



SADDLE BROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

January/February 2001

2001-1

Volunteer Program Update *by Jon Chase*

We would like to thank all of you who volunteered to help in the trail maintenance and/or Adopt-A-Highway programs that were proposed in the past year. Finally, we are ready to launch the initial SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Volunteer Program. We will table the Adopt-A-Highway Program for now and focus our efforts on trail and park maintenance at Oracle State Park. The park has received additional state funding and will open to the public in the fall of 2001. Help is needed now. We need Crew Chiefs or Team Leaders. These leaders will receive basic training in trail maintenance at OSP and will take groups of 3-6 volunteers to perform work at the park. When we have 3 or 4 leaders, we can kick-off the program, hopefully by January 2001. Please contact Jon Chase if you are willing to serve in this capacity. 818-1115 or jon.chase@prodigy.net.

Hiking Guides Corner *with Gary Gouvea*

We could still use more hiking guides. Two more were added last month, but it would be nice to have more. The two new guides are John Rendall and Bernice Christian. Thanks.

Place Names in The Greater Tucson Area - Ever wonder how the places in our area were named? Here is a short list taken from the book "Arizona Place Names" by Will C. Barnes:

Mt. Lemmon: Professor J. G. Lemmon is said to have named it for his wife, the first white woman to reach the summit in 1881.

Mt. Wrightson: Named after William Wrightson, manager of the Salero Mining Co. and Santa Rita mines. Former editor

of a trade paper in Cincinnati. Killed by Apaches in the Sonoita Valley while surveying.

Wasson Peak: Named after Joe (John) Wasson, early Surveyor-General and journalist and editor of the Tucson Citizen.

Oracle: Alexander McKay who first prospected the region says the name 'Oracle' was given to a mine in the area by Weldon who came around Cape Horn on a ship named "The Oracle" in 1875.

Tucson: Probably from the Pima Indian word "Sluyk-son" meaning a dark or brown spring. Originally it was likely a Papago word "stuyk-zone" - 'stuyk' for black and 'zone' for foot or base of a hill; or near a spring. There was a Papago village in the early days just across the valley from Tucson at the foot of what is today known as Sentinel Peak which they called by this name.

Tips for Your Hiking Safety and Enjoyment - Hypothermia - We are so preoccupied with getting enough water here in the desert, we tend to forget the threat of hypothermia. During our winters it can get quite cold. If it is cold and you get wet you could be in a lot of trouble. If there is a threat of rain, bring rain gear and extra clothing for "layering on".

Wet feet - With all the rain in October and more to come, many of our stream beds have water. Check with your guide before a hike to find out if it is necessary to bring old tennis shoes or sandals you don't mind getting wet. Also bring a small towel to dry your feet.

On the Trail with Bev & Dave

The heavy rainfall around here during September – October changed the look of our nearby trails. Two of our 'D' hikes during October were notable because of water. The Linda Vista Loop Trail is a pleasant, 3-mile hike very near to SaddleBrooke; it's a great little hike for guests visiting our area. The trailhead is reached by turning east from Oracle Road onto Linda Vista Road just south of El Conquistador. It's about ½ mile to a small parking lot where a trail map is posted. There had been so many mini-flash floods roaring down the mountain that finding the actual trail was a bit of a challenge. In spite of that and blustery, bone-chilling winds, our group had a great time. We really enjoyed the cloud formation discussion and weather explanations provided by 'resident meteorologist,' Dean Wilson. We were glad to get back to the cars as the first rain drops arrived heralding yet another storm.

Later in October, we took a small group on an Orientation Hike on Canyon Loop Trail in Catalina State Park. Whispers of a possible stream crossing in the first few hundred feet grew to gasps as we approached a roaring river, 25 feet across, in that usually-dry wash. It was only 10"-12" deep, but we were astonished by the amount and the swiftness of the flow! Luckily, those before us had fashioned a sort-of bridge with wobbly rocks, and we all made it across with only a few barely-wet boots. We were glad we had hiking sticks. The next water crossing was about ½ hour later - wobbly rocks, wetter boots, glad we had the sticks. We were old hands at wobbly rocks, damp shoes & balancing on hiking sticks by the third crossing and by the fourth water crossing, most of us had soaked boots, drenched legs, well-used sticks yet very jovial spirits. We could hear Mother Nature's music of dancing water trickling over rocks during most of the hike, and it added extra joy to the day. Our "beginner hikers" were real troopers on this what-turned-out-to-be water trek which was not all that easy either. We couldn't believe it – 4 wide-water crossings on the Canyon Loop Trail. Sloshing back to the cars, we all agreed that the unexpected water added a lot to the fun. It was a great hike!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

