

# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2023

**ROBERT STIEVE**  
**COMING TO HIKING CLUB!**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2023**  
Submitted by Bruce Landeck

I am very pleased to announce that Robert Stieve, Editor of *Arizona Highways* since April 2007, will be the featured speaker at our February Hiking Club program. The topic of his discussion will be “ARIZONA HIGHWAYS AND HIKING THE GRAND CANYON STATE.”



*Arizona Highways*, as we all know, is the pre-eminent publication of our great state, read worldwide, with a total distribution in excess of 110,000 copies.

As stated on its website ([arizonahighways.com](http://arizonahighways.com)): “*Arizona Highways*’ award-winning photography and travel journalism, as well as its commitment to discovering the state’s treasures, has celebrated the beauty and splendor of Arizona since 1925.”

Mr. Stieve grew up in Wisconsin and received his bachelor’s degree in journalism from Marshall University. He also holds a master’s degree from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University, where he currently serves as an adjunct professor and board member.

Before his current position, Mr. Stieve served as editor of *Phoenix* magazine for eight years, with another three years as managing editor. He has also been a speechwriter at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and worked for several newspapers and radio stations around the country.

Because our Hiking Club programs are open to all SaddleBrooke residents, and with a large attendance expected, the program location and date have been **changed** to DesertView Performing Arts Center and will be on the afternoon of Thursday, February 16 (starting time TBA).

An additional announcement will be forthcoming in early February. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend what promises to be an excellent and informative program.

**BOOT PRINTS –  
SUSAN HOLLIS & RANDY PARK**

Submitted by Diana Smith



The first time I met Susan and Randy was during the interview for this profile. Despite having been an active SBHC member for six years, somehow our (hiking) paths had never crossed. My curiosity piqued; I was determined to find out why.



Wheeler Peak, New Mexico

Susan spent her youth in Pittsburgh, Randy in Omaha and later Spokane. Both had long, successful careers in business software in the Seattle area. Randy built and ran his own company; Park Software, Inc. Susan, while working for one of his clients, met Randy at an industry conference in Phoenix in 1987. After retiring, they sold their home and bought an RV,

living and traveling ten months out of twelve for three years. The remainder of the year, they lived in their vacation rental property in San Diego.



Kalalau Trail, Hawaii

Like so many of us, Randy and Susan had been searching for just the right retirement community when they found SaddleBrooke in 2007. While they live in SB full time, they continue to do a lot of traveling, primarily in the summer months, recently completing a bike and barge trip in the Netherlands. Planned travel for 2023 includes a bus and train tour of Southern Spain, a Mediterranean Jazz cruise, and a bike club trip to Coeur d'Alaine, Idaho. A trip to the Canadian Maritime Provinces is also on the drawing board.



Sun Gate – Machu Picchu, Peru

They have visited all 50 states and 30 state capital buildings, mostly in the RV. Apart from one or two in Alaska, Susan and Randy have visited all the National Parks West of the Mississippi that can be reached by driving. During their three-and-half-month trip through British Columbia and the Yukon on their way to Alaska and back, Susan fondly recalled seeing lots of bears!

In what might be considered a bit of an understatement, Randy and Susan describe themselves as “outdoor people”. Both are recreational golfers, playing with informal groups in their units on a weekly basis. They are avid skiers; Susan preferring Copper Mountain in Colorado while Randy favors Whistler in Columbia. In 2020, when many activities had been curtailed, they started bicycling.

And of course, Susan and Randy love to hike! They both joined the SBHC in 2008, became guides in 2010 and 2016, respectively, leading mostly A and B level hikes. With some health challenges behind them, they both plan to lead more hikes in the future.



Mount Democrat, Colorado

Susan has served as associate chief guide and chief guide. She co-organized SBHC trips to the Grand Canyon in 2011 and 2018, and to Moab, Utah, in 2014. Randy is a past Vice President and President of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. He co-organized a trip to Durango in 2019 and is scheduled to do so in Anza Borrego Springs in 2023. He coordinated trips to Havasupai in 2015 and 2016 (which were filled within thirty minutes of being announced!) and

Marble Canyon in 2017, in conjunction with Northern Arizona University. They were jointly in charge of awards and statistics for the club from 2008 to 2017.

Together, this dynamic hiking duo has really covered some miles! Major accomplishments include 800 miles of the Arizona Trail (from Mexico to Utah) with Larry Linderman’s group between 2010 and 2012; 500 miles of the Colorado Trail (from Denver to Durango) with help from other SBHC members, in day hikes from 2013 to 2018; a single day North Rim to South Rim of the Grand Canyon, as well as several longer trips overnighing at Phantom Ranch; around Mount Blanc through France, Italy and Switzerland; the W Trek in Torres del Paine of Chile and the Fitz Roy area of Argentina in Patagonia; backpacking the Inca Trail in Peru; covering significant portions of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Coastal, Kepler, and Routeburn Tracks in New Zealand; as well as the Bernese Oberland and Zermatt areas in Switzerland. Randy hiked Mount Whitney, traveling twenty-two miles and over 6500 feet elevation gain/loss, in just eleven hours.



Torres del Paine, Chile

Susan enjoys playing bridge and both love music, particularly jazz and classical genres. Family includes Susan’s 93-year-old mother who recently moved to Oro Valley and a large extended family, including a sister and four brothers, many nieces, nephews,

grandnieces, and grandnephews who visit often. Four years ago, Randy and Susan adopted Honey Pie, a loveable mutt rescued from a cardboard box in Basha's parking lot.

So, did I solve the mystery? The simplest explanation is that they are indeed very busy people, but aren't we all here in SaddleBrooke? Another thought: maybe we don't do the same kind of hiking on the same days of the week?

Whatever the reason I'd not had the pleasure of meeting Randy and Susan in the past, I'd certainly like to get to know them both better in the future. I suspect the best way to do this is outside, on a trail, in well-worn hiking boots. I sure hope I can keep up!

### **HIKING AND EXPLORING THE FOUR CORNERS REGION**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

Submitted by Bruce Hale

Bob Shea will be our featured speaker at the Wednesday, January 18, 2023, SaddleBrooke Hiking Club meeting and program. His topic is **"Hiking and Exploring the Four Corners Region"**.



He and his wife, Peggy, have been active members of SBHC since moving to SaddleBrooke in 2007. He has given four previous presentations to the club:

- Hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Pichu
- Hiking Oregon
- Hiking the Tour de Mont Blanc
- And most recently, Hiking and Photographing Western Wilderness Areas

Bob now prefers to hike alone, or with small groups in order to spend more time photographing nature and the environment.

The January presentation will highlight some of the many areas in the Four Corners region that may be of interest to hikers, backpackers, and photographers. Of course, he will show many of the excellent landscape images we have come to appreciate in his presentations for SBHC and the SaddleBrooke photography clubs.

