

SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

2022

2022 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – **KEN WONG**

By Bruce Landeck

The “Volunteer of the Year” award is presented annually at the fall picnic to recognize “one or more individuals who have made a significant contribution to the club during the past year.” The 2022 award will be presented at this fall’s picnic on October 21 to Ken Wong, who was unanimously selected by the Board of Directors at the September 28 meeting. Most members are aware that Ken has been the club’s webmaster since he created our website in 2011. This position alone requires considerable time to maintain and update the site, and to send membership frequent notices, bulletins and advisories.

However, in addition to his webmaster duties this past year, Ken prepared a comprehensive audit of the club’s financial records, which resulted in some needed changes. Just on the audit alone, Ken spent over 55 hours. He also serves as a member on the newly created Technology Committee, whose mission is to review the club’s current technology and make recommendations regarding future needs, including computing, security and technology. Additionally, Ken volunteered to prepare the club’s excellent bimonthly Newsletter during the temporary absence of Maureen Spence. Ken regularly attends Board meetings, as he has for years, and provides insight, historical perspective and ideas which significantly improve the administration of our club. While our club is very fortunate to have many talented members,

Ken really stands out, having made so many contributions for so many years in his unselfish way.



Photo by Bruce Landeck

After learning he had been named “2022 Volunteer of the Year”, Ken responded: “It was a great honor for me that the Board recognized my contributions to the club and selected me as 2022 Volunteer of the Year. I sincerely appreciate this award and will always treasure it. Thank you!”

While he is honored to receive the award, our hiking club is also honored to have Ken as a member. Congratulations Ken on this well-deserved award!

BOOT PRINTS – WALT SHIELDS

Submitted by Diana Smith



I first met Walt in the Mountain View parking lot in 2016. Because we had never hiked together, he had emailed me a list of questions about my experience, skill level and fitness. Being new to the club and wanting to make sure he had confidence in my ability, I arrived early and introduced myself. After just a quick glance, Walt said, “you’ll be fine.” At the end of the day, when I asked him what had prompted this comment, he said the well-worn hiking boots I was wearing told him all he needed to know. That’s when I knew Walt Shields was the real deal . . .

Walt moved to Tucson when he was six years old and describes it as a “fantastic” place to grow up, living a mile and a half from the University of Arizona on Fifth Street. A boy scout and All-American high school swimmer, Walt spent countless hours exploring the desert. In an era when very few homes had air conditioning, he doesn’t remember the heat being too oppressive. The Downtown footprint hasn’t changed much according to Walt, but he remembers the late 50’s when it was busy with actors making Western movies and the East Coast mafia was in residence, enjoying the desert climate. John Wayne even had a private seat at the Fox Theater. Walt’s fond memories of growing up in the Old Pueblo were the catalyst behind his Historic Downtown Tucson walks many of us have enjoyed.

Walt graduated from Tucson High School, which he proudly recalls as being very integrated and without racial bias. He later received a BA from Baylor University, his DDS from Washington University and completed specialty training in periodontics at the University of Washington. Walt moved to Zurich, Switzerland from 1973 to 1975 on a grant researching the earliest phases of dental implants, including bone metabolism, materials and design. During this time, he developed a deep love of travel and began hiking and skiing in earnest.



Walt relaxing under the Matterhorn

Walt and his wife Tiggy moved to Colorado Springs in 1978 where he spent 28 years in private practice, specializing in periodontics and dental implants. While living in Colorado, Walt took advantage of the many active outdoor pursuits available to him, including skiing, hiking, climbing and rafting. As a member of the Colorado Mountain Club, he climbed 36 of the

states 58 fourteen-thousand-foot peaks. It was during this time Walt developed an interest in wilderness medicine; over his years in the backcountry, Walt treated severe hypothermia, fractures and dislocations in less-than-ideal conditions.



Walt & Tiggy at Zion

Seeking a warmer climate more suitable for year-round golfing and hiking, upon retirement Walt and Tiggy moved back to Tucson, settling in SaddleBrooke in 2005. Most of us can relate to his recollection of “driving over the hill and falling in love.” Since 2017, he has overseen the biannual Catalina Hills Cleanup Walk as part of the Pinal County Adopt-a-Highway program.



Rim to Rim to Rim at the Grand Canyon

He soon joined the hiking club and began guiding the following year, serving on the board and as Chief Hiking Guide from 2012 to 2014. Recalling his first hike with the club; the 7.5 hour climb from Catalina State Park to the summit of Mount Lemmon with Phil McNamee, Walt says it was a “one and done” experience! Recognizing the SBHC was comprised of an “older age group in a hostile environment,” Walt knew more training was needed for both hikers and guides. In 2012, he set about creating a first aid training and wilderness medicine course for all guides. Walt also created a training program on the correct use of hiking poles in 2017 and in 2019 was instrumental in creating and mandating the use of the yellow name tags now worn by all hikers, complete with emergency contact and medical information.