T-Shirts – Linda Bechky has club T-shirts that have been paid for and not picked up. If one of these may be yours, please contact her. In addition, she has additional extra shirts for sale.

Social Committee Chairwoman Retires

The club needs a Social Committee Chairperson and volunteers to plan and organize social activities for the club. Many thanks to our retiring Committee Chairwoman, Blossom Silberman, who has done an excellent job over the past year with three very successful club potluck picnics.

Blossom wishes to thank the several volunteers who have been a great help in the past. Please consider helping the club by offering to fill these positions. Call Norm Kyle and let him know you're ready to help! 818-0563

Spring Potluck Picnic

Mark your calendars now! Our Spring Picnic Potluck will be held at Catalina State Park on March 31, 2001. Details will appear in the next newsletter.

Food for energy

Some days it's hard enough just to get up in the morning and walk out to get the paper, but if you're going on a hike, you'll need more than simple foot-shuffle power. Be sure your body's energy furnace is stoked and flaming so you can get over to meet everyone on time at the Mountain View Clubhouse and more importantly, so you won't poop-out half-way through your hike. You'll do better, feel better and have more fun with fuel to burn.

In addition to having a good breakfast of complex carbohydrates and drinking extra water before heading out, take along some instant energy snacks. Those energetic folks who rode in the rigorous Tour de Tucson bike ride have a few tips for portable energy sources that travel well: Clif Shot or GU energy Gel are light weight, easy to carry, & easy to digest; Endura or Optimizer are brands of energy drinks or try Spiz Endurance Drink; avoid energy bars like Clif Bar and Luna. They are good and chewy, but bars that tout "high protein" require a lot of water and time to digest and can actually slow you down during exercise. Conventional foods like oranges and bananas are easy to eat and to digest. Of course, there's always GORP – Good Old Raisins and Peanuts – or even a quick PB&J sandwich. It's a good idea to experiment ahead of time with any new foods to determine what may work best for you. *Source: Arizona Daily Star "Accent", 10/30/00.*

New Communications Committee Members

The current Communications Committee of Dave and Bev Caldwell are pleased to announce the enthusiastic volunteers who will be the future Communications Committee. They are Andrea Gray and Jim Conklin who will head-up the main committee with Linda Bechky and Norm Kyle for support crew. Andrea and Jim have been "in training" and will publish the next and subsequent newsletters. Email addresses: Andrea, Ajewel699@aol.com; Jim, Conklin@aol.com; Linda, Linron@aol.com; Norm, Norm.kyle@worldnet.att.net.

Summit Hut Offerings at 5045 E. Speedway, Tucson (325-1554).

Saturday, January 13, 10:30 a.m. **Gearing Up For...Getting Acquainted with your Garmin GPS.** This class will be run like an orientation to GPS - learning the "ins and outs" of the different features and benefits of Garmin GPS units. No charge. Call to register.

Friday, January 19, 8 p.m. Free slideshow by Summit Hut owner Dave Baker who will bring slides and tales from high adventure around the world and in our own backyard. Special focus will be on early climbing exploits in Southern Arizona.

Sunday, February 25th. Annual Gear Swap Meet. This is a great opportunity to buy or sell used gear. We set up the tables, you bring the gear. Call for details.

Reminders

The next **Hiking Guides Meeting** to schedule March-April hikes is on Wednesday, February 7th at 4:00 p.m., Javelina Room, SB clubhouse. If you can think of a walk or a hike you wish to offer other club members, please come to the meeting. Even if you have no idea of what you may want to do, come anyway just to see how the scheduling gets done. All club members are encouraged to lead walks or hikes and are welcome to come to the meeting. If you would like to lead a hike, be sure to complete a Hiking Schedule Form and present it at the next meeting. Forms are available from the Chief Hiking Guide, Gary Gouvea (825-3868) or on the Web.

