

# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

MARCH/APRIL

2023

### BOOT PRINTS – MICHAEL REALE

Submitted by Diana Smith



Michael in Antarctic

Picture by Jeanne Reale

Michael Reale can best be described as a problem solver. Wife needs a change of climate for her health. Check! Become a hiking guide to return to the Grand Canyon? Check! Avoid travel during Covid? Check!

A force to be reckoned with, when he encounters an obstacle to his goals, he finds a logical and efficient

way around or over it. When his wife's health necessitated a change of climate, he moved her to Arizona. Anxious to return to the Grand Canyon with the SBHC, Michael became a hiking club guide. And when the Covid pandemic made travel nearly impossible, he bought a travel trailer to make the trip to meet his newest grandchild.

Eighteen years ago, when his wife's health necessitated a change of climate, Michael and Jeanne moved from Connecticut to SaddleBrooke on the recommendation of a friend in Rancho Vistoso. After visiting the sales office and looking at lots, they joined two SB residents for lunch at Mesquite Grill. As luck would have it, the couple told Michael and Jeanne of a neighbor's house which was for sale. Later, while trying to find that house, they stopped to ask a man for directions. He immediately offered to show them his house, which they ultimately bought.

Michael soon joined SBHC after hiking with neighbors on the Baby Jesus/Deer Camp trail. He joined a club trip to the Grand Canyon with overnights at Phantom Ranch; "overjoyed" at the experience, he couldn't wait to repeat it. Due to the popularity of the trip, after going once, hikers were sent to the end of the queue and added to a waitlist. When Michael learned that SBHC guides could make the trip without limitation by leading it, he became one and jumped the waitlist.

Michael is still an active SBHC guide but leads few hikes having started RVing and spending too much time away from Saddlebrooke these days. He maintained the hiking database for many years, stepping down in December 2022. Until recently, he was a leader and communications manager for the fitness walkers for about fifteen years.

Despite not having hiked since his teenage years, Michael has returned to the Grand Canyon eight

times since then, having completed several rim-to-rim hikes: South to South, North to South, and 4-day backpacking rim-to-rim-to-rim trip led by Phil McNamee. He has backpacked in with Walt Shields and rafted from Lee's Ferry through the canyon, then helicoptered out.

In addition to the Grand Canyon, Michael has done many other memorable hikes; the Queen Charlotte Trek in New Zealand with friends, covering 46.5 miles in four days, hiking inn to inn while enjoying magnificent views of sounds on both sides; Cinque Terra in Italy with SB friends; backpacking in Yosemite, Yellowstone and the Superstition Mountains; the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina; Michigan and Ohio; and an Arizona Highways photography trip to Bryce Canyon last January. His hiking and travelling partner, wife Jeanne, says her favorite expression is "I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list."

After seeing an article about the Teach for Friendship program in the Arizona Daily Star, Michael and Jeanne traveled to Wuhan, China volunteering to teach conversational English to university students. Spending four weeks in the summer of 2005 and eight in 2006, they visited Beijing, the Great Wall, Xian and Hainan Island and took a boat trip on the Yangtze River through the Three Gorges Dam.

In 2020, due to Covid and not wanting to fly or stay in hotels, but "desperate" to meet their newborn grandson in Ohio, Michael and Jeanne bought a trailer to make the trip. Having embraced the RV lifestyle, a twenty-seven-day tour around the Great Lakes from Niagara Falls to Chicago was just one of many trips taken.

Most recently, Michael and Jeanne traveled to Antarctica in November of 2022. After flying into Santiago, Chile, and visiting Valparaiso, they embarked on a twelve-day cruise to Antarctica, walking amongst the penguins and taking the polar plunge, complete with video to prove it! They then traveled to Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls on the border

of Brazil and Argentina, and saw Eva Peron's crypt in Buenos Aires.



Michael at Iguazu Falls

Picture by Jeanne Reale

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Michael completed his undergraduate studies at St. Peter's College in New Jersey and received his PhD in organic chemistry from Fordham University in New York. After a long career in Health & Safety, Michael continued to work as a consultant until just a few years ago.

Michael has four children and four grandchildren in Ohio and North Carolina. His favorite local hikes include Mount Wrightson and trails in Dove Mountain and Golder Ranch. A weekly recreational golfer, He enjoys wildlife and landscape photography and is an avid reader of murder mysteries.

Michael has been in nearly fifty countries on all seven continents. He hopes to visit Iceland and Eastern Europe soon. Michael has been to forty-eight states, lacking only Oregon and North Dakota. He is hoping to check Oregon off the list this summer during a month-long RV trip through the Canadian Rockies. Given his amazing "can-do" attitude, North Dakota doesn't stand a chance!



Michael and Jeanne in Bryce Canyon Picture by Linda Martin

**2023 TRAILBLAZER AWARD  
RUTH CALDWELL  
Submitted by Bruce Landeck**

Annually our Hiking Club, through its Board, determines a recipient for the prestigious Trailblazer award. This recognition goes to a member “For meritorious service above and beyond simply being a member of the hiking club, for performing duties greater than expected, and for exhibiting leadership that we all admire.”

At its January 25 meeting, the Board unanimously agreed that Ruth Caldwell should be honored as this year’s Trailblazer. Ruth’s contributions to the Club over many years epitomizes the award’s definition. In addition to her other Club work, Ruth has been Associate Chief Guide, Chief Guide, one of our most popular everyday guides, an instructor in the annual guide first aid class, a trip organizer, a mentor to guides and hikers, a blazer of new hiking trails, and currently serves as Club Vice President. Per our

bylaws, Ruth will become President of the Club next month.



The photo is of Ruth standing by the Trailblazer plaque, which is located at the bottom of the stairs next to the HOA1 Pro Shop. Her name was recently added. If you are in the area, stop by and look at the names on the plaque; they represent the past and current leadership of our great Club. And when you next see Ruth, please congratulate her for her meritorious service and the 2023 Trailblazer award.

**INTRODUCING PRESENTERS FOR:  
SBHC MARCH & APRIL PROGRAMS  
Wednesday, March 15 & April 19, 2023  
Submitted by Bruce Hale**

The Program Committee is presenting two new programs in March and April that we hope will be standards for years to come. Each program will be

presented by the SBHC membership, in a few small 10-15 minute “vignettes”.



