail (1.8 miles) to the Hugh Norris Trail and on to Wasson Peak (2.2 miles). The climb is gradual, and the Hugh Norris section is primarily a ridge trail with spectacular views. The 360-degree views from Wasson Peak include Tucson and Santa Catalinas to the east, Green Valley/Santa Ritas to the south, Sells to the west, and Picacho to the north. We will lunch on top of the Peak and return the same way. Hike 8.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1624 feet; accumulated gain 1776 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, dave@daveandpam.com, 520-820-6110]

Friday, November 20, 2020 Bridal Wreath Falls Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [119, 08:00 AM,

\$8]. 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 mile spur leading to the falls. We return via the Douglas Spring trail for 0.3 miles, and then take the Three Tanks Trail for 1.5 miles to where it joins the Carillo Trail. We hike for 0.5 miles and rejoin the Douglas Spring Trail, with considerable elevation, and return to the trailhead. Another option is to continue on the Three Tanks Trail to the Garwood Trail that joins the Douglas Spring Trail only 0.3 mile from the trailhead. The trail is well used and easy to follow but does require some rock scrambling to reach the falls. Bring sun protection. Water may be flowing over the falls if there has been sufficient rainfall. Hike 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1050 feet; accumulated gain 1368 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Friday, November 20, 2020 History Hike: The Sutherlands. Rating: C-minus. Pace: Moderate

[New, 8:00 AM, \$0]. Individual car caravan to the north gate of Catalina State Park (CSP). See the adobe remains of William H. Sutherland's pioneer home and his nearby well. Then car caravan about 2 miles and hike to the mystery dam on the Cañada del Oro and to the nearby 1920s stone reservoir. Explore the remains of the hand-dug well that supplied the reservoir. An oral history of the Sutherlands will be

provided (note the Sutherland Trail in CSP). Limit 8 hikers. 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. Hike ~ approx. 2 miles; minimal elevation gain. Some driving on rough and rutted dirt roads. [Guide: Bob Simpson pinalbj@outlook.com. (520) 818-2610]

Saturday, November 21, 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]