Seeing that none existed, in 2018 Walt recommended to the board an ad hoc committee be created specifically for the purpose of establishing consistent guidelines, procedures, training and mentorship for existing and new guides, then served on the committee that drafted the guidelines in place today. He has authored numerous articles for and about the hiking club, its members and leadership, as well as information about the technical aspects of hiking. Walt’s greatest joy as a hiking guide has been to introduce others safely and enthusiastically to the beautiful Sonoran Desert he loves; he has been a friend, mentor and teacher to so many guides and hikers over the years.

An adventurer at heart, Walt has spent much of his life as a backpacker, heli-skier and certified SCUBA diver. Flying being one of his great passions, Walt became a licensed commercial, instrument rated pilot, logging more than 2000 hours over seventeen years in his Piper Turbo Arrow.



Walt's Baby!

Unsurprisingly, Walt has a passion for travel and foreign cultures; he has seen much of the world, including East Africa, China, Turkey, Patagonia, New Zealand and most of Europe. Highlights include an underwater archeology project in Israel, a ten-day perimeter trip of Mont Blanc, eight hike/bike trips with friends in Europe, a rim-to-rim-to-rim backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon and a four-day unsupported hut-to-hut hiking experience on the Milford Trek in New Zealand, where the magnificent waterfalls more than made up for the constant rain.

Walt's most emotional and life-altering travel experience was the three weeks he and Tiggy spent in Viet Nam in 2015. He recalls being overwhelmed by the kindness and grace of the people, as well as the natural beauty of the country. Traveling with two American combat veterans who had served there, he saw firsthand the power of loving forgiveness and was forever changed by it.

Although they have no four-legged children currently in residence, over the years Walt and Tiggy raised three golden retrievers and two westies. They enjoy spending their summers in Door County, Wisconsin near their large extended family's summer house built by Tiggy's grandfather in 1908.

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club is the wonderful organization it is today, in no small part, due to Walt's efforts and advocacy on behalf of all its members. Having had the privilege of hiking with Walt on numerous occasions and having seen him in action twice when a fellow hiker needed medical assistance or support, I know what a great asset he is to our club. Many of you have had the same experience and many more will do so in the future, just don't show up in brand new boots!

BORREGO SPRINGS TRIP

JAN 31 – FEB 2, 2023

Submitted by Randy Park

Now that hikers are back from the Bryce Canyon trip, it is time to plan on joining our next major away trip. That will be to Anza Borrego Desert State Park near Borrego Springs, California. This trip in Winter, replaces our typical Spring trip. Similar to our club's Death Valley trip in 2020, we will have desert hikes, mountain hikes, canyon hikes, nature hikes, and slot canyon hikes.

Borrego Springs is located about 30 miles west of the Salton Sea in eastern San Diego County and is about a 6.5-hour drive from SaddleBrooke. The small town of 3000 people is completely surrounded by Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, one of the largest state parks in the country.

Hike days are January 31, February 1, & 2, with driving days of Monday, January 30 and Friday, February 3. Want more details, go to the club website and download the information document using this link: [BORREGO-SPRINGS-TRIP-JAN-2023-INFO.pdf](https://www.saddlebrookehikingclub.com/BORREGO-SPRINGS-TRIP-JAN-2023-INFO.pdf) ([saddlebrookehikingclub.com](https://www.saddlebrookehikingclub.com))

BOREGO SPRINGS TRIP

SAVE THE DATE

Submitted by Arlene Daigle

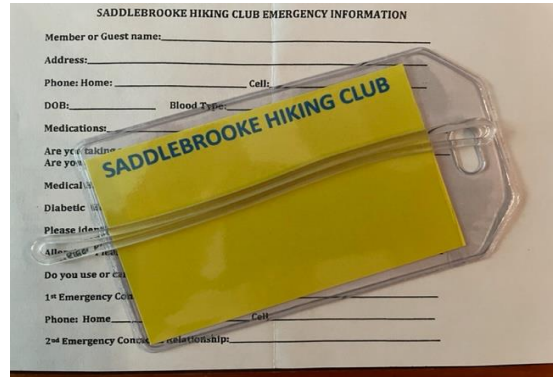
Borrego Springs Pre-trip Potluck
Friday, January 20, 2023
HOA 1 Activity Center 5:30-7:30

MY MEDS HAVE CHANGED ... HAVE YOURS?