On March 15, 2023, the program will be *My Favorite Hike*, a series of six approximately 10-minute presentations of great trail experiences that will inspire all to get out for new hiking adventures. The program will include these presenters:

- Tim Butler: The Wave, hiking in fantastic rock formations on the Utah/Arizona border
- Frank Earnest: Ice Lakes Basin, high altitude hiking near Silverton, Colorado
- Bruce Hale: Gap Lakes & Shelf Lakes Trail in the Medicine-Bow Range of Wyoming
- Susan Love: Heli-hiking in British Columbia
- Phil McNamee: Summary of a recent Costa Rica coast-to-coast trek
- Jim Smith: Hiking Mt. Baker in Washington

The April 19 program will be *A Recap of This Past Year's SBHC Hiking Trips*. Short presentations will be made by the Trip Committee and one or more individuals presenting the high points of each of this past year's Club trips:

Silver City, New Mexico

Bryce Canyon, Utah

Borrego Springs, California

The Program Committee hopes this program will bring back memories of shared hiking experiences, and encourage members to participate in, or even to help to plan, future Club trips.

We have had tremendous participation for these short presentation programs this season and hope some of the ~600 SBHC members will consider being part of the 2024 programs and beyond. These short presentations take much less preparation than for more daunting full 50- to 60-minute presentations. We want to see your hiking pictures and hear the stories behind them. Let the Program Committee: Bruce Hale, Diana Smith, or Jim Solon know if you want to get in on the action for the coming 2023-24 season.

**HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR  
IN DOWNTOWN TUCSON WITH  
'COWBOY GUIDE' WALT SHIELDS**  
Submitted by Elisabeth Wheeler

SaddleBrooke Hiking Guide, Walt Shields, grew up spending time on his father's farm and ranch west of Tucson, learning to ride a horse at an early age, and later wrangling cattle as a teenager. Walt experienced the city of Tucson through the 1950's, participated in the rodeo parades, and graduated from Tucson High School in the 1960's. Walt enjoys dressing up as a cowboy historian and guiding historical walks in downtown Tucson.

In January, fourteen SaddleBrooke hikers rode the streetcar from the Mercado to join Cowboy Walt on the 3.5-mile Turquoise Trail. Starting at the historic Pima County Courthouse, Walt told the rich and colorful history of Tucson. Hikers passed buildings and monuments that highlight important events in Tucson's history.

The Barrio Viejo district has many colorful Sonoran row houses being renovated. Near Hotel Congress,

Walt told the dramatic story of the capture of Dillinger and his gang in Tucson in 1934. The group was regaled at the train station by the description of the gunfight in which Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday shot Frank Stillwell and left him dead on the tracks.



The tour ended at the Fox Theatre with everyone having developed a hearty appetite. After riding the streetcar back to the Mercado, hikers enjoyed traditional Mexican street tacos together. This was a fun learning experience, especially for the newer residents of Arizona.

## **BARRIO VIEJO HISTORIC WALKING TOUR**

Submitted by Bruce Landeck

On a beautiful January 6 day, led by popular guide Kathryn Madore, 12 members toured the historic Barrio Viejo district in downtown Tucson. This was a new event for our Club, created and put together by Kathryn, and will be very popular going forward.

Our group met at the 5 Points Market, named for the star-shaped intersection for 5 Barrios, where 18<sup>th</sup> Street meets Stone and Sixth Avenue. Barrio Viejo is Tucson's second oldest historic district dating from the 1870s and contains more territorial adobes than any other district. The architecture is primarily Sonoran Traditional, with adobe block construction, flat roofs, and wooden planked doors.



Along the streets through the barrio, we stopped at El Tiradito, a Catholic Street shrine - the only one in the U.S. dedicated to the soul of a sinner rather than a saint.

The shrine is adorned with flowers, candles, and plants. Also known as “The Wishing Shrine”, Kathryn explained the legend that wishes would come true for those who lit candles and made a wish. While we did not have candles to light at the shrine, Kathryn symbolically passed out paper and pens, everyone wrote down a wish and inserted their folded notes in one of the shrine's many slots.

Other interesting stops included Teatro Carmen, built around 1915 and an important cultural center for the Hispanic community initially and then later for the African American community; the Carlos Y. Velasco House, built in the 1870s which is on the National Register of Historic Places; El Parque de San Cosme, a small city park with a gazebo and mural painting; and the Sosa-Carrillo House, a typical Sonoran row house which has been beautifully preserved and saved from the 1960s Tucson urban renewal projects.

We also visited several art galleries, and observed street murals and old churches, including the St. Augustine Cathedral, the mother church of the

Tucson Roman Catholic Diocese, on a site dating back to the early 1860s with the present structure finished in 1968.



We enjoyed lunch on the patio at Coronet Café and then completed the tour. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed getting off the hiking trails for a while and learning more about the historically significant barrio district in The Old Pueblo.

On the tour were Kathryn Madore (guide), Walt and Tiggy Shields, Gary and Rhonda Somers, Karen Munn, Elissa Cochran, Virginia Donatell, Leslie

Hawkins, Jim Solon, Mark Schwartz, Sue Love, Sandy Epstein, and Bruce Landeck.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
TO THE  
SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB**

Submitted by Dianna Wilson

Warm welcome to our 36 new members! We hope you have found the online hike schedule at [www.saddlebrookehikingclub.com](http://www.saddlebrookehikingclub.com) and made reservations for your next hike. There are 517 members hiking our beautiful mountains.

Curt Abbott  
Rita Abbott  
Candy Armstrong  
Margaret Asmus  
Randy Asmus  
Dianne Barnard  
Marilynn Bradley  
Edward Brogan  
Sandy Brogan  
Cindy Clarke  
Julie Davis  
Carol Dolian  
James Dolian  
Linda Foy

Deanna Hyland  
Mary Jo Quillin  
Kay Koontz  
Katheryn Leuthold  
Peter Leuthold  
Karen Lien  
John Mazujian  
Rebecca Mazujian  
Edward Metzler  
Dan Mullin  
Gary Pelphrey  
Ruth Pelphrey  
Ann Pizzitola  
John Rubel  
Jennifer Shafer  
Donna Sohikian  
John Sohikian  
Valerie Solon  
Marlin Waller  
Tom Walter  
Andrea Waterhouse  
Doug Waterhouse