### **VIDEOGRAPHER NEEDED**

Submitted by Ken Wong

Our recently formed Technology Committee chaired by Dave Corrigan with members Ruth Caldwell, Randy Park, and Ken Wong has established a list of projects that includes videoing the club's programs and other presentations such as the annual Orientation to Hiking.

The intent is to post these videos to YouTube so members and others who are not able to attend in person can view these events. We are looking for a volunteer who has experience in videography, the requisite equipment, and a willingness to help the club out in this arena.

If you are interested, please contact Dave Corrigan at [dave@daveandpam.com](mailto:dave@daveandpam.com).

Thank you!

## SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB'S FALL PICNIC

Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club's Fall Picnic is an optimal opportunity to connect with our hiking friends who have been gone during the summer months. Eleven of us also enjoyed the camaraderie of hiking the Ridgeline to 50-Year Trail loop before the picnic.



Hikers on the Ridgeline & 50 Year Trail Loop October 21 - Bill Brown, Kathy Jensen, Jan Springer, Elissa Cochran, Kathy Madore, Yvette Sabusky, Linda Rodrick, Bruce Sabusky and Georgette Brown (Ray Peale- not in photo) Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler



Hikers on the Ridgeline & 50 Year Trail Loop on October 21 - Ray Peale, Bill Brown, Kathy Jensen, Jan Springer, Elissa Cochran, Yvette & Bruce Sabusky, Georgette Brown, Kathy Madore Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler

The temperatures were cool, the views of the Tortolitas and Santa Catalinas were stunning, several fall wildflowers were smiling for us, and the surprised blacktail rattlesnake we saw just slithered peacefully away from us.

It was a fun hike for Elissa Cochran, Jan Springer, Kathy Jensen, Bill & Georgette Brown, Kathryn Madore, Yvette & Bruce Sabulsky, Linda Rodrick, Ray Peale, and Elisabeth Wheeler (Hiking Guide).

## GOOD CROWD AT NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Submitted by Bruce Hale

The November monthly SBHC program had the largest attendance (about 100) in a very long time -- pleasing both the Program Committee Chair (Bruce Hale) and Club President (Bruce Landeck).



The Club welcomed long-time Catalina State Park Ranger Jim Dees as our speaker. Jim's talk was very scatological - centering around animal scat we may encounter on the trails we share, as well as the habits and diet of those animals. He then answered many questions about current and future happenings at our closest and most familiar State Park.



Club programs are a great chance to see hiking friends off the trail They are held six times a year at 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the SaddleBrooke1 Activity Center, with an exception for this coming February which was announced by the two Bruce's at the November program. See the lead article regarding the February Program.

### ARIZONA TRAIL WORK SESSIONS

Submitted by Seana Kobak

Several Saddlebrook hikers and Arizona trail volunteers ventured out to conduct trail maintenance on October 19 and November 16. The monsoon rains did a lot of damage to the trail this year. Mountain bikers have complained that the trail has so many ruts that it difficult to ride the trail.

Last month, we four-wheeled down the Kanally Wash and worked the section south of the wash. If you have not hiked this area recently, it is a must see! The mountain views and golden rolling hills are just stunning!

One of the volunteers who had just thru-hiked the trail said that this was one of his favorite sections. (The Mazatzals were his least favorite because it was a forest of cat claw). He commended Ray Peale and the crew for the noticeable diligent work in the Oracle section. Having hiked the trail myself, I can attest to the gratitude you feel when you see how much work is being conducted to make the trail such a wonderful experience!



Steve Aiken and John McAlister obviously just posing for this picture!



Work crew with six from Saddlebrook (Ray Peale, Seana Kobak, Steve Aiken, John McAlister, Tom Dowell, and Elissa Cochran)

There will be work sessions on the third Wednesday in January, February, and March. Please contact Ray Peale ([ray.peale@gmail.com](mailto:ray.peale@gmail.com)) or Seana Kobak ([seanabk88@gmail.com](mailto:seanabk88@gmail.com)) if you would like to join in any of these sessions. Please note that the ATA provides tools and training so all you need to bring is your willingness. It truly is fun and rewarding!



Ray Peale, John McAlister, Thomas Dowell and Elissa Cochran working hard while also enjoying the view.

### **COPPER CANYON MEXICO TRIPS**

Submitted by Phil McNamee

In 2018 and 2019, there were three private trips to the Copper Canyon arranged for SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. There was a fourth that had to be canceled due to Covid in 2020.

I have arranged two more private trips for 2023 with departure dates of March 30 and April 13.

These trips depart and drop off right here in SaddleBrooke. There is also a discount of \$100 per passenger for these private trips.



Should you wish to secure a spot of either of these trips, contact Phil McNamee at [mcnameephil@gmail.com](mailto:mcnameephil@gmail.com) to get on the reservation list. No deposit is required, and full payment is due 45 days in advance of departure to 'A Closer Look Tours'. Here is a link to the tour.

<https://acloserlooktours.com/wp-content/uploads/Copper-Canyon-Tour-Flyer-2023.pdf>

### **OUR WONDERFUL WEEK OF FALL FOLIAGE**

Submitted by Ruth Caldwell

Fall foliage can be hard to find when you live in the desert! But every year during the last week of October we can count on Bear Wallow near Summerhaven to come through for us!

Two hikes were scheduled that week this year for hikers to marvel at the beautiful reds, oranges, and yellows of the leaves up on Mt Lemmon. Unfortunately, the second hike had to

be canceled due to snow on the mountain! Fall is beautiful, but short in our neck of the woods.



### **WHAT3WORDS APP**

Submitted by Phil McNamee

There is a free App that I believe we could all use on our phones. What3words is simple to use and, if necessary, search and rescue can locate you easily.

The app pinpoints your location with 30 meters by assigning three English words. It can also be used to navigate back to a saved location (i.e., your car). Best of all, it is free with no annual fee to use.

I used this App myself last year when I had a medical emergency on a hike. I could give the

911 operator the three English words and they could determine the exact location I was situated. Here is a link to explain how the App works.

<https://what3words.com/clip.apples.leap>

### **SUTHERLAND WASH PETROGLYPH LOOP**

**Monday, November 14, 2022**

Submitted by Linda Bailey

As we initiated our hike near Sutherland Wash, ten individuals were bundled up for an exciting experience. As we entered the CSP North gate, we were on our way, with a clear blue sky and fresh air. This area is described as the Sutherland Wash Rock Art District. It is on the National Historic Register. Crossing Arizona State Trust Land - a permit is needed to enter.





The Hohokam petroglyphs seen here date back to 900 AD. Our guide Ruth Caldwell did an excellent job explaining each drawing. These people were into flowers, animals, and family. Very interesting to see their lives. We were surprised at how high the Hohokam people climbed to do their art.