Submitted by Rob Simms

Is your SBHC Name Tag insert (**SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Emergency Information Form**) up-to-date? In addition to medications, is your contact information current: Email, Telephone Number(s), Address and Emergency Contact? All that said, hopefully, likely, guides will never have to access the form inserted into SBHC Name Tag. But if they or your hiking colleagues need to retrieve it in an emergency, it is important that your information is correct. We all should periodically review our form.

Suggestion: My medications have changed frequently in the past year although my contact information has been static. Instead of re-doing the entire form each time, I just insert a new list of my current medications.



If you need to complete a new form it can be printed/downloaded from our website using the following link:

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SBHC-HIKER-EMERGENCY-INFO-FORM-01-21-22.pdf>

Thank you for being “proactive” regarding your hiking safety. -A Guide’s Perspective.

SBHC FALL TRIP to BRYCE CANYON: Wonderful, Wet, and Wild!

Submitted by Tim Butler, Trip Leader

In late September this year, the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club held its Fall Trip. The destination was spectacular Bryce Canyon National Park and the surrounding area.



Bryce Amphitheater from the Rim Trail by Frank Earnest

Fifty-five SBHC members and their guests met in Bryce Canyon City for three days of spectacular hiking in Bryce Canyon National Park, as well as nearby Red Canyon, and Kodachrome Basin State Park. Twenty-four hikes were on the three-day schedule. The majority of hikes were concentrated in Bryce Canyon National Park, but several hikes were offered in Red Canyon and Kodachrome Basin for folks interested in hiking these lesser known, but still spectacular venues.

Red Canyon, in the Dixie National Forest, is a small area about 15 miles west of Bryce Canyon. It has similar geology to Bryce but is much smaller and also much less crowded. There are many well-marked and very scenic trails in Red Canyon, and the members who hiked there all enjoyed the beauty.



Golden Wall in Red Canyon by Tim Butler

Similarly, Kodachrome Basin State Park is a less crowded destination with many miles of hiking trails through a beautiful collection of sandstone spires called Pipes.

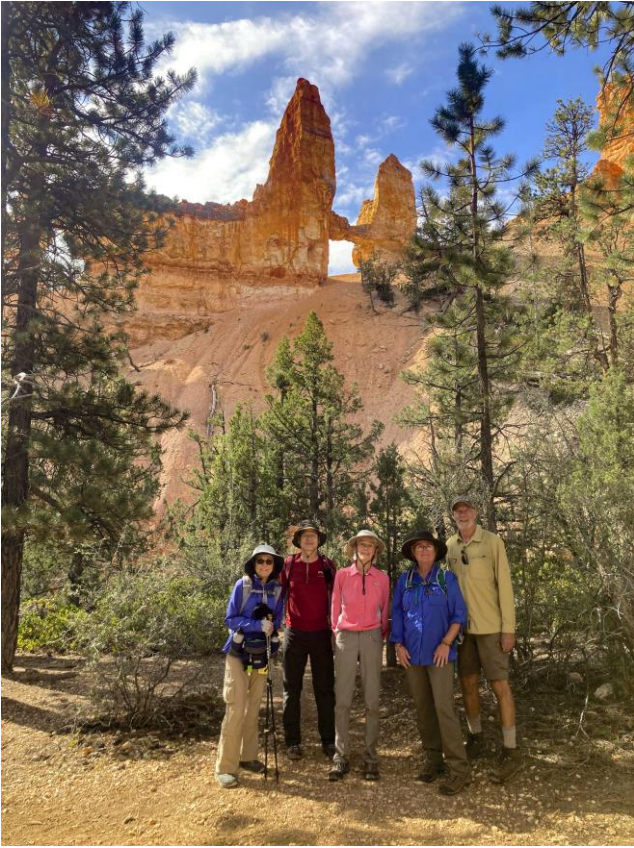


Kodachrome Basin SP by Jeff Love



Panorama Loop in Kodachrome Basin SP by Frank Earnest

There is no doubt, however, that the “main attraction” was Bryce Canyon itself. This stunningly beautiful area contains multi-colored sandstone walls, hoodoos, and canyons carved by erosion over many millions of years.



Tower Bridge on the Fairyland Loop by Jeff Love



Queen's Garden Trail by Tim Butler

Because of the popularity of Bryce Canyon, our Hike Leader, Marc Humphrey, scheduled 15 of the 24 total hikes to take place on trails in Bryce. Hikes offered were the B-level Fairyland Loop, two popular C-level hikes, (Peekaboo Loop and the Figure-Eight Combination), and several D-level combinations of the Queen's Garden, Navajo, and Wall Street trails.