**BORREGO SPRING  
RECAP**

Submitted by Randy Park

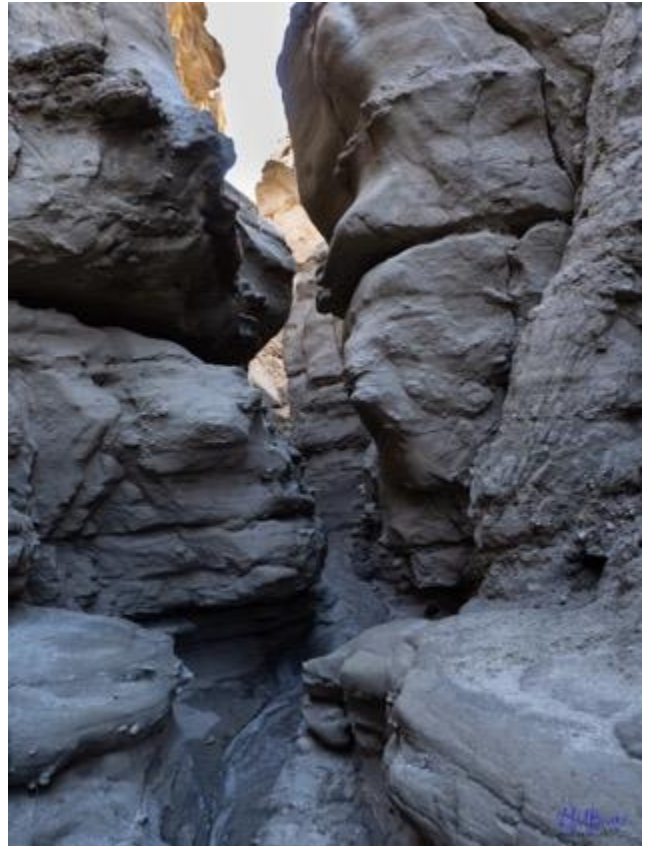
Fifty-nine club members went on the recent hiking trip to Borrego Springs, California. While it was a bit rainy when most of us arrived on Sunday and Monday, the sun arrived by Tuesday morning and stayed out during the daylight hours. With six or seven hikes per day scheduled, there was a good variety of trails to explore. We hiked to palm tree groves, slot canyons, and unusual rock formations.

Many thanks to all our guides for leading hikes they had never been on before. Some guides even drove over a day or two early just so they could become familiar with the trails.



Eagle Rock

Picture by Randy Park



Slot Canyon

Picture by Rodger Bivens



Elephant sculptures

Picture by Rodger Bivens

### **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>

### **LINDA VISTA -- A GOOD BACKUP PLAN**

Submitted by Lynda Green

A few days before a scheduled hike to Brown Mountain - down in the Tucson Mountain range - SaddleBrooke Hiking Guide Kathryn Madore checked the weather forecast for January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Leery of the warnings, she decided to alert her hiking group that rain might cancel their venture. As the hours progressed, the prospects for a safe and enjoyable trip seemed to wane. Undaunted, Madore pulled out her plan B: Linda Vista Trail.

Would her hikers be willing? Granted, Linda Vista is not as long a hike as promised; but the group would not risk a long drive only to find adverse conditions. And, with all the rain and melting snow, a treacherous wash crossing would not be an issue here. But still, reports of the temperatures at departure time were frigid. So, she pushed the starting time back to 1:00 pm—a rare time slot for Saddlebrookian hikes, which mostly leave near the crack of dawn.

Happily, her hikers all responded with a ‘Yes’! And, thus, a group of seven hikers, including Madore, enjoyed a trek up the slopes and down on a chilly early afternoon. This trail, which reaches up behind populated areas of Oro Valley into the wilderness, provides interesting perspectives of familiar places from a totally different point of view.

Among those hiking were several people new to SaddleBrooke or just visiting to ‘try us out.’ Kathleen Bell and Jim Thompson, both new



Saddlebrooke residents, enjoyed their outing on this close-by trail. Sam Donatelli is spending her first season in Saddlebrooke, and she learned more about the area from the veteran club hikers. Patti Rubel, Lynda Green, and Don Taylor completed the group.



Madore Leads Hikers Upslope on the Linda Vista Trail  
Photo by Lynda Green

When planning hikes for the club schedule, Madore has favorites places - like Brown Mountain, that she enjoys sharing with others. But, in a pinch, she states, 'Linda Vista Trail is my backup plan.

**ALLTRAILS  
BASIC INSTRUCTION HIKE**  
Submitted by Ruth Caldwell

On February 6, sixteen hikers learned to use and practice wayfinding with the AllTrails app on their phones. Led by Ruth Caldwell, with assists from Walt Shields and Marc Humphrey, the hikers recorded their tracks along the Cordones trail just outside of SaddleBrooke. They were all able to

follow that track back to the trailhead! Technology adds to safety once again!



**JANUARY ARIZONA TRAIL  
WORK SESSION**  
Submitted by Seana Kobak

You just never know what the desert weather will be like in January! The morning of the January work session on the Arizona trail was a chilly one with a few snow flurries at the start! But as soon as the sun burned off the cloud cover it was the perfect temperature for the work to be performed. The ATA (Arizona Trail Association) asked Ray to work the passage just south of passage 13 in Oracle in order to prepare for the upcoming trail run that was to start at High Jinks Ranch. The section which started at American Flag Ranch was in need of repair as there were several areas where the trail had deep ruts due to drainage issues. It was also in need of cat claw clearing.

At the request of the ATA, Ray and others removed the trail registry at the southern end of Oracle State Park. The plentiful rains made it easy to lift the registry out of the ground, but the huge concrete mass around the post presented a challenge since it would weigh more than 200 pounds! Christy from the ATA

brought a jack hammer and a portable generator to break up the concrete - but raise your hand if you've operated a jack hammer? But they found it to be a relatively easy task after Steve Aiken was able to get the generator started. Apparently, Steve's experience and tenacity in starting lawn mowers came in handy.



This section of the trail is one of my favorite local trails with views of the San Pedro River Valley, the Galiuro Mountains and the Rincons. I love the boulders and the rustic AZT trail sign at the High Jinks junction. Most importantly though, I love the gentle grade ascent! This section is once again in fantastic shape thanks to the Saddlebrook crew and the ATA.

The hard work was rewarded with warm coffee, scones, and oatmeal raisin cookies (baked by Kris Jeffries). I'm blaming it on the snow - forgot to take

a picture of the group! The Saddlebrook members that worked the trail were: Ray Peale, Steve Aiken, Tom Geiger, Dianna Wilson, Kelly Wilson, Garrett Rassing, and Seana Kobak.



There will be work sessions on February 15 and March 8 (this is the 2nd Wednesday instead of the third). All are welcome! The ATA provides the tools and training. The work sessions are fun, and it is very gratifying to see how our trails stay in such good shape!