Monday, November 23, 2020 🐕 Middle Gate/50 Year Trails Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [184, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This is a dog friendly hike. All members are welcome with or without a dog. The hike begins at the Lower Corral and is a loop combining the Middle Gate Trail and returning via the 50 Year Trail. After crossing Sutherland wash, the route heads east with beautiful views of the Samaniego ridge. It then winds back thru a canyon with nice granite boulder, mesquite, ocotillo, and a crested saguaro, in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. Hike 4.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Monday, November 23, 2020 Baby Jesus / Madonna and Child / Petroglyph Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [97, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Lower Corral and heads to the beginning of the Baby Jesus Trail across the Sutherland Wash. Hikers follow the trail on the east side of the Baby Jesus Ridge 4 miles to a rock grouping that looks in profile like the Madonna and Child, (for which the ridge is named) while seeing a "window," beautiful saguaros, and rock formations along the way. Following a short backtrack, a spur at (N 32 26 55.4 W 110 51 24.2) begins a connecting trail over a grouping of 1200 year-old petroglyphs. This portion of the trail, about a mile, is unmaintained, requiring moderate bushwhacking in places. Views south to the Catalinas are beautiful. A hike back along the Sutherland Wash trail system completes the loop. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3234 feet; net elevation change 527 feet; accumulated gain 1417 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Tuesday, November 24, 2020 Fifty-Year Trail Area. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [183, 08:00 AM, \$2]. 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: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 26, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Dove Mountain. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [457, 08:00 AM, \$4].** ***This hike is a rough, steep, and scratchy bushwhack making long pants and sleeves, gloves and hiking sticks desirable. The mostly bushwhack hike begins at the cattle guard/windmill on the Rail-X Road and ascends to the top of 4661-foot Dove Mountain. From there we make our way along an up-and-down ridge line north, which provides views of Ruelas, Cochie, and Wild Burro Canyons, and eventually reach a path and jeep road which returns to the trailhead. Views are outstanding and feral horses might be sighted. Hike 4.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet; net elevation change 1061 feet; accumulated gain 1240 feet; RTD 20 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: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Saturday, November 28, 2020 Upper 50 Year Trail at sunset and moonrise. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [New, 3:00 PM, \$4].** ***The special condition designation is due to the decreased visibility after dark. 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 return will be by the light of the moon with supplemental red headlamps if needed. From the Lower Corral we proceed down the 50 Year Trail, to the Middle Gate Trail. After a short distance we enter a secluded canyon with centenarian saguaros and striking granite formations. We then take the upper 50 Year trail along a ridgeline, past a crested saguaro to the lookout where we will have a candle light dinner. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3240 feet; net elevation change 343 feet; accumulated gain 600 feet; RTD 12 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Sunday, November 29, 2020 🐕 Canyon Loop and Birding Trail. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [135, 10:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. This is a dog Friendly hike. All members are welcome with or without a pet. 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. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, November 30, 2020 NEW Middle Gate/50 Year/Hidden Cyn. Loop #1. Rating B. Pace: Moderate [08:00 AM, \$4]. From the Upper Corral area we hike to the Middle Gate and then take the Middle Gate trail east to join the 50 Yr. North Loop at the Sutherland Wash. We climb northeast on the N. 50 Yr. Trail, passing an iconic crested saguaro. At the top of the N. 50 Yr. Loop we take the Hidden Canyon trail north, going clockwise around Hidden Canyon Peak. We will have lunch on rock slabs with a magnificent view. We then head down the Hidden Canyon Trail to a spur trail which takes us west to join the Middle Gate Trail. We will take that trail back through the Middle Gate and return to the Upper Corral. Hike 9.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 676 feet; accumulated gain 1274 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: Frank Earnest, fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Monday, November 30, 2020 Picnic Rock/Double Crested/Dome Loop. Rating: C* Pace: Moderate [8:00 AM, \$0].** ***The special condition is that there are several sections that are steeper than on an average park constructed trail. 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 Charouleau Gap Road, to a prominent overlook above the Dodge Tank gorge. It is an area where five arroyos join to form the main channel, with steep rock walls descending into the wash below. 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 Charouleau Gap Road, and then the Double Crested/Dome Trail. Along the entire way are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Samaniego Ridge. Hike 4.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Tuesday, December 01, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang/Alamo Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [454, 07:00 AM, \$4]. This hike travels the outer rim of the Tortolitas. From the Wild Burro hiker parking lot, we shall traverse community walkways to the Upper Javalina Trail to the Wild Mustang Trail. This trail we shall follow in its entirety. We then make a short connection on the Wild Burro Trail, passing Alamo Spring/Lunch Overlook where we make our appropriately named lunch stop. Then we continue on the Alamo Springs Trail, which we also follow in its entirety. We finish up by returning on the Wild Burro Trail back to our trailhead parking. This hike offers remote hiking with great views of the Tortolita Mountains and passes several crested saguaros. Hike 11 miles; trailhead elevation 2815 feet; net elevation change 1410 feet; accumulated gain 2750 feet; RTD 46 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