GENERAL HIKING INFORMATION

Call the guide to make a reservation for the hike and to get the latest information. Hiking groups meet at and depart from the Mountain View Clubhouse parking lot. (As you look at the clubhouse we will be on the left side out by Mountain View Blvd. just east of the tennis courts.) The time listed is the departure time. It is important to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time. Always bring ample water, sunscreen, and wear appropriate headgear & footwear. Check with the guide as to whether or not to bring a lunch. Always bring some sort of ID with you. Bring medications for your own conditions. If you have a cell phone you might consider bringing it.

Driver donation is a suggested amount and is noted for each individual hike. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made at the end of the drive, back at SaddleBrooke. The amount sometimes includes user fees for the Mt. Lemmon Highway and for Catalina State Park. Passengers are to pay any other user fees and share any parking fees. (Hikers, please let the guide know if you intend to drive and whether or not you have applicable passes.)

Guest Policy

Please note: a guest is a person who is not a SaddleBrooke resident whether year-round or part-time. A SaddleBrooke resident must be a club member in order to join a hike. On hikes with limited participants, members have priority over guests. Members must accompany their guest(s), and all guests will be required to sign a Release Form prior to hiking. If the guest is younger than 16 years old, the member must notify the hiking guide who has sole discretion whether or not to allow minors on his/her hike. Guests under age 18 must have a Release Form signed by their parent or legal guardian to present to the guide prior to hiking.

Catalina Highway Construction

For the foreseeable future (at least through the summer of 2001) there will be roadwork and weekday delays on the Catalina Highway to Mt. Lemmon. Hikes may be scheduled to coincide with pilot cars leading the public through the construction.

Hike Ratings and Pace

- A Hikes >16 miles or >3500 feet climb
- B Hikes 8 to 16 miles or 1500 to 3500 feet climb
- C Hikes 4 to 8 miles or 500 to 1500 feet climb
- D Hikes <4 miles or < 500 feet climb

- Slow Pace -- Less than 1.5 MPH with frequent stops.
- Moderate Pace -- 1.5 to 2.5 MPH, fewer stops.
- Fast Pace -- Greater than 2.5 MPH.

Pace is also governed by trail conditions and the terrain. Ask your guide for clarification when you sign up.

NOTE: Sometimes a hike is harder or easier than its rating indicates. In an attempt at pinpoint accuracy, "minus" and "plus" signs have been added to some ratings. Hikes are much more difficult than a walk around SaddleBrooke. Be sure to ask the guide for details when signing up for a hike.

Orientation Hikes

Orientation Hikes (OH) are encouraged for all "beginner" hikers and are intended for sharing information and for personal assessment of current physical fitness. The following are scheduled.

- Friday, January 12th, Honey Bee Canyon
- Monday, January 22nd, Linda Vista Trail
- Monday, February 19th, Honey Bee Canyon

Summary of Hikes by Rating and Date:

A Hikes -- Jan 4 & 29
Feb 19

B Hikes -- Jan 6, 9, 13, 16, 19, 22, 23, 24, 30 & 31
Feb 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 20, 21, 22 & 25

C Hikes -- Jan 4, 5, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 25 & 27
Feb 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 16, 17, 23, 24, 26 & 27

D Hikes -- Jan 12, 19 & 22
Feb 13, 19, 22 & 28

SCHEDULED HIKES

NOTE: Hikes marked by a double asterisk ** are new additions to our club database.