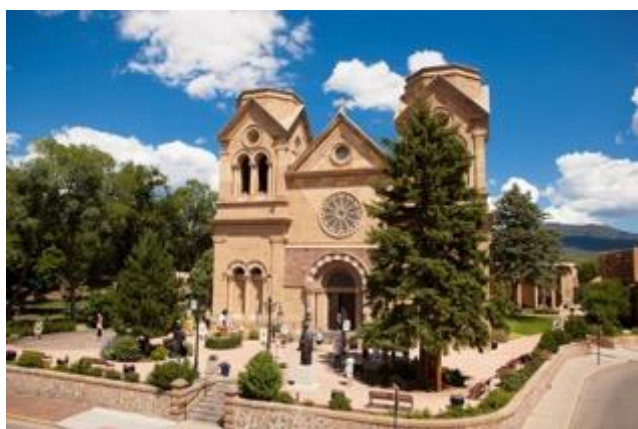
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SBHC FALL 2023 HIKING TRIP TO**  
**SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

Submitted by Tim Butler

Mark your calendars now - The Hiking Club is pleased to announce that this year's fall trip will visit enchanting Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Arrival:** Monday, October 2.  
**Scheduled hikes:** October 3, 4, 5.  
**Departure:** Friday, October 5.

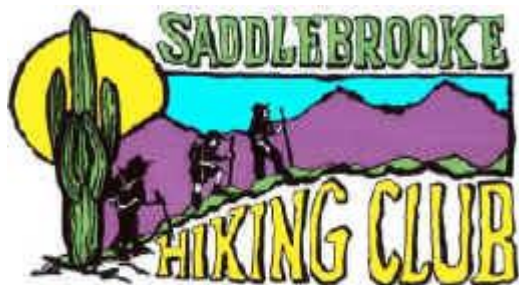
Santa Fe markets itself as “the city different,” and truly it is one of the jewels of the southwest offering world-class cuisine, museums, and shopping along with a wide variety of hiking venues in beautiful settings. For those wishing to extend their stay, the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta begins October 7.



Santa Fe Cathedral

Tim Butler is the overall trip leader and organizer. Ray Peale and Marc Humphrey will assemble and manage the hikes. More information and sign-up procedures will be forthcoming in a Club mailing.

**SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB LOGO**  
Submitted by Ruth Caldwell



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)

**SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB**  
**SPRING PICNIC – MARCH 17, 2023**

Submitted by Missy Rodey

The Picnic Committee is in full planning mode and invites you to mark Friday, March 17, on your calendar to attend the annual Spring Picnic to be held at Catalina State Park's Gila Monster picnic site. The picnic will begin with a membership meeting at 11:30 am, to be followed by food and more fun at 12:00 noon.

As always, fried and baked chicken will be provided by the SBHC - side dishes are divided among the attendees according to last names:

- A-K - pasta, potato, or other starchy salad
- L-P - fruit or green salad
- Q-Z - dessert

There is always such a fabulous array of tasty food items at the picnics, and the recipes are in high demand. As a new feature, cooks who are interested are encouraged to submit their recipes to the committee following the picnic. They will be compiled and distributed by email.

And it is not too early to mark your calendars for our Fall Picnic to be held on November 3 in the same location.

Please RSVP to Barb Rutt **by March 12** if you would like to attend the picnic:

[barbrutt@bellsouth.net](mailto:barbrutt@bellsouth.net)

In the past, we have had members join the picnic without an RSVP or an RSVP after the deadline, leading to a shortage of chicken. **We must therefore enforce the March 12 date indicated**

Many thanks go to the Picnic Committee: Katie Atkins, Elaine and Howie Fagan, Karen Gray, Marc Humphrey, Seana Kobak, Jeff Love, Judy Landeck, Barb Rutt, Maria Spencer, and Tamie Williams. Without their contributions the picnic could not take place.

**VIDEOGRAPHER NEEDED FOR SADDLEBROOK HIKING CLUB**

Our 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 still 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  
[dave@daveandpam.com](mailto:dave@daveandpam.com).

Future Trips		
Destination	Dates	Contact Person
Santa Fe, NM	Oct. 3, 4, & 5 2023	Tim Butler

News You Can Use		
AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: MountainView Lot	3/8 Wed.	7:30 A.M. - Noon
SBHC Program – My Favorite Hike	3/15 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	3/15 Wed.	5:00 P.M.
Spring Picnic Catalina Park	3/17 Fri.	11:30 A.M.
SBHC Board Meeting HOA 1 – Coyote Room	3/29 Wed.	2:00 P.M.
SBHC Guide Meeting HOA 1 -Coyote Room	3/29 Wed.	3:30 P.M.
SBHC Program - A Recap of the Past Year’s SBHC Hiking Trips	4/19 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	4/19 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

### **Wednesday, March 1, Picket Post Loop Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [530, 08:00 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: Melia Knecht, 520-433-0976, melia.knechtak1@gmail.com]

### **Wednesday, March 1, 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, March 2, Tortolita Mountains: Vision Seeker's Gorge. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [500, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$3].**

The hike begins at the Crow windmill/water tank approximately five miles down Edwin/Rail-X Rad west of Oracle Road where we park. Hike on trails south of the windmill past Tortolita Peak. This is a Special Conditions C\*\*\* hike including: light bush whacking, areas of indistinct trail route, uneven rocky downhill into wash and traversing over several steep smooth rock surfaces. Water and wet sand may be present which can impact the footing and the route in the lower gorge area. Two hiking poles are strongly recommended. 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 was

improved in 2022 and can accommodate most passenger 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. [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, March 2, 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. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Friday, March 3, Tortolitas: Ridgeline and Wild Burro from North. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [New, 08:00 AM, \$5].** From the wash near the west end of Rail-X road, we hike up the old jeep road to the top of Wild Burro Canyon. We descend the road to the area of the goat corral, old dam, and water tank. From here we take the Wild Burro Loop trail 1.7 miles up to the Ridgeline trail. Following the Ridgeline trail for 3.1 miles we meet up with the Alamo Springs trail. Continuing down hill only 0.2 miles we meet up with the Wild Burro trail where it's a short distance to our lunch stop. After lunch we continue up Wild Burro for 2.6 miles until we meet Wild Burro Loop trail. From here we hike back out the old jeep road to our vehicles. Hike 10.3 miles, 2.5 miles longer if we have to park by the windmill because we don't have 4x4 vehicles; trailhead elevation 3800 feet; est accumulated gain 1600 feet; RTD 20 miles. [Guide: Randy Park and Susan Hollis, rparktucson@gmail.com]

**Friday, March 3, Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [354, 09:00 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]

**Friday, March 3, Banff Film Festival. [NEW, 4 PM, \$4].** Aaron is organizing his annual trip to the Banff Film Festival at the Fox Theater in Tucson. He has tickets available for \$20. This is a showing of a number of award winning adventure films that has a duration of about three hours (including intermission). For more information (directions, carpooling, potential dinner out) and to obtain tickets contact Aaron. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

**Monday, March 6, Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small first dam as we enter the beautiful, rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net

elevation change 1010 feet; accumulated gain 1315 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Bruce J Olson, 920-205-6963, brucej0506@gmail.com.]