We wandered around through the Buffelgrass that can burn over 1,400 degrees. It has transformed fire resistant desert to flammable grassland. It is officially listed as a noxious weed. Scientists are currently working to develop a bioherbicide to take care of this problem.

Our lunch stop was among boulders and a little stream of water, where we enjoyed the rest and more conversation.

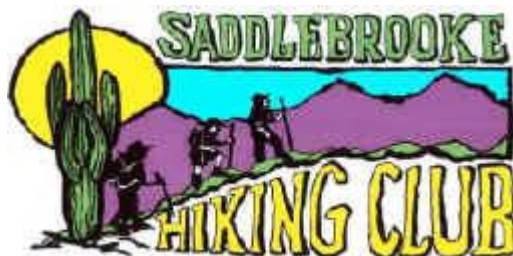
On our way back, we climbed up rocks through brush, narrow passages and saw many interesting rock formations. This area has an abundance of petroglyphs that you need a few hikes there to see them all.

I must say the time coming back seemed longer than on the way there. Or maybe it was because my feet were getting tired.

It was a wonderful hike. Thank you - Guide Ruth.

## WELCOME TO THE SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB

Submitted by Arlene Daigle



Would you like to have the SaddleBrooke Hiking club logo on a favorite shirt? We have an embroiderer right here in SaddleBrooke that will do that for you!

She can put the logo on T-shirts, tech shirts and even hiking shirts for the low cost of \$15 if you provide the shirt.

Her contact information:

Mary Gajeske, 520-818-1732,  
[mauilover49@yahoo.com](mailto:mauilover49@yahoo.com)

## SABINO CANYON IN THE FALL

Submitted by Ruth Caldwell



Fall comes a little later to the riparian area of Sabino Canyon. A rainy weekend made for a

wonderful cloudy Monday hike for 13 SaddleBrooke hikers.

Sabino Creek was flowing fast, the Cottonwoods and Ash trees were in full color, and the hikers were enjoying Nature's show! What a wonderful treasure we have just on the other side of the Catalina Mountains.

### NEW HIKING CLUB MEMBERS

Submitted by Dianna Wilson

Congratulations to our 36 new members! You have joined a fun bunch of hikers of all skill levels. We are eager to meet you on the trails. Be sure to check out the hiking schedule. If you have questions reach out to one of the guides or one of our 698 members.

Peg Achter  
Richard Achter  
Judeen Barwood  
Donna Bayley  
Margie Buhler  
Kim Behling  
Karin Bivens  
Rodger Bivens  
Clive Bradley  
Gerald (Jerry) Brinton  
Dorothy Brolin  
Bonnie Brown  
Jeff Brown  
Barbara Conley-Benjamin  
Virginia Donatell  
Pam Elvy  
Melissa Geyman  
Greg Jones  
Sandy Jones  
Gary Mansdorfer  
Joan Martin  
Chris McCormick  
Tonya McCormick  
LR Penner  
Thomas Quinn  
Neba Reiter  
Valerie (Holly) Rose

Harriet Rosenberg  
Jerome Rulli  
Catherine Rulli  
Michael Schmitz  
Linda Schmitz  
James Thompson  
James Thompson  
Kurt Wallin  
Rick Woods

### MORE PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

Submitted by Bruce Hale

Your Program Committee has been busy thinking up ideas for informative and entertaining new SBHC programs. We have two ideas for programs that can be carried on from year to year. These will debut in March and April of 2023, and **we need your help!**

The March 15, 2023, program will be *My Favorite Hike*, a series of six approximately 10-minute "vignettes" of a favorite trail experience. These differ from the "travelogue" presentations we are familiar with at SBHC programs by being concise (a single trail/event) and requiring less preparation by presenters.

Hikes may have been done anytime and anywhere. We encourage members to share good hiking experiences; and to get the ball rolling, I will do a short presentation regarding a hike in July 2022 to the Gap Lakes and Shelf Lake Trail in Wyoming's Medicine Bow Range.



Wyoming's Medicine Bow Range

If you are interested in doing one of these short presentations, contact one of the Committee members:

Bruce Hale [brucehale.bah@gmail.com](mailto:brucehale.bah@gmail.com)

Diana Smith [dianajsmith1@msn.com](mailto:dianajsmith1@msn.com)

or Jim Solon [jsolon3680@aol.com](mailto:jsolon3680@aol.com)

We would love to see where you've been!

The April 19, 2023, program will be *A Recap of This Past Year's SBHC Hiking Trips*. By that date, there will be three Club trips during the previous year. We hope to have a 15-minute presentation about each and a short discussion by the Trip Committee about plans for the following year and beyond.

To make this program a reality, we need your help providing pictures, stories, and memories. The coordinators for each trip have agreed to collect this material in the next couple of months and help put it in the form of a presentation. They will also want help from any trip participants that would like to be presenters. Coordinators are:

Silver City: Jeff & Susan Love  
and Dale & Ruth Leman

Bryce Canyon: Tim Butler & Marc Humphrey

Borrego Springs: Randy Park & Arlene Daigle

We hope these programs inspire great new hiking trips and memories.

<b>Future Trips</b>		
<b>Destination</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>
Borrego Springs, CA	Jan. 31 – Feb. 2, 2023	TBD
Sedona, AZ	April, 2023	TBD
Santa Fe, NM	Oct. 3, 4, & 5 2023	Heather Graham

<b>News You Can Use</b>		
AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: MountainView Lot	1/18 Wed.	7:30 A.M. - Noon
SBHC Program – Bob Shea Hiking and Exploring the Four Corners	1/18 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	1/18 Wed.	5:00 P.M.
SBHC Board Meeting HOA 1 – Coyote Room	1/25 Wed.	2:00 P.M.
SBHC Guide Meeting HOA 1 -Coyote Room	1/25 Wed.	3:30 P.M.
AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: MountainView Lot	2/15 Wed.	7:30 A.M. - Noon
SBHC Program - Robert Stieve Arizona Highways and Hiking the Grand Canyon State	2/16 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	2/16 Wed.	5:00 P.M.

## Hiking Information

### HIKE RATINGS, PACE AND ELEVATION CHANGE

#### Ratings

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

hike descriptions that follow, both parameter values are exceeded for some hikes. However, that does not necessarily justify a higher combined rating.