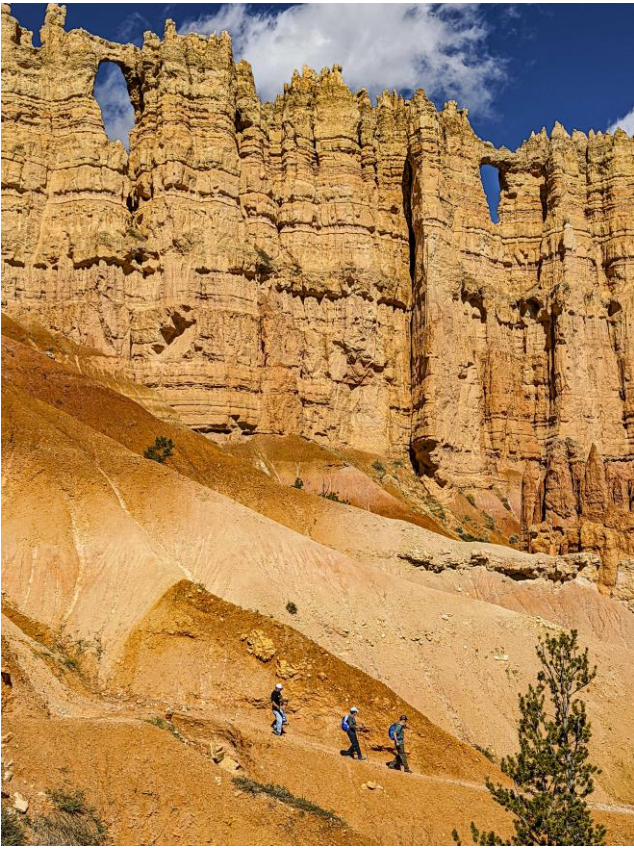
On Peekaboo Loop by Ruth Caldwell

These Bryce hikes were offered each day. That turned out to be a very good plan because day two of our trip was totally washed out by over 2 inches of rain! Fortunately, we were able to get in all the scheduled hikes on day three, and everyone was a great sport about the inconvenience of missing a day's hiking.



Window View on Peekaboo Trail by Ruth Caldwell

The sheer majesty and grandeur of Bryce Canyon renders one speechless. The scenery leaves all who journeyed here with a lifetime of memories.



Windows in a Wall in Bryce Canyon by Ruth Caldwell



Sunrise at Sunrise Point by Frank Earnest



Headed Down Wall Street by Tim Butler

This was truly a wonderful trip enjoyed by all who attended. In closing, please know that these trips don't happen without a great deal of work on the part of the volunteer members of the Trip Committee. Many thanks to Marc Humphrey, Maria Spencer, Dale and Ruth Leman, Heather Davis, Leslie Hawkins, Jeff and Susan Love, Ruth Caldwell, Randy Park, and Arlene Daigle. Please make sure to thank them personally if you see them.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM
Submitted by Jim Solon

November Program: Catalina State Park
Beautiful Catalina State Park, which sits at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains, is a rich part of our neighboring landscape, and a State Park since 1982. Home to more than 150 species and nearly 5000 saguaros and desert plants, it offers expansive opportunities to hike and enjoy its rich and historic natural beauty. Most of us have visited but wondered about the history and natural environment that is Catalina State Park.

Park Ranger, Johnathon (Jack) McCabe will be the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club monthly program

speaker on [Wednesday, November 16](#) , in the HOA #1 Activities Center, at 4pm. A park ranger for over 30 years, 27 of which have been at Catalina State Park, Johnathon specializes in trails, archaeology/history, and natural history of this very special park! He has rich and interesting stories, many brought forward from the original manager of the park, Neil Donkersley, whom Jack worked together with for more than 15 years. Of course, there is Jack's unique take on, what he refers to as, "the jewel in our backyard"!



**WELCOME TO THE SADDLEBROOKE
HIKING CLUB**
Submitted by Dianna Wilson

Welcome to the new members of SaddleBrooke Hiking Club! We are now 660 members strong. The weather is cooling! Time to check out the schedule and sign up for hikes!

***Gretchen Aanan
Steven Brakey
Lynn Curtis
Joyce Deutsch
Sandi Dickmann***

***Dawn Hecht
Kristin Hermanson
Bob Mack
Jane Perry
Barry Sheppard***

**REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER: HIKE
DATABASE COORDINATOR**
Submitted by Ruth Caldwell

Hello SBHC Members,

Michael Reale is currently Hike Database Coordinator, having been involved with this critical role for the last 15 years. He has announced his intent to hand over his responsibilities to another member by the end of this calendar year.