Thursday, December 03, 2020 Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail (short version). Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [332, 08:00 AM, \$9 + \$2]. From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the trail to the point on the foot of the Peak that starts the steep climb to Picacho Peak (entrance fee required). The return is via the same route. The southerly views from the turning point are excellent. Park entrance fee required. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 751 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 90 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Friday, December 04, 2020 Middle Tank/Baby Jesus Trails Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [167, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at Lower Corral then follows Middle Gate trail to Grand Junction. From there it follows the Deer Camp Trail for 0.16 miles to the Middle Tank Trail on the right. Follow the trail south until it ends at the Baby Jesus Trail; turn north which leads back to the trailhead. The area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 650 feet; accumulated gain 1126 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Saturday, December 05, 2020 Extended Fitness Walk. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [179, 07:00 AM, \$0]. As the name implies this an extended version of the weekday fitness walks. They will last 2 hours and travel approximately 6 miles over a variety of terrain including paved streets, golf course paths, and wilderness areas. They will start and finish in the same location as the weekday walks in the SaddleBrooke One parking lot. The longer duration will allow exploration of new and more distant areas, including The Preserve. The accumulated gain will vary from 600-1200 feet. Optional breakfast at the Road Runner Grill. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, December 07, 2020 Hidden Canyon Peak. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [220, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti along the way. The hike begins at the Lower Corral then follows Middle Gate trail to Grand Junction. From there it goes east for 0.04 miles to the Hidden Canyon trail on the left. It follows the Hidden Canyon trail to a rock ledge with a great view down the valley. The ledge is a great place for lunch. We will bushwhack from the ledge to the top of Hidden Canyon Peak and return via the same route. Hike 8.2 miles. Alternatively, after returning to the ledge, we can continue on the Hidden Canyon Trail to the "North Gate" and return to Lower Corral via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike 8.6 miles. Trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 1042 feet; accumulated gain 1320 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, December 07, 2020 Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs loop from Golder Ranch. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [186, 08:00 AM, \$2].** This hike begins at Golder Ranch. It takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash. The Sutherland Wash Rock Art District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and beautiful vistas of Pusch Ridge. ***The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail, some rock scrambling, and a short section of mild bushwhacking. There are also two crossings of a wash which may involve some easy rock-hopping depending on the season. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest in the shade of some giant boulders at one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 250 feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 12 miles. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. Starting the hike from this parking location avoids the need for high clearance vehicles. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 08, 2020 OSP Granite Overlook. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [309, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$2]. This 1.8-mile loop begins at the 1st parking lot in Oracle State Park and winds uphill in and around beautiful boulders, desert grassland, oak trees, and manzanita stands. The hike offers great views of the former Kannally Ranch which originally extended all the way to the San Pedro River. The trail was constructed by volunteers from The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. The hike may be done in either direction, but the counterclockwise direction has a much more gradual climb. Also, this is an easy trail to link with several other trails if you're looking for a longer hike within the park. Hike 2 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Janet Frost 262-385-2478, janetlynnfrost@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 08, 2020 Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [402, 07:00 AM, \$20]. The hike starts at the Peralta Trailhead off Hwy # 60 in the Superstitions and follows the Dutchman Trail through Barkley Basin. From the basin, the trail climbs past Miners Needle (smaller sister of Weavers Needle) to Miners Summit, then descends along the Bluff Springs Trail to Bluff Spring (has seasonal water). There are netleaf hackberry and oak shade trees along the way. Hikers then continue back to the trailhead with superb views of Weavers Needle. Hike 9.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2415 feet; net elevation change 883 feet; accumulated gain 1660 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, dave@daveandpam.com, 520-820-6110]

Wednesday, December 09, 2020 Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [172, 09:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Thursday, December 10, 2020 Superstitions: Boulder Canyon Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [398, 08:00 AM, \$19]. The hike begins at a trailhead across the road from Canyon Lake parking lot. Hikers climb up Boulder Canyon Trail to a high point and return the same way. The trail takes hikers high enough to provide tremendous views of the mysterious Superstition Mountains. Your camera is a must on this hike. Hikers also get a great view of Canyon Lake. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Hike 4.5 miles; trailhead elevation 1700 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain 1010 feet; RTD 190 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 10, 2020 Big Wash Ramble. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [180, 08:00 AM, \$2]. The Big Wash parking lot is in Rancho Vistoso. Hikers will hike along mountain bike paths north from the lot through a desert environment surrounded by many trees, shrubs, and a large variety of cholla (dogs need to be careful). The hike will extend onto the biking trails about 3 miles in before returning to the trailhead. This is a dog-friendly hike. Participants without dogs are welcome. Participant quota is 6. Hike: 6 miles. Elevation gain: 300 feet. RTD 20 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

Friday, December 11, 2020 Ironwood Picnic Area. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW -Moderate [231, 08:00 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.]

Friday, December 11, 2020 B Jeb Peak via Wild Burro/Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [New, 07:00 AM, \$4]. Starting at the Wild Burro Trailhead the hike proceeds past the Ritz Carlton, up the Wild Burro Trail to the junction with the Wild Mustang Trail. We then continue into the higher elevations of the Tortillitas, on the Wild Mustang Trail, until we turn onto an unmaintained spur that climbs to Jeb Peak. The loop back to the trailhead is completed via the Wild Mustang Trail and Hotel Spur. The route is filled with large boulders and magnificent saguaro forests, including three crested saguaros. Jeb Peak is the 3rd highest point in the Tortillitas with spectacular 360 degree views of

Tucson, Catalina, and Marana. Hike 9 miles; trailhead elevation 2859 feet; accumulated gain 1800 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net.]