January 4th -- Thursday. Pusch Peak. Rating A-. The first mile of the trail is mostly level then a steep, difficult climb begins. In a few places you may want to use your hands to climb the trail. Bring gloves. Hiking stick desirable. 1-1/2 miles more and we reach the top. The views of Oro Valley and Tucson are fantastic. This is a very strenuous hike. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 2700 feet; altitude at start 2650 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953

**** January 4th -- Thursday.** Rams Creek Basin. Rating C. We start from a little park in the Ramsfield subdivision near the Oracle Road crossing of the Canada del Oro. We will hike up an abandoned 4 wheel drive road to some great viewpoints of Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke and the Biosphere. We then take a short side trail into the basin where we will have lunch, perhaps explore other trails for a short distances and then back to the parking lot. Hike 3 miles; limit 10 hikers; starting elevation 2700 feet, elevation change 500 feet; leave 10:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Jan and Dean Wilson, 818-0299

January 5th -- Friday. American Flag Trail. Rating C. This hike begins on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. We take the American Flag Trail to Oracle Ridge where we have interesting views to the west. We then hike south to a saddle below Apache Peak where we will have lunch and then return. Hike 8 miles; altitude change 1200 feet; altitude at start 4400 feet; pace slow; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Bernice Christian, 818-1620

January 6th -- Saturday. Blackett's Ridge. Rating B. A relatively short hike between Sabino and Bear Canyons with spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons. We follow the dirt road from Sabino Canyon Visitors Center parking lot. The first part of the trail is somewhat steep, then it changes to a gradual, persistent climb. The pace will be slow but steady. Hike 6 miles; climb 1700 feet; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Larry Gray, 818-0337

January 9th -- Tuesday. Wasson Peak at sunset and moonrise. Rating B. We do this hike on the evening of a full moon. Arriving at the top in time for sunset and dinner then watching the lights come on in Tucson. We hike down by the light of the moon and flashlights (bring one). We start at the trailhead near the Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum, go up the King Canyon Trail and continue to the saddle where we meet the Sweetwater Trail. Then for the next mile or so it's a steep climb to the junction of the Hugh Norris Trail. From there it's a short uphill climb to the summit. Hike 8 miles; climb 1900 feet; altitude at start 2800 feet; leave 2:00 PM; driver donation \$3.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953

**** January 11th -- Thursday.** Southern Bell Mine. Rating C. From the trailhead .7 miles up FR4470 from Mt. Lemmon Road out of Oracle we hike 2 miles up an old road to the mine area. Once there we will inspect the area and hike to the old mine shaft. Requires high clearance vehicles to get to the trailhead. Limit 15; hike 5 miles; starting elevation 4500 feet; elevation change 1000 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Dave Caldwell, 825-3071

**** January 11th -- Thursday.** Sycamore Spring. Rating C. East of Sahuarita. A hike along mining roads through an area where early Tucsonans found iron meteorites to use as anvils and to a spring surrounded by large Arizona Sycamores. Bring water and lunch. Hike 6 miles; elevation at start approximately 3000 feet; elevation gain 1450 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953

January 12th -- Friday. Honey Bee Canyon (OH). Rating D. We will walk Honey Bee Canyon at Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes, and pioneer adobe ruins. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time this is a real eye opener. Limit 12; hike 2 miles; 100 foot elevation change; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Barb Leightenheimer, 818-1953

January 13th -- Saturday. Wasson Peak/King Canyon. Rating B. We start at the trailhead near the Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum and go up the King Canyon Trail. We pass the Mam-A-Gah Picnic area and continue to the saddle where we meet the Sweetwater Trail. Then for the next mile or so it's a steep climb to the junction of the Hugh Norris Trail. From there is a short uphill climb to the summit. From the top you can see all of Tucson to the east, south through Green Valley, north to Picacho Peak and west to Sells. Hike 8 miles; climb 1900 feet; altitude at start 2800 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Larry Gray, 818-0337

January 14th -- Sunday. Pima Canyon. Rating C. The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak with loose rocks to negotiate in many areas. It then enters a beautiful rugged canyon. The trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. Can be quite cool. We will hike to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near Indian grinding

holes and then return to the trailhead. Hike 6 miles; climb 800 feet; altitude at start 2900 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Karen Gray, 818-0337

January 15th -- Monday. Bridal Wreath Falls. Rating C+. We'll drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the trailhead. Some steep hiking up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles then .03 miles to the falls. Mostly sunny, so bring sun protection. In the spring the falls should be flowing if the winter rains have cooperated. Hike 5.6 miles; climb 1200 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Ron Noton, 825-7374