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

### **Special Conditions**

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

### **Pace**

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

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

### **Elevation Change**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Hikes Offered

**Monday, January 2, 2023, The Preserve/Dome Trail. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [533, 08:00 AM, \$0].** The latest addition to the SaddleBrooke "Backyard" Trails, this route begins in the foothills east of The Preserve and peregrinates to the Dome. We will first meet at Mountain View and carpool to the trailhead. The hike begins at the east end of E Willow Canyon Rd. After crossing the Canada del Oro wash, the trail continues into the foothill through beautiful granite formations and native desert flora. It first passes Balance Rock, continues along the ridgeline below Titanic Rock, and then past Helmet Rock until it intersects the Dome Extension Trail. It then continues to Dome Rock, with an option to visit Flag Hill. Along the entire way are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Samaniego Ridge. The special condition designation\*\*\* is that there are several sections that are steeper than on an average park constructed trail. Watch video, <https://www.relive.cc/view/vDqg7xwQoVq> Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3350 feet; elevation change 580 feet; accumulated gain 970 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Tom Stafford, [tominpoint@gmail.com](mailto:tominpoint@gmail.com)]

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023, Superstitions: Weavers Needle to Fremont Saddle and Overlook Point. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [497, 08:00 AM, \$20].** This in-and-out hike through the beautiful Superstition Mountains, brings you up to a stunning vista overlooking Weavers Needle. The needle is an iconic Arizona landmark often pictured in photos. \*\*\*The hike begins at the Peralta Trailhead and rises quickly on a rugged, vegetated path. Oak and mesquite trees are common along the trail as well as huge bolder formations. Magnificent vistas of the Superstitions are visible as the ascent continues. The trail reaches its highest elevation at Fremont Saddle and Weavers Needle comes into view. The hike continues for another 1/2 mile to reach Overlook Point (sometimes referred to as Lone Pine). After enjoying the view and a snack, we descend down the same trail. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 1,385 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, [dave@daveandpam.com](mailto:dave@daveandpam.com), 520-820-6110]

**Wednesday, January 4, 2023, Middle Gate/50 Year Trails Loop PLUS. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [184, 08:00 AM, \$4].** START TIME MAY BE ADJUSTED FOR TEMPERATURE. The hike begins at the Upper or 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 ~5 miles+/-; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 600 to 800 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department: <https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>. [Guide: Rob Simms - Spartan7375@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, January 5, 2023, 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: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Thursday, January 5, 2023, Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW [499, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. After starting on the Fifty-Year Trail hikers will turn left onto an unmarked trail and hike along a rugged, scenic ridge line trail for about 2 miles. At the junction with the Fifty-Year Trail we return to the Equestrian Center via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike is 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 386 feet; total ascent 446 feet. RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

**Friday, January 6, 2023, Barrio Viejo Cultural & Historic Walking Tour, Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 9:00 AM, \$5].** An interesting walk thru Barrio Viejo; the largest 19th century collection of adobe buildings and best preserved Barrio in the United States. This will be a cultural & historical walk; through neighborhood residences, art studios and galleries, and markets/restaurants. Along the way we will see colorful murals and shrines both old and new. Key landmarks include; Teatro Carmen, El Pacque de San Cosme, El Tiradito, The Wishing Shrine, and location of early Tucson's Public Baths & Gardens. The walk will leave SaddleBrooke and begin at the 5 Points Market in Barrio Viejo. We will take a lunch break at one of the local eateries. Our walk is 3.5 miles, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation gain < 50 feet, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 Mi. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com.]

**Monday, January 9, 2023, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated

gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Terry McCarthy (404) 617-7286 e-mail t.mccarthy410@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023, American Flag to the Saddle. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [9, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the American Flag Trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and follows a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers take the American Flag/Cody Trail to its intersection with the Oracle Ridge Trail where there are great views to the west of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas. The group then follows the ridge south and lunches in a saddle at the top of Camp Bonita Canyon on the northwest side of Apache Peak. On the return, we may swing by the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. Hike 9.1 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 950 feet; accumulated gain 1465 feet; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Bill Bender, wbender@uw.edu.]

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023, Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Bluff Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [427, 08:00 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 a snack. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2705 feet; net elevation change 240 feet; accumulated gain 367 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, email: bflandeck@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023, MiddleGate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [524, 08:00 AM, \$4].** This is a pleasant hike from the Upper Corral parking lot to the Middle Gate using mostly social trails. The route largely avoids the busy 50 Year trail except for a 0.4mile 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: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023, Picket Post Loop Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [530, 06:30 AM, \$15].** This scenic trail loops around Picket Post Mountain near Superior, AZ. The first half of the hike features an undulating desert landscape with large saguaros and granite formations, against the backdrop of the towering and colorful cliffs of Picket Post Mountain. The second half journeys through Telegraph Canyon, a seasonal wetland with grasses, perennials, and a canopy of giant cottonwood and willow trees, perhaps one of the best riparian habitats in southern Arizona. We will pass ancient grinding holes, and boulders a hundred feet in diameter that have fallen from the shear cliffs above. Although, classified as an easy B level hike according to distance, the accumulated gain is moderate, making this suitable for any strong C level hiker. See video, <https://www.relive.cc/view/vMv8QLD1yNO> Hike 9.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation change 482 feet; accumulated gain 787 feet; RTD 146 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com.]

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023, Stone House Ruins and Rancheria Spring Loop. Rating C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$0].** The Trailhead is located at the end of Willow Canyon in the Preserve. (after carpooling from the usual meeting spot at Mountain View). This is an out and back hike with a short loop in the middle. The special condition designation\*\*\* for this hike is due to the steep climb up the bare rock surface to the top of Titanic Rock. The trail begins by following the route up to the top of

Titanic Rock where you have great views of the Preserve, Biosphere and CDO. After taking a short break on the top of Titanic Rock the hike continues east for about a mile to the remnants of an old stone structure presumably used by ranchers working the foothills of the Catalinas. From the Ruins the hike loops around to Rancheria Spring. Rancheria Spring, while still containing water, had been used as a water source for cattle and other desert animals. The Spring can be found on maps as far back as the 1920s. The hike continues back to Titanic Rock and loops around the south side of Titanic Rock meeting up with the original route. The hike then returns to the trailhead at Willow Canyon. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3285 feet; net elevation change 693 feet; accumulated gain 827 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Tom Stafford, tominpoint@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 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 \_\_ feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, January 12, 2023, Flag/Dome/Titanic Rock Medley with a Wash Walk. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [542, 08:00 AM, \$0].** This hike departs from the south end of Arroyo Way in Unit 21 (after carpooling from Mountain View). After crossing the Canada del Oro Wash, we head up the Double Crested/Dome Rock Trail. We'll take an in-and-out spur over to the Flag that overlooks HOA1. After a short break, we continue past the Double Crested Saguaro on our way to the next overlook, Dome Rock. After our break on Dome Rock, we will take the upper Dome Extension Trail and meet up with the new Preserve Trail. We will hike over to Balanced Rock, take a quick break and then take an in-and-out spur up to Titanic Rock for a view of the Preserve. We return past Balanced Rock and hike down to the Canada del Oro for a wash walk back to the beginning trailhead on Arroyo Way. \*\*\* There are several areas of steep hills with loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. The climb to Titanic is over steep slickrock. Along the entire way are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Samaniego Ridge. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 1430 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, January 12, 2023, Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [354, 07:30AM, \$2].** From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision, we hike up a wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are great views of Rancho Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere along the way. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 789 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Thursday, January 12, 2023, Honey Bee Canyon South. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [224, 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, look for petroglyphs, find a large hole in a rock, and look for animals and animal tracks. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, hat, camera (optional). Hike less than 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 100 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 26 miles. [Guide: Bruce Olson brucej0506@gmail.com]