Sunday, December 13, 2020 The Big Wash, Sausalito & Honey Bee Canyons. Rating: B. Pace: Fast

[New, 07:00 AM, \$2]. These are nice, nearby canyons with an extension to include the Big Wash mountain bike trail system. The loop is completed utilizing a 2 mile walk along the sidewalk along Rancho Vistoso Blvd. to eliminate a car shuttle which is prohibited due to the pandemic. Our lunch stop is at a windmill and concrete dam before entering Sausalito Canyon. Bring water, lunch, snack, camera (optional), and sun protection. Hike 13.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change is 475'; accumulated gain is 750'; RTD 20 miles. Hike participant quota: 6. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

Monday, December 14, 2020 Middle Gate/50 Year/Hidden Cyn. Loop #3. Rating B. Pace:

Moderate [New, 08:00 AM, \$4]. From the Upper Corral area we hike to the Middle Gate and then take the Middle Gate trail east to join the North 50 Yr. Loop at the Sutherland Wash. We climb northeast on the N. 50 Yr. Trail, passing an iconic crested saguaro. Near the top of the N. 50 Yr. Loop we will take the Cowboy Slickrock spur trail northeast to join the Hidden Canyon Trail. We will have lunch on rock slabs with a magnificent view. We then continue north on the Hidden Canyon Trail going around Hidden Canyon Peak in a counterclockwise direction until we rejoin the N. 50 Yr. Trail. We then take the west side of the N. 50 Yr. Loop back to the Middle Gate and then back to the Upper Corral. Hike 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 687 feet; accumulated gain 1209 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: Frank Earnest, fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Monday, December 14, 2020 Tortolita Mountains: Jeffords Peak. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate**

[515, 08:00 AM, \$4]. ***Climbing the peak is a relatively easy bushwhack along a ridgeline on its eastern side. The tallest point in the Tortilitas was named after Tom Jeffords, an army liaison to the Apache Chief Cochise. Since there is no trail or easy access, most aficionados of the Tortolita Range have never been to the tallest peak. A high clearance, 4 wheel drive vehicle and good GPS, is required to reach the preferred starting point, off the Rail X Ranch road (E Edwin Rd). The climb is through mostly open range and grassland, with occasional cactus and Mesquite trees to negotiate. In season, the summit is covered with dozens of butterflies. There are excellent 360 degree views of the marble quarry, Saddlebrooke, Picacho Peak, and Newman Peak. Return is via the same route. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet; accumulated gain 1066 feet; RTD 25 miles [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, December 14, 2020 Fifty-Year Trail Area. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [183, 08:00 AM, \$4]

The hike begins at the Golder Ranch. The trail starts on the Fifty-Year Trail and follows social trails toward the Sutherland Wash. The trail then loops back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 234 feet; RTD 10 miles (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, December 15, 2020 Baby Jesus / Madonna and Child / Petroglyph Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [97, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Lower Corral and heads to the beginning of the Baby Jesus Trail across the Sutherland Wash. Hikers follow the trail on the east side of the Baby Jesus Ridge 4 miles. Beautiful saguaros, and rock formations along the way. Following a short backtrack, a spur at (N 32 26 55.4 W 110 51 24.2) begins a connecting trail over a grouping of 1200 year-old petroglyphs. This portion of the trail, about a mile, is unmaintained, requiring moderate bushwacking in places. Views south to the Catalinas are beautiful. A hike back along the Sutherland Wash trail system completes the loop. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3234 feet; net elevation change 527 feet; accumulated gain 1417 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, dave@daveandpam.com, 520-820-6110]

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 09:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. This hike can be done on north side trail in-out or as a loop around Alamo Canyon going up one side and returning down the other (clockwise or counter-clockwise). Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is generally gradual. The south-side trail traverses several rocky washes. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. There is a very scenic large flat-rock area above the falls. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no significant water crossings. Hikers may stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 429 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 Anza Trail / Tubac to Tumacacori. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [14, 08:00 AM, \$14]. The hike begins at the Tubac Presidio State Historical Park and ends at Tumacacori National Monument. More information about the Anza Trail is available at www.anzatrail.com and www.solideas.com/DeAnsa/trailguide. Hikers will cross rivers, but there are wooden bridges (no handrails) so we shouldn't get our feet wet. Sturdy walking shoes are fine (hiking shoes not required). Golden Age Pass is needed for entrance to Tumacacori Historic Park. Shopping will be after lunch, if your driver is willing. Hike 4.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 100 - 200 feet; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 144 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell13@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 17, 2020 Tiger Mine to Kannelly Homestead Oracle State Park. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 09:00 AM, \$4.00]. Hike begins after we park at the Old Tiger Road Mine Road and pass thru a fence signed with an AZT marker. We will follow this trail that is often used by hikers going to the Arizona Trail through Oracle State Park. This single-track route features rolling terrain with impressive views in all directions. The beauty of the hilly remote grasslands, oaks and granite boulders are crossed with small stream beds. This is a birders paradise so bring your binoculars and camera. The views and land are stunning. We will hike to the Wildlife Corridor Bench to a view of the Kannelly Homestead where we will enjoy an early lunch before returning along the same trail. Hike 5 miles, trailhead elevation 4840 ft; net elevation change 50 ft; accumulated gain __, RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Friday, December 18, 2020 🐕 OSP Mariposa/Granite Overlook. Rating: C Pace: Moderate [309, 8:00 AM, \$3 + \$2]. This is a dog friendly hike. All members are welcome with or without a dog. The hike begins at the American Ave Trailhead. We proceed through rolling, desert grasslands, then uphill through boulders, oak trees, and manzanita stands to the highest point in the park. The hike offers great views of the former Kannelly Ranch which originally extended all the way to the San Pedro River. Hike