This position entails maintaining and updating the data in the Hike Database. Updates are based on input from the Hiking Guides, while additions to it are made upon approval from the Chief Hiking Guide. Relevant information is extracted from the master database in order to prepare the database that is placed into the Hiking Guide Folder, and to prepare the version that is published on the Hiking Club website. Generally, a revised Hiking Guide Database and Web database are issued at least once a year. In the interim, requests, corrections and modifications are kept in a separate location and worked on just before issuing the revised documents. However, changes can be made as received, which minimizes the time needed later.

Skill requirements include a working knowledge of Excel and the ability to write concise hike descriptions. One need not be a guide to perform this job. The master database is an Excel document, so familiarity with Excel is important.

The spreadsheet runs itself, but there are underlying formulae that should be understood. These will be explained during transition. The typical Copy and Paste, Copy and Paste Special, and Sorting are the functions most frequently used. Writing skills are also important to ensure that Hike Descriptions are clear.

Time requirements are not excessive. Generally, very little time is required since there typically aren't that many additions to the database. Perhaps 8 hours twice a year, when revised documents are to be issued, is about right. There may be a couple of hours required during the intervening time.

Training will come from Michael. As stated previously, he would like to hand over responsibility at the end of this year. He will work with the new person to assure a smooth transition. This will include assisting in the next revision of the database, whenever that should occur.

We hope someone will step up and volunteer for this critical club role. If you are interested or have any questions related to this position, contact Michael Reale at mjreale@msn.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ruth Caldwell, Vice President
SBHC Board

Club Calendar		
Event	Dates	Contact Person
AZT Work Session	Oct. 19 7:30	Seana Kobak
Club Program	Oct. 19 4:00	Diana Smith
Fall Picnic Catalina State Park	Oct. 21 11:30 AM	Missy Rodey Seana Kobak
AZT Work Session	Nov. 16	Seana Kobak
Club Program	Nov. 16	Jim Solon
Board Meeting	Dec. 7 2:00 PM	Bruce Landeck
Guide Meeting	Dec. 7 3:30 PM	Karen Gray
AZT Work Session	Jan. 18 2023	Seana Kobak
Borrego Springs, CA Trip	Jan. 31 – Feb. 2, 2023	Randy Park & Arlene Daigle
AZT Work Session	Feb. 15 2023	Seana Kobak
AZT Work Session	Mar. 15 2023	Seana Kobak
Santa Fe, NM Trip	October, 2023	TBD

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: November-December 2022

Tuesday, November 1, Sutherland Wash Petroglyph short version. Rating: 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 D 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; total ascent: 459 ft, net elevation change: 313 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.]

Wednesday, November 2, Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [141, 09:00 AM, \$0]. Volunteers are needed for the 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, safety vests and grabbers are provided by the Pinal County Highway Dept. Volunteers should bring gloves and wear a long sleeve shirt. Plan to meet in the usual location. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Thursday, November 3, Maiden Pools. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [254, 07:00AM, \$5].** Starting at the public parking lot on the left (past the employees' parking lot) at Ventana Canyon Resort, hikers follow the new Forest Service trail into the canyon. ***The trail is rocky in places with some steep climbing and substantial steps-up which make it more difficult than the average C hike. There are numerous wash crossings which involve boulder hopping if water is flowing. On the return, there are fine views of the east side of Tucson. The pools provide an excellent place for lunch. The return is by the same route. Hike 5.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain 1339 feet; RTD 54 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

Thursday, November 3, Tohono Chul Garden Walk. Rating D. Pace: Moderate. [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$3]. We will enjoy a walk through the park stopping to enjoy the hummingbird garden and take in the exhibits. Brunch at the Tohono Chul Bistro is optional. The entrance fee is \$13.00 and the brunch cost will be based on each individual's personal order. Everyone's individual check will include the automatic Bistro's group tip. Hike 3.5 mi., elevation 2500 ft., net elevation change less than 50 ft., accumulated gain less than 50 ft. RTD 32 mi. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 8, Romero Pools. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [370, 07:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. ***The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1400 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Terry McCarthy (404) 617-7286 e-mail: t.mccarthy410@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 8, Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [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: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Tuesday, November 8, Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [295, 06:00 AM, \$13]. The hike begins in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows the Old Baldy Trail to Mt. Wrightson. The return is via the same route. This trail provides the shortest route to the top (el. 9453 feet) of Mt. Wrightson. The last 0.9 miles to the summit is steep and rocky with moderate exposure. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. There is shade along much of the way. Hike 11.1 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain 4029 feet; RTD 130 miles. There is a fee for parking unless you have a National Park Pass that must be displayed. [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 9, Sweetwater Preserve (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [507, 09:00 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 Pima 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.sdm.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.]