**Sunday, January 15, 2023, The Preserve/Dome Trail. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [533, 08:00 AM, \$0].** The latest addition to the SaddleBrooke "Backyard" Trails, this route begins in the foothills east



of The Preserve and peregrinates to the Dome. We will first meet at Mountain View and carpool to the trailhead. The hike begins at the east end of E Willow Canyon Rd. After crossing the Canada del Oro wash, the trail continues into the foothill through beautiful granite formations and native desert flora. It first passes Balance Rock, continues along the ridgeline below Titanic Rock, and then past Helmet Rock until it intersects the Dome Extension Trail. It then continues to Dome Rock, with an option to visit Flag Hill. Along the entire way are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Samaniego Ridge. The special condition designation\*\*\* is that there are several sections that are steeper than on an average park constructed trail. Watch video, <https://www.relive.cc/view/vDqg7xwQoVq> Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3350 feet; elevation change 580 feet; accumulated gain 970 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Bill Bender, [wbender@uw.edu](mailto:wbender@uw.edu).]

**Monday, January 16, 2023, Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail (short version). Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [332, 09:00 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](mailto:kathryn.madore@gmail.com)]

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles.[Guide: Rob Simms - [Spartan7375@gmail.com](mailto:Spartan7375@gmail.com).]

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 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: Bruce Olson [brucej0506@gmail.com](mailto:brucej0506@gmail.com)]

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Cordones. 🐕 Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [509, 09:00 AM, \$0].** This is a dog friendly hike. All hikers are welcome with or without a dog. We meet at Mountain View and carpool to the intersection of Whispering Tree Ln and S Border Dr. The hike is in the desert area (state trust land parcel 10S-14E-22) between the northwest border of SaddleBrooke unit 8A, and the ridgeline in the Cordones, along which Catalina Hills Blvd follows to the Preserve. It is a smooth, level trail that offers a good introduction to desert hiking. We pass a water trough for livestock leasing this parcel of state trust land, and cross over a wash with an old abandoned truck. There are nice views to the east of Saddlebrook and the Catalinas. Hike 3.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; accumulated gain 328 feet. RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, [azcaldwell3@gmail.com](mailto:azcaldwell3@gmail.com)]

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Tucson. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [517, 09:00 AM, \$5 + \$trolley fee].** Tucson has a unique and colorful history. This walking tour begins at the Mercado where we will take the trolley into the downtown area to walk the "Turquoise Trail." The trail encompasses many of the historical buildings and sites that define Tucson. We will visit

the newly opened Tucson Visitors Center and its cultural displays. The tour is 2.5 miles and will last approximately 3 hours. At the conclusion we will take the trolley back to the Mercado and enjoy traditional local cuisine. The tour will be limited to 16. RTD 51 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

**Thursday, January 19, 2023, Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [402, 08:00 AM, \$20].** The hike starts at the Peralta Trailhead off Hwy 60 in the Superstitions and follows the Dutchman Trail through Barkley Basin. From the basin, the trail climbs past Miners Needle (smaller sister of Weavers Needle) to Miners Summit, then descends along the Bluff Springs Trail to Bluff Spring (has seasonal water). There are netleaf hackberry and oak shade trees along the way. Hikers then continue back to the trailhead with superb views of Weavers Needle. Hike 9.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2415 feet; net elevation change 883 feet; accumulated gain 1695 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, dave@daveandpam.com, 520-820-6110]

**Thursday, January 19, 2023, OSP East Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [307, 07:30 AM, \$4 + \$2].** The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. Hikers follow the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection, we turn southeast and follow trail to the intersection with the Manzanita Trail. We follow this trail west and onto the Nature Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. This route is fairly level with little elevation change with wide open views of the surrounding mountains and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. Hike 6.2 miles, trailhead elevation 4350 feet; accumulated gain 760 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Friday, January 20, 2023, Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace :SLOW [136, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** Starting at the main trailhead in Catalina State Park, this hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We first hike the Nature Trail which has panoramic views, and then continue onto the Canyon Loop Trail. We will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail prior to returning. If the group is really ambitious, we will swing through the Canyon Loop Trail the opposite way we came for a total of 6.7 miles. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain 370 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

**Sunday, January 22, 2023, OSP American Avenue. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [306, 09:00 AM, \$4 + \$2].** Oracle State Park contains native Sonoran cacti, desert grassland, oak trees, and Manzanita stands, and contains several miles of well-maintained trails. The hike begins at the trailhead off American Ave. on the western edge of the park and proceeds along the relatively smooth Mariposa Trail toward the Oak Woodland picnic area. About 0.25 miles before reaching the picnic area, the group will take the 0.8-mile Bellota Loop Trail which nearly reaches the Group Use Area adjacent the historic Kannally Ranch House before connecting back to the Mariposa Trail for the return. Along the way are excellent views of the Galiuro Mountains and San Pedro Valley to the north and the Santa Catalina Mountains to the south. Hike 3.2 miles; net elevation change less than 500 feet; accumulated gain less than 500 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, slhollis@yahoo.com]

**Monday, January 23, 2023, Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [124, 09:00 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]

**Monday, January 23, 2023, Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Phoneline Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [539, 08:00 AM, \$6].** From the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, the hike proceeds along the Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake Canyon trails to the Tram stop 1 picnic area on Sabino Creek - a favorite with views of Sabino Creek with velvet ash, cottonwood, willow, and Arizona sycamore trees. After a short break we will cross Sabino Creek (if water level permits) and climb a spur trail up to the Phoneline Trail where we turn to head back down towards the Visitor Center. We will finish on the Bajada Nature loop with a beautiful crested saguaro. Bring a camera and plenty of water and a snack. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2450 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 780 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [172, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, email: bflandeck@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Creosote and Camaro Double Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Slow [NEW, 09:00 AM, \$6].** This pleasant and gentle hike utilizes the Creosote Loop, Rocky 13 & Camaro Loop Trails in the Robles Pass Area of the Tucson Mountain Park. The hike loops through washes and along ridgelines with great views. Hike 3.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 145 feet; accumulated gain 315 feet; RTD 62 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg askus3@centurylink.net]