**Monday, March 6, 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: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, March 7, 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]

**Tuesday, March 7, Esperero Canyon/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 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, March 7, Cordones. 🐕 Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [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: Kathy Minx, kathrynminx@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, March 8, Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [87, 07:30 AM, \$4 Paid by club].** Come and join the fun — it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain the "Oracle Passage" section of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. This 6.5 mile section starts at the American Flag TH, ambles through washes and across low ridges speckled with high desert plants just east of Oracle State Park south to Highway 77. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, pruning, building cairns and developing/clearing erosion control devices. Bring along gloves, hat, water, and hand clippers. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 2-4 hours. Hike 3-6 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$4 driver donation. [Guide: Seana Kobak, seanabk88@gmail.com, or Ray Peale, ray.peale@gmail.com]



**Wednesday, March 8, David Yetman Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [165, 08:00 AM, \$8].** The hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. The trail has two trailheads; one at Camino de Oeste and one near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. Cars will be left at one end and hikers will drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, easy down a wash, but steep upward for a short distance along the climb back up to the ridge. Hikers pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that serves a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 643 feet; accumulated gain 730 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon @ jsolon3680@aol.com.]

**Wednesday, March 8, Fifty-Year Trail / Sutherland Trail / Bridle Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [182, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins from the easternmost trailhead in Catalina State Park. We take the Canyon Loop Trail to the Sutherland Trail. After reaching the rocky road, we turn west on the Trail Link for about two miles until we come to the Fifty-Year Trail. We take the Fifty-Year Trail south, then the Bridle Trail back to the beginning. Hike 9.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide:Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com]

**Thursday, March 9, 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; net elevation change 1600 feet; accumulated gain 696 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Thursday, March 9, 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]

**Friday, March 10, Petroglyph / Madonna Loop. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [525, 08:00 AM, \$4].** This hike is a grand loop that takes us to several iconic locations but in a shortened version. More bang for your buck! It starts at the north gate of Catalina State Park on state land. We hike into the Sutherland Rock Art District where we visit 2 separate areas of petroglyphs. The trail then joins a spur up to the Baby Jesus trail where we head south to visit the rock formation known as Madonna and child (for which the trail was named). We will continue south to a junction with FR 643 for a short trek down a rocky jeep

road (only 0.3 mi) - but with a stop at a lovely oasis in Cargodera Canyon that has beautiful Sycamore and Ash trees & often running water. Our final turn is onto an unnamed trail that will complete our loop back to the trailhead. \*\*\*This loop has beautiful scenery, but some fairly steep climbs with loose rock. Hiking poles are recommended. Hikers that have successfully completed several difficult C hikes will enjoy this hike. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2968 feet; net elevation change 852 feet; accumulated gain 1033 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Friday, March 10, 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.]

**Saturday, March 11, Little Elephant Head & Horseshoe Mine. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [New, 06:30 AM, \$15].** The hike forms a "Y" with two major landmark attractions at the end of each stem of the "Y". First we will go over several humps and climb to the Little Elephant Head summit which has awesome views. The trail is rocky and scrubby. Dress defensively. Hiking poles and gloves are recommended. Then the right fork of the hike takes us along an old mine road to the Horseshoe Mine. Entering the mine is optional. Here we will enter a narrow cavity that we will have to crawl into to go underground. Waterproof boots and flashlight/headlamp are required for exploration. It will be muddy in places but you will be able to stand upright throughout after the initial entry. This outing is my favorite Class "C" hike in the Tucson region. Maximum quota of participants: 12. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4570 feet; net elevation change 604 feet; accumulated gain 1300 feet; RTD 136 miles (5 miles dirt road). [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg; askus3@centurylink.net]

**Sunday, March 12, Double Crested/Dome Trail. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [510, 08:00 AM, \$0].** This hike is on a newly constructed trail to Big Dome Rock that passes a rare double-crested saguaro. Many SaddleBrooke residents have a view from their homes of Dome Rock - the large dome formation to the east that is bald in the middle with patchy vegetation on both sides, and located about a third of the way up to Charouleau Gap. The hike leaves from the end of Arroyo Way in Unit 21 (after carpooling from the usual meeting spot at Mountain View). We cross Canada del Oro Wash, and then follow the newly developed route east through a small wash, and along several ridgelines to our destination. \*\*\* There are areas of steep hills with some loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. We will pass through interesting granite formations, with many saguaros and ocotillo forests. One of the highlights along the way is Double Beauty, a rare double-crested saguaro registered with the Crested Saguaro Society. On top of the dome there are great 360 degree views of Saddlebrooke and Catalina. We will return by the same route. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide:Bill Bender, wbender@uw.edu]

**Monday, March 13, Fifty-Year Trail Area "Double D". Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [233, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the Upper Corral 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: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Monday, March 13, Picacho Peak Easy Trails. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [326, 08:00 AM, \$9 + \$2].** The hike involves several trails in and around the base of Picacho Peak, including the Calloway, Nature and Cave Trails. All three trails are relatively smooth and involve little elevation gain. Wildflowers should be blooming during March and April if there has been adequate rainfall. Hike 1.4 miles; trailhead elevation \_\_\_ feet, net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 90 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, slhollis@yahoo.com.]