January 16th -- Tuesday. Elephant Head. Rating B+. A hike to climb the craggy massive rock on the west side of the Santa Ritas. The rock is mentioned in Apache legend of the area. The hike starts out along a gentle mountain road but after about 2 miles there is some tough bushwhacking across Chino Canyon and then rock scrambling to get to the top. On the way back we must cross Chino Canyon again! Dress defensively and bring gloves. Hike 8 miles; total climb 2000 feet; elevation at start 4600 feet; moderate/slow pace; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$4.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953

January 17th -- Wednesday. Romero Pools, lower. Rating C+. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. Trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and the canyon area where several pools are located. We will have lunch there. \$5.00 park entrance fee or a pass (car with up to 4 people). Limit 14; hike 6 miles; climb 1200 feet; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Bernice Christian, 818-1680

January 18th -- Thursday. Peralta Trail. Rating C. Peralta Trail to Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains may be the area's most beautiful canyon. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver's Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge, thought-provoking boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. It's a steep, rocky trail most of the way. Slow pace. Bring a lunch and at least 2 quarts of water. Hike 5 miles; climb 1360 feet; altitude at the start 2500 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00; Gary Gouvea, 825-3868

January 19th -- Friday. Wasson Peak/Hugh Norris Trail. Rating B. We will take the Hugh Norris trail in both directions. This is the longest trail to Wasson peak (incredible views at the top) but the climb is gradual and the trail is primarily a ridge trail with spectacular views. Hike 10 miles; limit 14 hikers; climb 2100 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Bob Wynne, 825-4056

**** January 19th -- Friday.** Big Wash. Rating D. We will drive to the parking lot at Vista de la Montana United

Methodist Church. We will descend a hill into Big Wash. We'll hike north approximately 1½ miles in the wash (distance can vary depending on the group), then return the same way. Big Wash is a "braided river", meaning it has many channels to it, so you can walk up one channel and return via another. Deer, jackrabbit, cows may be seen. Bring water, snack (optional), sunscreen and hiking stick (optional). Hike 3 miles; limit 15 hikers; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Jan and Dean Wilson, 818-0299

January 20th -- Saturday. Seven Falls. Rating C+. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center hike from the parking lot to lower Bear Canyon. Then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls and return. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 8 miles; climb 900 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Larry Gray, 818-0337

January 22nd -- Monday. Linda Vista Loop (OH). Linda Vista Loop. Rating D+. Trailhead is 15 minutes from the Mountain View parking lot. We climb 300 ft. in the first 1.5 miles. Trail skirts the base of Pusch Ridge and has great views out onto Oracle Road and environs. Hiking stick recommended as trail is rocky in places. Pace slow/moderate. Limit 12; hike 3 miles; elevation change 300 feet; starting elevation 2680 feet; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Bev Caldwell, 825-3071

January 22nd -- Monday. Cochise Stronghold to end of trail. Rating B. Hike through spine of granite where the legendary Apache war chief Cochise held off his many enemies. Beautiful rock formations. Speculate on location of Cochise's grave. Hike 10 to 11 miles; climb 1500 feet; starting elevation 4900 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$10.00; Mary Croft, 825-3804

January 23rd -- Tuesday Picacho Peak. Rating B. From Barret Loop trailhead hike up to a saddle then down to Sunset Vista Trail then to the top of Picacho Peak using the permanently installed guide cables to get to the top. Bring cotton or leather gloves for holding on to cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short, strenuous, 'acrophobic' hike & a favorite among hikers. \$5.00 park entrance fee or a pass (car with up to 4 people); hike 4 miles; climb 2100 feet; elevation at start 1500 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$5.00 Grace Clark, 825-8019

January 24th -- Wednesday. Atascosa Lookout. Rating B. We hike to the fire lookout station in the Tumacacori Mountains, near Rio Rico, with the famous outhouse (yes, outhouse) ready for use. This is considered a most scenic trail with views over 75 miles in all directions. Kodak moments will be taken on the return if you haven't used up all your film on the summit. Limit 14 hikers. Hike 5 miles; climb 1600 feet; altitude at trailhead 4700 feet; pace slow; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Bob Wynne, 825-4056

January 25th – Thursday. Boulder Canyon Trail. Rating C. This trail takes one up high enough to get a tremendous view of the mysterious Superstition Mountains. Your camera is a must on this hike. We also get a great view of Canyon Lake. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1500 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Gary Gouvea, 825-3868