**Thursday, January 26, 2023, Tortolita Mountains: Wild Burro Canyon with Key Exchange. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [467, 08:00 AM, \$5].** This hike is the opposite direction of the C version of this hike. We start at the Ritz Carlton trailhead and finish at the north side of the Tortolitas. Hike 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet at the north end, 3000 feet at the Wild Burro Trailhead; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 1590 feet; RTD 20 miles (dirt). [Guide: Randy Park, rparktucson@gmail.com]

**Thursday, January 26, 2023, Tortolita Mountains: Wild Burro Canyon with Key Exchange. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [467, 08:00 AM, \$5].** The trailhead is reached via the Rail-X Marble Mine Road off Oracle Hwy at the county line, then another 2.5 miles on another jeep road. We hike into Wild Burro Canyon from the north side of the Tortolitas on an old road past an old stone wall (that once was a goat corral), past a windmill, and down the new North-End section of the Wild Burro Trail. From there we continue along the southern section of the Wild Burro Trail to some old stone house ruins, water cistern, and swimming pool. We continue 2 more miles along a flat sandy arroyo, some on compacted soil, to the trailhead near the Ritz Carlton at the end of Dove Mountain Blvd. The group hiking north from the Ritz Carlton trailhead, for the key exchange, will do the reverse. 4WD vehicles will be needed to reach the northern starting point. Hike 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet at the north end, 3000 feet at the Wild Burro Trailhead; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 400 feet; RTD 20 miles (dirt). [Guide: Susan Hollis, slhollis@yahoo.com]

**Thursday, January 26, 2023, Tucson Downtown Mural Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [541, 08:00 AM, \$5].** Fun walk around an area of downtown Tucson and north to University. We will visit over 4 dozen beautiful murals along the way. We will also pass the Ronstadt House and the Historic YWCA. Great way to acquaint yourself with Tucson! We will end with lunch at the Cup Cafe in the Historic Congress Hotel. Walk 4 mi, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation change < 50 ft, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 mi. [Guide:Kathy Minx, kathrynminx@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, January 26, 2023, SutherlandWash Petroglyph short version. Rating:C/ D\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [501, 08:00 AM,\$4].** The hike begins at the CSP North Gate trail head. The Sutherland Wash Rock Art District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and vistas of Pusch Ridge. This is an in and out hike with many petroglyph panels clustered at a single site. \*\*\*The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail and uneven footing at times. This hike is for hikers that have successfully completed several C level hikes. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest on rocks near one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change: 313 ft. total ascent: 459 ft, RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

**Friday, January 27, 2023, Hiking Poles Field Training. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [518, 09:00 AM, \$3].** Hiking Poles Field Training. Hiking poles are recommended for the rocky, uneven and steep terrain that we encounter on the trails of the desert southwest. Many hikers carry poles but have never received training in how to properly use them to prevent falls and injuries. This hike will review proper adjustment and use of hiking poles for stability and to assist in climbing and descending in actual trail conditions. Participants will need to bring their own poles. The hike will take place on the Linda Vista Loop and will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants. The Linda Vista trailhead is one block east of Oracle Road on Linda Vista Blvd. The hike proceeds into the foothills of Pusch Ridge and is an excellent introduction to desert hiking. The trail ascends to provide excellent views of Oro Valley. There are magnificent saguaros throughout the drainage from Pusch Ridge. Hike 2.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 512 feet; RTD 28 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

**Wednesday, February 1, 2023, Fifty-Year Trail Area "Double D". Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [233, 08:00 AM, \$2].** The hike begins at the Golder Ranch parking area. The trail starts by crossing the Fifty-Year Trail and follows social trails toward the Sutherland Wash with several interesting sights 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 Middle Gate and returns via a loop. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 334 feet; RTD 10 miles. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, February 2, 2023, Fifty-Year Trail / Sutherland Cutoff Trail Loop. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [181, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. The Fifty-Year Trail leads north to a stream terrace that provides a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area and the Santa Catalina Mountains. We then hike down to the Sutherland Wash, take the Trail Link to the Sutherland Trail, and head back into the park. Hike 7.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

**Monday, February 6, 2023, Sweetwater Trail to the Saddle. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [434, 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. 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. The hike reaches a saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon Trail and returns. The King Canyon Trail, an alternate route to Wasson Peak, leads up from the Desert Museum on the west side of the Tucsons. We will have lunch at the saddle before heading back to the trailhead. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, shollis@yahoo.com]

**Monday, February 6, 2023, Basic AllTrails Instruction Hike/Cordones. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [509, 09:00 AM, \$0].** We meet at Mountain View to sign in and carpool to the Retail Center on SaddleBrooke. The purpose of this hike is to instruct hikers in the basic use of the AllTrails app. Hikers must have the app downloaded on their phone prior to the hike (either from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store - free version is fine). The hike is in the desert area (state trust land parcel 10S-14E-22) between the northwest border of SaddleBrooke unit 8A, and the ridgeline in the Cordones, along which Catalina Hills Blvd follows to the Preserve. It is a smooth, level trail that offers a good introduction to desert hiking. We pass a water trough for livestock leasing this parcel of state trust land, and cross over a wash with an old abandoned truck. There are nice views to the east of SaddleBrooke and the Catalinas. Hike 3.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; accumulated gain 328 feet. RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Esperero Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [178, 07:30 AM, \$6].** The hike reaches a saddle known locally as Cardiac Gap, which overlooks Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot, through the Cactus Picnic Area and over a few small foothills to The Gulch. The hiking is initially steep... then it gets much steeper. We'll have lunch at the saddle (el. 4400 feet) while viewing the falls below, and return to the Visitor Center. Depending on season, there may be water in the falls. Extra drinking water is recommended. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1940 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Golden Gate Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [204, 07:00 AM, \$7].** The hike begins at the parking lot at the bottom of Gates Pass on the western side of Tucson Mountain Park. Golden Gate Mountain was used as the backdrop in many Hollywood horse operas and movies made at Old Tucson. In Tucson Mountain Park, we will hike 0.5 miles east along the David Yetman Trail and then take the Golden Gate Loop west to a picnic area on the west side of Kinney Road. The hike has some rocky stretches and a moderate accumulated gain. Some bushwhacking across a wash is needed to return to the parking lot. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 70 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023, MiddleGate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [524, 08:00 AM, \$4].** This is a pleasant hike from the Upper Corral parking lot to the Middle Gate using mostly social trails.