**Tuesday, March 14, Arizona Trail: Santa Rita Mountains (Passage 5). Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [74, 07:00AM, \$18].** This passage begins on Gardner Canyon Road, just west of Gardner Canyon Trailhead. The route passes the trailhead, heads over to Cave Creek, descends into Fish Canyon and then heads northwest to Kentucky Camp. It goes through the camp area, follows the Kentucky Camp Road and then works its way up Sucker Gulch. It goes past Granite Mountain, through Ophir Gulch and then turns on to FR 165. It descends to Enzenberg Canyon, climbs up to a road, crosses California Gulch and then crosses FR 62. After a couple of small ridges the trail reaches the upper end of Oak Tree Canyon. It follows this canyon down to a point about 3/4 mile from Highway 83. The Santa Rita passage is rich in mining history, much of which can be observed from the trail. The renovated Kentucky Camp is an early 1900's base for Stetson hydraulic gold mining company, which never saw production. Remnants of an aqueduct to provide pressurized water, along with interpretive signs, can be seen along the trail. The hike is moderately difficult. Hike 13.6 miles; trailhead elevations 5215 feet south and 5203 feet north; net elevation change 837 feet; accumulated gain 1805; RTD 141 miles (dirt). [Guide:Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, March 14, Middle Tank/Baby Jesus Trails Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [167, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at Lower Corral then follows Middle Gate trail to Grand Junction. From there it follows the Deer Camp Trail for 0.16 miles to the Middle Tank Trail on the right. Follow the trail south until it ends at the Baby Jesus Trail; turn north which leads back to the trailhead. The area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 650 feet; accumulated gain 1126 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, March 15, SBHC Program @4pm HOA#1 Activity Center.**

**Thursday, March 16, 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]

**Thursday, March 16, Seven Falls. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [387, 07:00 AM, \$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 and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Friday, March 17, Wildflower Hike. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [489, 07:30 AM, \$2+\$2].** The trail in Catalina State Park will be determined by where there are abundant wildflowers to see. Hike less than 5 miles; trailhead elevation \_\_ feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain less than 500 feet. [Guides: Elisabeth Wheeler, hikerelisabeth@gmail.com and Tim Butler, [tucsontimmer@gmail.com](mailto:tucsontimmer@gmail.com).] *HIKE WILL BE OVER IN TIME TO ATTEND THE PICNIC.*

#### **Friday, March 17, SBHC Spring Picnic – 11:30 Catalina State Park**

**Monday, March 20, 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 ]

**Monday, March 20, 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. Return will be on Canyon Loop Trail. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Gary Somers, gfsomers@gmail.com]

**Monday, March 20, Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail (short version). Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [332, 08:00 AM, \$9 + \$2].** From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the trail to the point on the foot of the Peak that starts the steep climb to Picacho Peak (entrance fee required). The return is via the same route. The southerly views from the turning point are excellent. Park entrance fee required. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 751 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 90 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

**Monday, March 20, 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 3-4 mi, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation change < 50 ft, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 mi. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, March 21, Window Rock. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [490, 06:30 AM, \$5].** The hike follows the most direct route up Ventana Canyon. The hike is difficult and steep, and involves lots of difficult climbing. The hike begins at the Ventana Canyon Resort parking lot past the employees' parking lot. It follows that trail past Maiden Pools until it reaches the Esperero Trail 25, which is used for two miles to reach the Window. Ventana Canyon offers some of the best canyon views in southern Arizona. Views from the Window are fantastic, including such landmarks at Mt. Kimball, Cathedral Rock, and the Montrose Canyon drainage area. Hike 12.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 4042 feet; accumulated gain 4249 feet; RTD 54 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, March 21, 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: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, March 22, 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: Jim Solon @ jsolon3680@aol.com]

**Wednesday, March 22, Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [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: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, March 23, OSP West Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [310, 07:30 AM, \$4 + \$2].** The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. We hike the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection we turn west and hike toward Hwy 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. The first third of the hike is fairly level, the second third is a series of up and down hills on rocky trail and the last third has gentle hills. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated gain 1150 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, March 23, Honey Bee Canyon North. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [222, 08:00 AM, \$3].** The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes and end for snacks/lunch at a one of two broken dams. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time, this is a real eye opener. Hike 3.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 178 feet; RTD 26 miles. [Guide: PhilMcNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Friday, March 24, Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang / Wild Burro Canyon Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [469, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, connect with the Upper Javalina Trail, and make their way up to the Wild Mustang Trail. The trail will lead the group over the higher elevations of the mountains to the north past at least 3 crested saguaros. Near the upper end of Wild Mustang Trail we take a connector trail southeast down to the Wild Burro Canyon Trail. The trail overlooks the narrow upper canyon which spreads wide with numerous side canyons and tributaries. As we continue down Wild Burro Canyon, we pass a crumbling stone structure and arrive at a boulder strewn falls which thunders with runoff from the upper side canyons and tributaries when it rains. A short distance later we will merge onto Lower Javalina Trail, quickly descending through hillsides covered with enormous boulders and a forest of saguaro cacti. We will then rejoin Wild Burro Trail to return to the trailhead. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 1150 feet; accumulated gain 1731 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, slhollis@yahoo.com]

**Friday, March 24, Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [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: Bruce J Olson, 920-205-6963, brucej0506@gmail.com.]

**Monday, March 27, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 07:00 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, March 28, 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]

**Wednesday, March 29, SBHC BOD Mtg. HOA#1 Coyote Room North 2:00pm to 3:30pm**

**Wednesday, March 29, SBHC Guides Mtg. HOA#1 Coyote Room North 3:30pm to 5:00pm**

**Thursday, March 30, Chiricahua Heart of Rocks Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [156, 08:00 AM, \$29].** This is the fifth year this popular wine and hike has been offered. We will be visiting wineries in Wilcox Thursday afternoon and doing the hike on Friday. Bill Bender will be offering a Cochise Stronghold hike on Thursday afternoon for those not wishing to do the wine tour. He will also be offering a C hike at Chiricahua on Friday. I have reservations for 10 rooms at the Arizona Sunset Inn @\$79 night. For reservations contact me not the Inn. This loop trail visits the most spectacular rock formations in Chiricahua National Monument, and includes the scenic Echo Canyon Trail. It optionally may include a short 1 mile round trip to Inspiration Point. Hike 8.4 miles; trailhead elevation 6780 feet; net elevation change 1082 feet; accumulated gain 2500 feet; RTD 288 miles. [Guide:Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, March 30, Cochise Stronghold (East) / Possible Amerind Foundation Museum. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [159, 06:00 AM, \$22].** Note this hike is also offered with the Wine and Hike listed by Phil McNamee. We will leave Saddlebrook early, hike, have a late lunch and hikers can either return to Saddlebrooke or spend the night in Arizona Sunset Inn (contact Phil McNamee for reservations). On Friday a C hike will be offered in the Chiricahua National Monument. This is a beautiful hike through the Dragoon Mountains to a saddle that provided a hiding place for Cochise during the apache wars. Cochise is buried in a hidden location in the area. The area contains several beautiful rock formations and pinnacles. The trail begins and returns to the Cochise Stronghold Campground off Hwy 191 east of Benson. Bring snacks, a camera, and at least one quart of water. On the way back, we will may stop at the Amerind Foundation Museum (fee required), where American Indian artifacts are on display. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 1298 feet; accumulated gain 1298 feet; RTD 221 miles (some dirt). [Guide: Bill Bender, wbender@uw.edu.]