Thursday, November 10, 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 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 964 feet; accumulated gain 1425 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

Monday, November 14, Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs Loop from the south. . Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [98, 08:00 AM, \$4].** This hike begins at the CSP North Gate. It takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash. The Sutherland Wash Rock Art District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and vistas of Pusch Ridge. The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail and uneven footing at times. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest on rocks near one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 4.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2950 feet; total ascent: 722 ft, net elevation change: 431 ft. RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is

private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 15, Hutch's Pool. Rating: B*. Pace: Moderate [227, 07:30 AM, \$6 + \$15 tram].** Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram (fee required) to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon. After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon, the trail is mostly level but involves several stream crossings along the East and West Forks before reaching the pool. ***Some boulder hopping may be necessary depending on seasonal rains and winter snow melt on Mt. Lemmon. During periods of heavy rain or significant snow melt, the crossings can be difficult. Ask the guide about current stream flow conditions. This lovely hike will take the group to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees, which is great place for a snack or lunch. The return is via the same route to the trailhead to catch the tram. Hike 8.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 550 feet; accumulated gain 1386 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 15, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 07:30 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]

Wednesday, November 16, SBHC Program @4pm HOA#1 Activity Center.

Thursday, November 17, Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang Trail to Jeb Peak. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [138, 07:30 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the Wild Burro TH and proceeds up the Hotel Spur to the Wild Mustang Trail. We then turn on an unmaintained, but well-marked spur, and continue the climb to Jeb Peak, the 3rd highest point in the Tortolita range. There are excellent 360 degree views of Tucson, Catalina, and Marana. While the final 100 foot climb to the summit involves an easy rock scramble, good views are also available from a lower knoll. This hike is also appropriate for any strong C level hikers. Return is via the same route. Hike 7.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1390 feet; accumulated gain 1722 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

Thursday, November 17, 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, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Friday, November 18, Tucson Downtown Mural Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [541, 07:30 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: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 22, Baby Jesus. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [96, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The hike starts at 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 Baby Jesus Ridge to a rock grouping that looks in profile like the Madonna and Child, (for which the ridge is named) seeing a “window,” beautiful saguaros, and rock formations along the way. The return is via the same route. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 702 feet; accumulated gain 1335 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. The drive to Lower Corral requires vehicles with medium to high clearance. 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 at: land.az.gov/applications-permits. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 22, Tanque Verde Peak. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [442, 06:00 AM, \$8]. Tanque Verde Peak is located in Saguaro National Park - East. The hike begins at the Javelina Picnic Area on the Tanque Verde Ridge Trail, off the Cactus Forest Drive loop road. The trail passes through Juniper Basin at 6.9 miles, and reaches the Peak at 9 miles. Erik Molvar's guidebook says: From this lofty perch, fantastic views stretch in all directions. Hike 17.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 3895 feet; accumulated gain 4356 feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

Monday, November 28, Fifty-Year Trail Area. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [183, 08:00 AM, \$2]. The hike begins at the Golder Ranch parking area. The trail starts on the Fifty-Year Trail and follows social trails toward the Sutherland Wash. The trail then loops back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 234 feet; RTD 10 miles. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for

use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department at: land.az.gov/applications-permits.. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 29, 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. We will need a shuttle car at main trailhead. 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.]

Tuesday, November 29, Bridal Wreath Falls Loop. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [119, 07:00AM, \$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.*** The trail is well used and easy to follow, but does require some rock scrambling to reach 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: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

Thursday, December 1, Tohono Chul Garden Walk. Rating D. Pace: Moderate. [NEW], 08:00 AM, \$3]. We will enjoy a walk through the park stopping to enjoy the hummingbird garden and take in the exhibits. Brunch at the Tohono Chul Bistro is optional. The entrance fee is \$13.00, and the brunch cost will be based on each individual's personal order. Everyone's individual check will include the automatic Bistro's group tip. Hike 3.5 mi, trailhead elevation 2500 ft., net elevation change less than 50 ft, accumulated gain less than 50 ft. RTD 32 mi. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Friday, December 2, Box Rock/Cowboy Hotel/Samaniego Tank Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [545, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the North Gate of Catalina State Park and follows the South Petroglyph trail to the Box Rock trail which ends on the Baby Jesus trail. We turn north on the Baby Jesus trail for 0.1 mile to reach the "Goldfish Tank" cement trough. From there we follow a horse trail east for 1.2 miles (and 800 feet of elevation gain) to reach Samaniego Spring and the "Cowboy Hotel" where we will have our lunch on the picnic table and enjoy the views over the valley below. Next we head downhill in a northwesterly direction following a faint trail and black plastic water tubing to Samaniego Tank and then

proceed west to rejoin the Baby Jesus trail. We will return via the Baby Jesus trail to the Sutherland Jeep Road with a stop at the Lower Cargodera Oasis and then via horse trails past the "Great Saguaro" and back to the trailhead. Hike 9.1 mi, trailhead elevation 2900 ft., accumulated elevation gain 2076 ft. RTD 12 mi (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department <https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Saturday, December 3, Sycamore Canyon. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [436, 05:30 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, December 5, 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].