The route largely avoids the busy 50 Year trail except for a 0.4mile 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: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023, American Flag to the Saddle. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [9, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the American Flag Trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and follows a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers take the American Flag/Cody Trail to its intersection with the Oracle Ridge Trail where there are great views to the west of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas. The group then follows the ridge south and lunches in a saddle at the top of Camp Bonita Canyon on the northwest side of Apache Peak. On the return, we may swing by the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. Hike 9.1 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 950 feet; accumulated gain 1465 feet; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [172, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, email: bflandeck@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Cactus Forest Trails. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [131, 08:00 AM, \$8].** The hike is easy and in the Cactus Forest area of Saguaro National Park - East. Starting at the Broadway gate of SNP East, we will wander the trails in this section of the National Park. Pack a lunch for our picnic along the trail. Hike 6-7 miles; trailhead elevation 2750 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, February 9, 2023, Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [323, 07:00 AM, \$6].** The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. We will return back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 964 feet; accumulated gain 1425 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, February 9, 2023, OSP Arizona Trail/Windmill Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [512, 08:00 AM, \$3].** From the Arizona Trail parking lot at Highway 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 and 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 32 miles. [Guide: Bruce Olson brucej0506@gmail.com]

**Thursday, February 9, 2023, Boyce-Thompson Arboretum. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [117, 08:00 AM, \$16].** The arboretum (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 80 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 lunch, camera, hiking poles are optional. Hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes are recommended, although the paved trail is relatively level. Following our visit to the arboretum, we will plan to drive a short distance to Superior and have lunch at a fun local restaurant specializing in Bar-B-Que. A mailing will be sent prior to the trip with more details. Hike is around 4.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2,431 feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 164 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

**Friday, February 10, 2023, Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina and Upper Javelina. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [459, 09:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the Ritz Carlton Hotel hiker parking lot. The group will hike up Wild Burro Canyon a short distance to Lower Javelina Trail which we follow for 2 miles, then cross Wild Burro Canyon again to connect to Upper Javelina Trail. We will proceed along the Upper Javelina Trail for 3 miles; the end of Upper Javelina Trail is close to the new golf course. The group will then hike an easy 1 mile path back to the parking lot. Hike 6.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 550 feet; accumulated elevation 910 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

**Sunday, February 12, 2023, OSP Loop trails near Kannally Ranch House. Rating: D\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [508, 10:00 AM, \$4 + \$2].** Hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House at the Nature Trail. The trail leads to the Windy Ridge Trail and then connects with the Granite Overlook Trail (highest point in the park). The trail descends and meets the Bellota Trail which loops back to the Ranch House. \*\*\* There are rocky step-ups and downs and areas of steep hills with some loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 ft., accumulated elevation 400 ft., RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Monday, February 13, 2023, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Terry McCarthy (404) 617-7286 e-mail: t.mccarthy410@gmail.com]

**Monday, February 13, 2023, Pair O' Chutes. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [540, 08:00 AM, \$4].** Nice hike with some rolling hills from the Upper Corral parking area. This hike combines a couple of the "Chutes" trails in the northwestern part of the 50 Year trail area. There are great views of the Catalina mountains as we hike north before circling back along a ridge and then return on a trail alongside some beautiful juniper trees. This hike begins and ends on Arizona State 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 4.0 mi, trailhead elevation 3260 ft., net elevation change 175 ft., accumulated gain 340 ft. RTD 10 mi (dirt). [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, February 14, 2023, Josephine Saddle. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [234, 07:00 AM, \$13].**

The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Hikers will rest at the Saddle and return via the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse, going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1650 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Arizona Trail: Redington Pass - La Milagrosa Ridge Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [62, 08:00 AM, \$9].**

The hike begins at Molino Basin Campground on the Catalina Hwy and involves traversing a portion of AZT Passage 10. We hike south on the Arizona Trail, traversing 600 feet up the Molino Ridge (high point el. 4800 feet). It is mostly down hill as we reach the junction for the Milagrosa Ridge Trail, and continue along an up-and-down ridge to the vehicles at Horsehead Road (near Soldier Trail Road). There are great views along the way of the valley and sheer rock walls of Milagrosa and Agua Caliente Canyons. The trail is mostly good with a few rocky areas. Cars will need to be left at Horsehead Road (el. 2700 feet) and driven back to Molino Basin, 7 miles away. Hike 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4300 feet; net elevation change minus 1600 feet; accumulated gain 900 feet; elevation loss 2500 feet; RTD 88 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, Jsolon3680@aol.com.]

**Thursday, February 16, 2023, Santa Cruz Bikeway. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 08:30 AM, \$6].**

I found this to be one of the more scenic stretches of bikeway in the Tucson area to be traversed. So we shall follow the Santa Cruz Wash/River from Ina Road north to Avra Valley Road. A car shuttle is required to do this point to point hike. Hike 7.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2120 feet; net elevation change 100 feet; accumulated gain 100 feet; RTD 62 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg askus3@centurylink.net]

**Thursday, February 16, 2023, SutherlandWash Petroglyph short version. Rating:C/ D\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [501, 08:00 AM,\$4].**

The hike begins at the CSP North Gate trail head. The Sutherland Wash RockArt District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and vistas of Pusch Ridge. This is an in and out hike with many petroglyph panels clustered at a single site. \*\*\*The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail and uneven footing at times. This hike is for hikers that have successfully completed several C level hikes. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest on rocks near one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change: 313 ft. total ascent: 459 ft, RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

**Friday, February 17, 2023, Barrio Viejo Cultural & Historic Walking Tour, Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 9:00 AM, \$5].**

An interesting walk thru Barrio Viejo; the largest 19th century collection of adobe buildings and best preserved Barrio in the United States. This will be a cultural & historical walk; through neighborhood residences, art studios and galleries, and markets/restaurants. Along the way we will see colorful murals and shrines both old and new. Key landmarks include; Teatro Carmen, El Pacque de San Cosme, El Tiradito, The Wishing Shrine, and location of early Tucson's Public Baths & Gardens. The walk will leave SaddleBrooke and begin at the 5 Points Market in Barrio Viejo. We will take a lunch break at one of the local eateries. Our walk is 3.5 miles, starting elevation



2400 ft, net elevation gain < 50 feet, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 Mi. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com.]

**Friday, February 17, 2023, OSP Loop trails near Kannally Ranch House. Rating: D\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [508, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$2].** Hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House at the Nature Trail. The trail leads to the Windy Ridge Trail and then connects with the Granite Overlook Trail (highest point in the park). The trail descends and meets the Bellota Trail which loops back to the Ranch House. \*\*\* There are rocky step-ups and downs and areas of steep hills with some loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 ft., accumulated elevation 400 ft., RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Bruce Olson brucej0506@gmail.com]

**Sunday, February 19, 2023, Esperero Canyon/Bluff Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [427, 9:00 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: Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Monday, February 20, 2023, Catalina State Park - Exploring the Trails. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [142, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike will explore various trails within the park. The park is a great example of the Sonoran Desert with its native plants and wildlife. Come enjoy the beautiful views of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