4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4250, net elevation change 400 feet, accumulated gain 560 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, December 21, 2020 Middle Gate/50 Year/Hidden Cyn. Loop #1. Rating B. Pace:

Moderate [New, 08:00 AM, \$4]. From the Upper Corral area we hike to the Middle Gate and then take the Middle Gate trail east to join the 50 Yr. North Loop at the Sutherland Wash. We climb northeast on the N. 50 Yr. Trail, passing an iconic crested saguaro. At the top of the N. 50 Yr. Loop we take the Hidden Canyon trail north, going clockwise around Hidden Canyon Peak. We will have lunch on rock slabs with a magnificent view. We then head down the Hidden Canyon Trail to a spur trail which takes us west to join the Middle Gate Trail. We will take that trail back through the Middle Gate and return to the Upper Corral. Hike 9.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 676 feet; accumulated gain 1274 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]

Monday, December 21, 2020 OSP Arizona Trail/Windmill Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [512, 08:00 AM, \$3]. From the Arizona Trail parking lot at #77 and Tiger Mine Road, we follow the Arizona Trail 1 mile south to the Windmill Loop. The Windmill loop follows a 2 mile scenic ridgeline (with abundant wildflowers & mariposa lilies in the spring) to Kannally Wash. We follow the wash 1 mile west to the Windmill. From the Windmill we hike the Arizona Trail 2.7 miles north to the parking lot at #77. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation: 3741 feet; 1214 ascent; 1145 descent; 524 elevation change. RTD 32miles [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

Saturday, December 26, 2020 🐕 Fifty-Year Trail Area Dog Hike. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [183, 09:00 AM, \$4]. This is a dog friendly hike. All members are welcome with or without a dog. The hike begins at the Golder Ranch. The trail starts on the Fifty-Year Trail and follows social trails toward the Sutherland Wash. The trail then loops back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 234 feet; RTD 10 miles (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]

Sunday, December 27, 2020 🐕 Extended Fitness Walk. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [179, 07:00 AM, \$0]. This is a dog friendly hike. All members are welcome with or without a pet. As the name implies this an extended version of the weekday fitness walks. They will last 2 hours and travel approximately 6 miles over a variety of terrain including paved streets, golf course paths, and wilderness areas. They will start and finish in the same location as the weekday walks in the SaddleBrooke One parking lot. The longer duration will allow exploration of new and more distant areas, including The Preserve. The accumulated gain will vary from 600-1200 feet. Optional breakfast at the Road Runner Grill. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Monday, December 28, 2020 Blackett's Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [108, 08:00 AM, \$6]. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blackett's Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of

Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1668 feet; accumulated gain 1733 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest fearnestiv@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 29, 2020 Buster Spring / Buster Mountain. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [127, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike involves a moderately difficult bushwhack for the adventurous fit hiker. The hike starts at the Alamo Canyon Trailhead shortly turning off to the left on a diminishing trail in Catalina State Park. Hikers proceed to Buster Spring (el. 4150 feet), which was rebuilt by the U.S. Forest Service in 1994 and is a reliable source of water year-round. From the spring, hikers will climb to the summit of Buster Mountain (el. 4595 feet). The Buster Mountain summit offers magnificent views of upper Alamo Canyon and the tremendous cliffs and outcroppings there and around Table Mountain. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1895 feet; accumulated gain 2369 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Michael Hovan, michaelhovan@ameritech.net]

Thursday, December 31, 2020 Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [172, 07:30 AM, \$2 + \$2]. From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 520-351 -2058, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]