Tuesday, December 6, Picnic Rock/Double Crested/Dome Loop. Rating: C* Pace: Moderate [NEW, 7:30 AM, \$0].** This hike departs from the south end of Arroyo Way in Unit 21 (after carpooling from the usual meeting spot at Mountain View). After crossing the Canada del Oro Wash, we share the first 0.5 mile with the Double Crested/Dome Rock Trail - up a steep hill then across a gentle mesa with prairie grass and mesquite trees. We then climb up a ridgeline, crossing Charouleau Gap Road, to a prominent overlook above the Dodge Tank gorge. It is an area where five arroyos join to form the main channel, with steep rock walls descending into the wash below. *** There are areas of steep hills with some loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. We return for a short distance on Charouleau Gap Road, and then cross over to the trail up the backside of Dome Rock where we will have our snack. On our return we pass the beautiful double crested saguaro. Along the entire way are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Samaniego Ridge. Hike 4.8 miles;

trailhead elevation 3200 feet; elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, December 6, 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 at: land.az.gov/applications-permits.. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 6, Tour de Tortolitas: Loop of Alamo Springs Trail, Ridgeline Trail, Loop Trail, Wild Burro, and Wild Mustang Trail. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [171, 06:00 AM, \$4]. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through Wild Burro wash and Lower Javalina Trail to Alamo Spring Trail. Follow Alamo Springs Trail to the Ridgeline Trail. Return on the Loop Trail, a segment of the Wild Burro Trail, and the Wild Mustang Trail, returning to the parking lot down the Upper Javalina Trail and Hotel spur trail. Hike 15.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3000; net elevation change 1449 feet; accumulated gain 3216 feet; RTD 44 miles [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 7, SBHC BOD Mtg NOTE START TIME NOW 2:00 PM.

Wednesday, December 7, SBHC Guide Mtg. NOTE START TIME NOW 3:30 PM

Thursday, December 8, Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Phoneline Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [539, 07:00AM, \$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: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

Thursday, December, 8, 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: Tom Stafford, tominpoint@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 8, History Hike: The Dams of SaddleBrooke. Rating D*. Pace: Moderate. [New, 9:00 AM] (\$0).** 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 (CDO) to Pierre Charouleau's masonry dam of the 1880s and learn its history. Hike is approximately 1.5 miles with 200 ft. elevation gain. *** Due to short steep sections, loose rocks, and uneven terrain. Recommend cleated hiking boots and protective clothing. Hike will be cancelled if there is too much water in the CDO. There will be a post-hike option to view the nearby railroad flat car and suspension bridges over the Cañada. [Bob Simpson, pinalbj@outlook.com, (520) 818-2610]

Friday, December 9, Tucson Downtown Mural Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [541, 07:30 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: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Monday, December 12, 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 at: land.az.gov/applications-permits. Hike 4.0 mi, trailhead elevation 3260 ft., net elevation change 175 ft., accumulated gain 340 ft. RTD 10 mi (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 13, Anza Trail / Tumacacori to Tubac. Rating: C. Pace: Slow [14, 09:00 AM, \$14]. The hike begins at the Tumacacori National Historic Park and ends at the Tubac Presidio State Historical Park. This is a multi-faceted outing. Tumacacori National Historic Site sits at a cultural crossroads in the Santa Cruz River valley. Here O'odham, Yaqui, and Apache people met and mingled with European Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries, settlers, and soldiers, sometimes in conflict and sometimes in cooperation. Follow the timeworn paths and discover stories that connect us to enduring relationships, vibrant cultures, and traditions of long ago. We will have a special guided tour by a ranger/docent at the Historic Site of the mission. The tour participation has been capped at 20 registrants, so sign up ASAP with Aaron! After the tour we will then hike the Anza Trail

northbound and downstream (along the Santa Cruz River) to Tubac. Along the way there are various viewpoints of pastoral scenes, farms with horses, cows and other animals as we follow this permanent stream. The trail is a pleasant scenic graded walking path steeped in history. Then while several of the drivers retrieve cars from Tumacacori others will have time to stroll through Tubac and Christmas Shop en route to lunch out at Shelby's Bistro. Golden Age Pass is needed for entrance to Tumacacori Historic Park. More Christmas shopping will be arranged after lunch for those interested. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3280 feet; net elevation change -92 feet; accumulated gain is 50 feet; RTD 144 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