**Thursday, March 30, Tanque Verde Ridge Trail - Part Way. Rating: B/C. Pace: Moderate [444, 07:00 AM, \$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 and humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, March 30, Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [124, 07:00 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.]

**Friday, March 31, 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, April 3, 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. Return will be on Canyon Loop Trail. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Gary Somers, gfsomers@gmail.com]

**Monday, April 3, Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [124, 08:00 AM, \$7].** The Brown Mountain Trail is along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts at a trailhead on McCain Loop Road, just south of Kinney Road east of the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. Along this ridge ramble are excellent views of the mountains, valleys, and desert vegetation. The route has many up and downs. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 (trailheads at either end are 2640 and 2880) feet; net elevation change 424 feet; accumulated gain 943 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

**Monday, April 3, Bug Spring Trail No.1. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [125, 08:00 AM, \$9].** From the Lower Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile up the Catalina Highway from Hirabayashi Campground), the hike proceeds southeast along a narrow ribbon of trail carved into the granite hillside. After an uphill set of switchbacks, the terrain mellows out with outstanding vistas and views of granite sculptures. The trail dives down the north side of the ridge into a heavily forested drainage. Upward to the highpoint of the trail, you can see a few big madrone trees and views of the Sierrita Mountains, Baboquivari and the mighty Rincons. The trail descends steeply to the Upper Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile south of General Hitchcock Campground), which is the turnaround point. Return is via the same trail. Hike 8.7



miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change 1625 feet; accumulated gain 2270 feet; RTD 94 miles. [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

**Monday, April 3, Basic AllTrails Instruction Hike/Cordones. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [509, 08:00 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, April 4, Thimble Peak via Bear Canyon. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [447, 06:30 AM, \$6].** The trailhead is at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. We will hike to Seven Falls and then continue up Bear Canyon for an additional 2 miles. We will then head southeast for 1.2 miles on an unmarked, faint trail to Thimble Peak. The 1.2 mile section has some steep side slopes, and may involve hiking in grassy areas, depending on the time or year. Gloves may be useful. Enjoy outstanding views from the base of Thimble Peak down into Sabino Canyon and the greater Tucson area. For those that want a little more adventure we will climb the Peak, but ascent to the top of the Peak is difficult. The return is via the same route. Hike 17.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 2,600 feet; accumulated gain 3410 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair, mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, April 4, Ironwood Picnic Area. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [231, 07:00 AM, \$7].** The hike starts just west of Gates Pass. It follows the Golden Gate Trail, then the Prospector's Trail. After a short climb (150 feet) to a pass, the trail drops to the tree-shaded Ironwood Picnic area. After lunch, hikers follow the gradually ascending (almost level) Ironwood Trail back to the starting point. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com]

**Wednesday, April 5, Sutherland Wildflower 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 meanders through the park. Hike 5+/- miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, April 5, Peppersauce Canyon (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [321, 08:00 AM, \$7].** From the Peppersauce Canyon Campground, the hike proceeds up Peppersauce Canyon approximately 1.5 miles and returns. There is a good mixture of vegetation to study. Some views, depending on how far we go. Bring lunch. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated elevation \_\_ feet; RTD 53 miles (dirt). [Guide: Bruce J Olson, 920-205-6963, brucej0506@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, April 6, Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 07:30 AM, \$4].** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small first dam as we enter the beautiful, rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1010 feet; accumulated gain 1315 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Thursday, April 6, Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Tucson. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [517, 09:00 AM, \$5].** 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]

**Friday, April 7, Fifty-Year Trail Area "Double D". Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [233, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the Upper Corral 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: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Friday, April 7, Honey Bee Canyon South. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW, [224, 07:30 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: Karen Gray, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

**Monday, April 10, Fifty-Year Trail Area Loop – Long Version. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [185, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the Upper Corral and follows social trails to the Middle Gate. Hikers proceed on the Middle Gate trail to the Middle Gate/Upper Fifty Year trail intersection in the Sutherland Wash. At that point the route goes north on the Upper Fifty Year trail, passing a classic crested saguaro as the trail climbs steeply up a ridge. This portion of the hike is a difficult 0.8 mile stretch - very steep with loose rock. The lunch spot is a large flat slick rock area near the top of the Upper Fifty Year loop. The return is via the west side of the Fifty-Year Trail loop. There are beautiful saguaros and rock formations, in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 425 feet; accumulated gain 607 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land.

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

**Monday, April 10, Catalina Hills Cleanup Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [141, 09:00 AM, \$0].**

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

**Tuesday, April 11, 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.]

**Tuesday, April 11, 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 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: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, April 12, Josephine Saddle and Carrie Nation Mine. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [236, 07:00 AM, \$13].** This loop hike travels almost entirely through mixed deciduous and evergreen forest, although there will be opportunities for spectacular views westward on our decent from from Josephine Saddle via the Super Trail. The Carrie Nation mine is tucked away in a well-shaded confluence of streams at about 6500'. There is usually water here. Evidence of mining activity include the hard rock mine shaft, a boiler, platforms for buildings and work areas and tailings. The beginning of the hike is a gradual ascent, following a stream course that may have water. The trail is rocky in the stream and as it switchbacks to the mine, and there may be mud. Leaving the mine, there is a very steep section - about a mile - of indistinct, but generally easy to discern social trail we will follow. This is the hardest section of trail, and leads us to an intersection with the Agua Caliente Trail, which we will take to Josephine Saddle and where we will stop for lunch before we begin the descent on the Super Trail to the trailhead. Large sycamore, oak, pine, and higher up, fir trees keep us company, and in the spring and early summer the forest will be filled with bird song. Coues white-tailed deer are often seen, and we may see signs of black bears and coatimundi. In wet summers, the Madrean adder's mouth orchid may be present along the canyon trail. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1830 feet; RTD 130 miles. There is a fee for parking unless you have a National Park Pass that must be displayed. [Guide: Melia Knecht, 520-433-0976, melia.knechtak1@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, April 12, Deer Camp. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [166, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the Golder Ranch parking area and proceeds on the 50 year trail to the Middle Gate Trail. We hike east up and out of Sutherland Wash, through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros. From the Grand

Junction we take the Deer Camp Trail to a campground that was established in 1961 at the base of Samaniego Peak below Iron Spring. It is used by both hunters and ranchers. A water trough for cattle, 2 rusted iron spring beds, and a picnic table, recently renovated by the SB Hiking Club, remain. Along the way, hikers should look for The Thinker, Big Bird, a Stegosaurus, and a large rock with a smooth hole straight through it. The return is via the same route. Hike 8.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 880 feet; accumulated gain 1069 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: Phil McNamee [mcnameephil@gmail.com](mailto:mcnameephil@gmail.com).]