January 27th – Saturday. Brown Mountain. Rating C. Brown Mountain Trail is a trek along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts in a picnic area near the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Along this "ridge ramble" are excellent views of the mountains, valleys and desert vegetation. This is a good hike for people new to hiking. Hike 5 miles; climb 400 feet; pace slow, altitude at trailhead 2700 feet; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Jim Strickler, 825-8735

January 27th – Saturday. Seven Falls. Rating C+. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center hike from the parking lot to lower Bear Canyon. Then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls and return. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 8 miles; climb 900 feet; starting altitude 2800 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Karen Gray, 818-0337

January 29th – Monday. Mt. Kimball/Finger Rock Canyon. Rating A. Starting at the north end of Alvernon Way, the trail follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail steadily climbs out of the canyon to a saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball". A left turn onto the Pima Canyon Trail and a half mile further and hikers arrive at the top of Mt. Kimball. The return hike is down the same trails. Hike 12 miles; climb 4150 feet; altitude at start 3100 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Norm Kyle, 818-0563

January 30th – Tuesday. Tortolita Mountains/Dove Mountain. Rating B+. We will leave from the cattle guard / windmill on the Rail-X Road and ascend to the top of 4,620-foot Dove Mountain. From there we will make our way along an up-and-down ridge line north with views of Ruelas, Cochise, and Wild Burro Canyons eventually reaching a path and jeep road which returns to the parking spot. Views are outstanding and feral horses might be sighted. This is a rough, steep and scratchy bushwhack making long pants and sleeves, gloves and hiking sticks desirable. Hike 6 miles; climb 1900 feet; starting elevation 3600 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953

January 31st – Wednesday. Romero Pass. Rating B+ This trek in Romero Canyon to the pass follows an up-and-down trail past Romero Pools and Romero Springs to Romero Pass. Steep uphill section the last 2 miles. 7.5 miles climbing and 7.5 miles descending. Hike 15 miles; climb 3300 feet; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Walt Faleschini, 818-6644

February 1st – Thursday. Pontotoc Ridge. Rating B-. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," this trail goes up the north side of Pontotoc Ridge to just below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area on this hike. Hike starts at north end of Alvernon Way. Limited to 12 hikers. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1450 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Mary Croft, 825-3804

February 1st – Thursday. American Flag Trail. Rating C. This hike begins on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. We take the American Flag Trail to Oracle Ridge where we have interesting views to the west. We then hike south to a saddle below Apache Peak where we will have lunch and then return. Hike 8 miles; limit 12 hikers; altitude change 1200 feet; altitude at start 4400 feet; pace slow; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; John Rendall, 825-9395

February 2nd – Friday. Pontotoc Canyon to the Amphitheater. Rating C. Hike in 2.5 miles from the trailhead at the end of Alvernon Way. Good views of the city and Finger Rock. Hike 5 miles; limit 12 hikers; climb 1200 feet; altitude at trailhead 3100 feet; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Jan and Dean Wilson, 818-0299

February 3rd – Saturday. Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating C+. This is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We park at the Saguaro National Park East Trail. There is a \$5 park entry fee which passengers & driver will share. The hike is somewhat steep in parts but very manageable for C and more-experienced hikers. We lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some photo stops along the way. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1300 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Jim Strickler, 825-8735

February 5th – Monday. Wasson Peak/Sweetwater Trail. Rating B. We start from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike up through some of the prettiest Saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue on up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Little shade. Hike 9.2 miles; climb 1800 feet; altitude at trailhead 2,900 feet; leave 7:30; driver donation \$3.00; Ron Noton, 825-7374

February 5th – Monday. Birding Trail and Alamo Canyon. Rating C-. This hike, offered by Catalina State Park, is open to the general public. It is in Catalina State Park. Pace will be slow. Hike 6 miles; starting elevation 2700 feet; elevation change 400 feet; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Norm Kyle, 818-0563