**Monday, February 20, 2023, Sycamore Canyon. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [436, 05:00 AM, \$23].** The hike takes us through a beautiful canyon situated in the Pajarita Wilderness within the Coronado National Forest and reaches the Mexican border before turning around. This hike is an up & back hike. Along the way are canyon side walls, spirals and lush vegetation. We cross creeks, go up and down river rock, and climb around a few boulders and side walls. We will pass Hank and Yank's (mule skinnners and Army guides) adobe ruins, who were eventually ousted by Indians in 1886. The area is considered one of the top 10 spots for wildlife within the entire Sonoran Desert. The water level will be dependent upon the annual rainfall, but hikers should be prepared for wet feet. The canyon lies between Atascosa and Baboquivari Mountains to the north and the Pajarito Mountains and Mexico to the east and south. Hike 14.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3980 feet; net elevation change 540 feet; accumulated gain: 825 feet; RTD 215 miles (dirt). [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg askus3@centurylink.net]

**Monday, February 20, 2023, Garwood Dam/Wildhorse Tank Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [198, 08:00 AM, \$8].** From the end of Speedway on the east side of Tucson we enter Saguaro National Park East. Following several trail that circle Wildhorse Trail (but never actually on it) we make our way south to a junction with the Garwood Trail and turn south to visit the site of the old Garwood Dam. We then take Carillo Trail to intersection with the Wildhorse Trail turning south to reach the pools of Wildhorse Tank. We return on the Garwood Trail to resume our loop hike back to the parking area. After the hike we may have lunch at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch which is across the street from our parking area. Limited to 8 hikers. Bring plenty of water and a snack. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2770; net elevation change 470 feet; accumulated gain 740 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023, Blackett's Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [108, 07:00 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: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023, Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [455, 07:30 AM, \$4].** From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash to the Alamo Springs Trail. The group will follow the Alamo Springs Trail to the spring. Upon leaving the spring, the return is down the Wild Burro Trail to an old stone house and cistern which belonged to goat herders in the early 1900's. There is also a large water catch basin dubbed the "swimming pool". From this point, hikers walk back along the Wild Burro Trail the parking lot. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1088 feet; accumulated gain 1518 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023, Superstitions: Weavers Needle to Fremont Saddle and Overlook Point. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [497, 08:00 AM, \$20].** This in-and-out hike through the beautiful Superstition Mountains, brings you up to a stunning vista overlooking Weavers Needle. The needle is an iconic Arizona landmark often pictured in photos. \*\*\*The hike begins at the Peralta Trailhead and rises quickly on a rugged, vegetated path. Oak and mesquite trees are common along the trail as well as huge bolder formations. Magnificent vistas of the Superstitions are visible as the ascent continues. The trail reaches it's highest elevation at Fremont Saddle and Weavers Needle comes into view. The hike continues for another 1/2 mile to reach Overlook Point (sometimes referred to as Lone Pine). After enjoying the view and a snack, we descend down the same trail. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 1,385 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide: Bruce Olson brucej0506@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023, Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Bluff Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [427, 08:00 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 a snack. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2705 feet; net elevation change 240 feet; accumulated gain 367 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, email: bflandeck@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023, Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Tucson. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [517, 08:00 AM, \$5 + \$trolley fee].** Tucson has a unique and colorful history. This walking tour begins at the Mercado where we will take the trolley into the downtown area to walk the "Turquoise Trail." The trail encompasses many of the historical buildings and sites that define Tucson. We will visit the newly opened Tucson Visitors Center and its cultural displays. The tour is 2.5 miles and will last approximately 3 hours. At the conclusion we will take the trolley back to the Mercado and enjoy

traditional local cuisine. The tour will be limited to 16. RTD 51 miles. [Guide: Tom Stafford, tominpoint@gmail.com]

**Thursday, February 23, 2023, Tortolita Mountains: Vision Seeker's Gorge. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [500, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$3].** The hike begins at the windmill/water tank approximately five miles down Edwin/Rail-X road west of Oracle Road where we park. Hike on trail south of the windmill past Tortolita Peak. \*\*\*Begin light bushwhacking and follow indistinct animal trails through a flat and over a ridge into washes that end in the Gorge. Some light scrambling over smooth rock surfaces. Gloves may be helpful. We lunch at top of a large gorge w/ a seasonal waterfall. There are petroglyphs nearby. Return is via the same route. Note: Rail-X (Edwin) road west has been improved and accommodates most vehicles. Hike: 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3,600 feet; net elevation change minus -250 feet; accumulated gain 610 feet. RTD 14 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department: <https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>. [Guide: Rob Simms - Spartan7375@gmail.com]

**Thursday, February 23, 2023, Picket Post Loop Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [530, 06:30 AM, \$15].** This scenic trail loops around Picket Post Mountain near Superior, AZ. The first half of the hike features an undulating desert landscape with large saguaros and granite formations, against the backdrop of the towering and colorful cliffs of Picket Post Mountain. The second half journeys through Telegraph Canyon, a seasonal wetland with grasses, perennials, and a canopy of giant cottonwood and willow trees, perhaps one of the best riparian habitats in southern Arizona. We will pass ancient grinding holes, and boulders a hundred feet in diameter that have fallen from the shear cliffs above. Although, classified as an easy B level hike according to distance, the accumulated gain is moderate, making this suitable for any strong C level hiker. See video, <https://www.relive.cc/view/vMv8QLD1yNO> Hike 9.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation change 482 feet; accumulated gain 787 feet; RTD 146 miles. Optional post-hike lunch at Silver King [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

**Friday, February 24, 2023, Tucson Downtown Mural Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [541, 08:00 AM, \$5].** Fun walk around an area of downtown Tucson and north to University. We will visit over 4 dozen beautiful murals along the way. We will also pass the Ronstadt House and the Historic YWCA. Great way to acquaint yourself with Tucson! We will end with lunch at the Cup Cafe in the Historic Congress Hotel. Walk 4 mi, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation change < 50 ft, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 mi. [Guide:Kathy Minx, kathrynminx@gmail.com.]

**Monday, February 27, 2023, Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail. Rating: B\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [331, 08:00 AM, \$9 + \$2].** From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the lower route to Picacho Peak. The climb to the top involves the use of cables to get to the top, which provides 360-degree views of the area. This is a short, strenuous climb, but less so than from the Hunter Trailhead at Barret Loop. Bring leather or rubber tipped gloves and ample water. \*\*\*There are several areas of climbing where the trail is slippery due to loose rock and where the trail is exposed to sharp drop-offs. Park entrance fee required. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 1494 feet; accumulated gain greater than 1500 feet; RTD 90 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Monday, February 27, 2023, American Flag. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [8, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the American Flag Trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers take the American Flag/Cody Trail to its intersection with the Oracle Ridge Trail, where

there are great views to the west of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas. On the return, we may swing by the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. Hike 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 995 feet; accumulated gain 1267 feet; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Bruce Olson brucej0506@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023, Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [323, 07:00AM, \$6].** The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. There are three options for the return: the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 9.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 964 feet; accumulated gain 1245 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com.]