**Thursday, April 13, Seven Falls. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [388, 08:00 AM, \$6].** The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center hiking to lower Bear Canyon. From there we continue up Bear Canyon to Seven Falls and return via the same route back to the Center. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. Tram fee required. The trail crosses the Bear Canyon wash several times and can involve significant boulder hopping/wading after rainy periods. Ask the guide about current conditions. Hike 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 660 feet; accumulated gain 1013 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, [Jsolon3680@aol.com](mailto:Jsolon3680@aol.com)]

**Thursday, April 13, Sweetwater Preserve (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [507, 08:00 AM, \$6].** The trailhead is at the end of Tortolita Road, one mile off El Camino del Cerro. The 703-acre preserve is in the Tucson Mountains (this is not the Sweetwater Trail which leads to Wasson Peak.) There is a system of trails within the park made in 2008 by a crew of 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.sdmb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html](http://www.sdmb.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](mailto:waltshields@mac.com), 520-404-8998.]

**Friday, April 14, 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](mailto:kathryn.madore@gmail.com).]

**Friday, April 14, Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina and Upper Javelina. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [459, 08:00 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: Susan Hollis, [slhollis@yahoo.com](mailto:slhollis@yahoo.com)]

**Monday, April 17, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 07:00 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, April 17, Sunset / Marshall Gulch / Aspen Loop. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [394, 07:00 AM, \$13].** The hike begins at Soldier Camp on the Sunset Trail, which starts on the Catalina Highway before reaching Summerhaven, and travels to the Marshall Gulch Picnic Area. \*\*\* There is a section of the trail where you must go down a short, steep rock face. It proceeds along the Marshall Gulch Trail to the Marshall Saddle, then down the Lower Aspen Trail to the picnic area. We return via Sunset Trail to the trailhead. There are great views of the Catalinas along the way, hiking mostly in forest shade. Hike 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 7640 feet; net elevation change 736 feet; accumulated gain 1394 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, April 18, Fifty-Year Trail to Sutherland Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [187, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins at the Catalina State Park Equestrian Center and proceeds north along the Fifty-Year Trail. Hikers turn left onto an unmarked trail and proceed along ridges and across the wash until connecting again with the Fifty-Year Trail. There is a sign at the intersection. The hike continues along the Fifty-Year Trail to the intersection of the Sutherland Trail Link. There is a good place to take a break at the wash. The return trip stays on the Fifty-Year Trail back to the wash. Hike 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide:insert Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, April 19, SBHC Program @4pm HOA#1 Activity Center.**

**Tuesday, April 20, Volunteer Recognition Event at Tennis Patio, 4:00 pm - 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 20, 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:Phil McNamee mcnameephil@gmail.com.]

**Friday, April 21, Ram's Creek Basin to Alamo Canyon, Catalina State Park. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [551, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** This hike combines two very popular hikes into one. From the Ram's Creek Pass subdivision we hike up a large wash on an established trail through a beautiful canyon with large stands of saguaros. We then continue on to a connecting trail via a large watering tank to Catalina State Park. We cross several washes and pass by Alamo Canyon falls, which provides a cool oasis and usually has running water. The hike ends at Romero Ruins. This hike involves a short car

shuttle. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2404 feet; net elevation change 572 feet; accumulated gain 820 feet; RTD 21 miles. [Guides: Bill Bender and Kathy Minx [wbender@uw.edu](mailto:wbender@uw.edu).]

**Friday, April 21, 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. [Guide: Tim Butler, [tucsontimmer@gmail.com](mailto:tucsontimmer@gmail.com)]

**Thursday, April 24, Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [253, 07:00 AM, \$13].** This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. It starts from the Whitehouse parking area and ascends 2.9 miles up the canyon to the Roundup Picnic Area (el. 5400 feet). Along the way, hikers enjoy the shade of Apache pines, Douglas firs, Emory oaks, Mexican blue oaks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. The return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 885 feet; RTD 130 miles. There is a fee for parking unless you have a National Park Pass that must be displayed. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, [azcaldwell3@gmail.com](mailto:azcaldwell3@gmail.com)]

**Tuesday, April 25, Wilderness of Rocks. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [484, 08:00 AM, \$13].** The hike begins at the Marshall Gulch picnic area at the top of Mt. Lemmon. We climb up to Marshall Saddle then down the Wilderness of Rocks Trail. Three fourths of a mile past the intersection with the Lemmon Rock Lookout Trail is the Lemmon Canyon area in the heart of the Wilderness of Rocks. There are beautiful rock formations with great views along the way. The return is via the same route, or optionally, by the Aspen Loop Trail. Hike 7.2 miles; trailhead elevation 7440 feet; net elevation change 1550 feet; accumulated gain 1538 feet; RTD 131 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, [seppylov@gmail.com](mailto:seppylov@gmail.com).]

**Tuesday, April 25, Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [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: Bruce Landeck, [bflandeck@gmail.com](mailto:bflandeck@gmail.com).]

**Wednesday, April 26, Rincon Peak. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [365, 05:30 AM, \$21].** The trailhead for this hike is accessed on Mescal Road (16 miles dirt) off I-10 south of Tucson. Rincon Peak is the second highest peak in the Rincon Mountains and is located east of Tucson. The views from the summit are awesome as this peaks dominates the skyline from INT 10 and is worth the rigorous trek. Hike 15.4 miles; trailhead elevation 4288 feet; net elevation change 4280 feet; accumulated gain 4356 feet; RTD 165 miles (dirt). [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg [askus3@centurylink.net](mailto:askus3@centurylink.net)]

**Thursday, April 27, Mt. Lemmon Ski Lift Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [274, 07:00 AM, \$13].**

From the foot of the ski lift, hikers walk the roadway to the top of Mt. Lemmon. We will take the Meadow Trail and the Mt. Lemmon Trail to Mt. Lemmon Rock Lookout (outstanding views). We return to the starting point using a portion of Trail 5 along Radio Ridge, and a portion of the Aspen Draw Trail. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 8480; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 1140 feet; RTD 131 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Thursday, April 27, OSPEast 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.]

**Thursday, April 27, 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.]

**Friday, April 28, 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: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]