Tuesday, December 13, Romero Pools. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [370, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. ***The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1400 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Terry McCarthy (404) 617-7286 e-mail: t.mccarthy410@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 13, Pima Canyon to 1st Dam. Rating: D*. Pace: Moderate [335, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. There are pools of water at the dam most of the year. ***The trail is rocky at some points and involves some steps-up and steps-down but is not difficult. Hike 2.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 320 feet; accumulated gain 487 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 14, Seven Falls. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [387, 07:00AM, \$6]. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and continues to lower Bear Canyon, then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls. The return is via the same route. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. The trail crosses the Bear Canyon wash several times in each direction and can involve significant boulder hopping/wading after rainy periods. Ask the guide about current conditions. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 662 feet; accumulated gain 1307 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 14, Canyon Loop, Montrose Pools, and Birding Trail. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [137, 09:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. Starting at the main trailhead at Catalina State Park, the hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We take the Sutherland Trail to the Canyon Loop Trail, then hike up to Montrose Pools via the Romero Canyon Trail. On the way back, we will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail.

Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 433 feet; accumulated gain 499 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Wednesday, December 14, History Hike: Charouleau Ranch and Dodge Tank. Rating

C*. Pace Moderate. [New 9:00 a.m.]** Learn the history of Pierre Charouleau's Cañada del Oro Ranch dating from the early 1880s. See the new vineyard and the adobe remains known (incorrectly) as "the old stagecoach stop." Hike Dodge Wash to Charouleau's double-walled dam/reservoir (today Dodge Tank). See the dam modifications by Lloyd Golder III. Climb to the top of Edwin Road with beautiful views of the rugged Dodge Canyon area and north to Biosphere 2. ***The hike requires some boulder scrambling and traversing slippery gravel slopes. Only persons with good balance and body strength should apply. Hike approximately 2.0 miles. Elevation gain 212 feet. [Bob Simpson, pinalbj@outlook.com, (520) 818-2610]

Thursday, December 15, Hidden Canyon. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [217, 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 in the Fifty-Year Trail area at the Lower Corral parking area and goes to the Grand Junction. From there 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, and we return via the same route. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 620 feet; accumulated gain 880 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.]

Thursday, December 15, 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. There are three options for the return: the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 964 feet; accumulated gain 1425 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com]

Friday, December 16, Middle Gate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [524, 08:00

AM, \$4] This is a pleasant hike from the Upper Corral parking lot to the Middle Gate using mostly social trails. The route largely avoids the busy 50 Year trail except for a 0.4 mile stretch. This is a relatively flat hike with great, open views of Samaniego, Pusch, and Baby Jesus Ridges. Hike 4.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 160 feet; accumulated gain 290 feet; RTD 10 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust

Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department at: land.az.gov/applications-permits. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 20, 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, December 20, Tanque Verde Ridge Trail - Part Way. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [444, 07:00AM, \$8].

The hike begins at the Javalina picnic area in Saguaro National Park East, and is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We hike east up to and along the Tanque Verde Ridge and turn around at about 3 miles (by a crested saguaro.) The hike is somewhat steep at some points, but there are great photo stops along the way. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 1646 feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 21, 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 at: land.az.gov/applications-permits. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 22, OSP East Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [307, 08:00 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 and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. Hike 6.2 miles, trailhead elevation 4350 feet;

net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 760 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

Monday, December 26, Cordones. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW [509, 08:00 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 Saddlebrook 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: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Tuesday, December 27, Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [354, 08:00 AM, \$2]. From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision, we hike up a wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are great views of Rancho Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere along the way. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 789 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 27, 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 at: land.az.gov/applications-permits. Hike 4.0 mi, trailhead elevation 3260 ft., net elevation change 175 ft., accumulated gain 340 ft. RTD 10 mi (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 29, Wild Horse Canyon. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [483, 07:00 AM, \$8]. The hike begins at the east end of Speedway at the Wild Horse Trailhead, just before the Douglas Springs Trailhead, and passes through part of the cactus forest of the Saguaro National Park – East and into the foothills of the Rincon Mountains. The destination is a small pool and dam in Wild Horse Canyon. Wild Horse Canyon is a rugged and beautiful canyon that can be reached by using a combination of several trails. There are excellent views along the way of the Santa Catalina and Tucson Mountains, and most of the Tucson valley. The hike involves a few stream crossings, with some boulder hopping. Hike 6.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; accumulated gain 696 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey, humphreymarc@gmail.com]

Saturday, December 31, 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.]