February 6th – Tuesday. Happy Valley/Rincon Peak Trail. Rating B. We take Mescal Road to our trailhead. This scenic route is a dirt road that follows along Ash and Paige Creeks for about 10 miles. Expect about 5 miles of steep hiking to Happy Valley Saddle where we will have lunch. Hike 13 miles; elevation change 3000 feet; starting elevation 3500 feet; leave 6:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953

February 8th – Thursday. Pontotoc Ridge. Rating B-. Sometimes called the Old Spanish Mine Trail, this trail goes up the north side of Pontotoc Ridge to just below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area on this hike. Hike starts at north end of Alvernon Way. Limited to 12 hikers. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1450 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; John Rendall, 825-9395

February 10th – Saturday. Phone Line Trail with tram ride. Rating C. This requires purchase of a tram ticket at \$6. Start at the Visitors Center, ride tram to Stop Number 9, hike up to the Phone Line trail and then back to the Center. The trail is above and generally parallel to the tram road and offers outstanding views of the canyon - an easy downhill pace with photo opportunities. Hike limited to 18 hikers. Hike 5 miles; climb 900 feet; pace slow; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Dave Caldwell, 825-3071

February 11th – Sunday. Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C+. We park opposite Peppersauce Campground on the old Mt. Lemmon Road (backside of Mt. Lemmon). We hike up the Mt. Lemmon Road to Nugget Canyon turnoff, loop up the canyon, and back down through Peppersauce Canyon, passing Peppersauce Cave and some old mining relics. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills we go over. We will travel over old jeep roads and rough paths. Hike 7 miles; climb 1200 feet; altitude 4600 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00; Karen Gray, 818-0337

February 12th – Monday. Romero Pass. Rating B+ This trek in Romero Canyon to the pass follows an up-and-down trail past Romero Pools and Romero Springs to Romero Pass. Steep uphill section the last 2 miles. 7.5 miles climbing and 7.5 miles descending. Hike 15 miles; climb 3300 feet; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Norm Kyle, 818-0563

February 13th – Tuesday. Saguaro Park East & Tanque Guest Ranch for lunch. Rating D. At the eastern most end of Speedway, from Douglas Spring Trailhead, loop trail follows along the foot of the Rincon Mountains & back. Hike 4 miles; 200 foot elevation change; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave 8:00 AM; limit 20 people; \$12.00 for gourmet luncheon buffet at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch after hike - payable to Bev by 2/7/01; driver donation \$4.00; Bev Caldwell, 825-3071

February 15th – Thursday. Romero Pools (Upper). Rating B. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and follows the Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. Initially the trail crosses open desert then there is a steep climb until it reaches the canyon area where several pools are located. The upper pools are about 1/2 mile beyond the lower pools. Hike 7 miles; limit 12 hikers; climb 1600 feet; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; John Rendall, 825-9395

**** February 16th – Friday.** Alamo Canyon (Upper), Catalina State Park. Rating C. We will hike up the Birding Trail to a cutoff that intercepts Alamo Canyon. From there, we will hike up to the canyon ridge with views of Alamo rock formations and of the valley below. Hike 6 miles; starting elevation 2700 feet; change in elevation 1,000 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Walt Faleschini, 818-6644

February 17th – Saturday. Tortolitas Mountains/Wild Burro Canyon. Rating C. We will take the Rail-X Marble Mine road off Oracle Highway for 5 miles to the county line, then hike on a jeep road to the windmill and into Wild Burro Canyon. The jeep road will take us to a meadow and corral in the mountains. Weather and hikers' agreeing, we may go further along a wash to a canyon lookout. We may get lucky and see some wild horses. Hike 7 miles; climb 800 feet; pace slow to moderate; altitude at start about 3000 feet; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Jim Strickler, 825-8735

February 19th – Monday. Honey Bee Canyon (OH). Rating D. We will walk Honey Bee Canyon at Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes, and pioneer adobe ruins. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time this is a real eye opener. Limit 12; hike 2 miles; 100 foot elevation change; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Barb Leightenheimer, 818-1953

February 19th – Monday. Window Rock. Rating A. The most direct route is up Ventana Canyon. This is a difficult and steep hike. We start at the parking lot past the employees' parking lot and take the trail until it intersects with the Esperero Trail then follow that trail to the Window. Hike 13 miles; climb 4200 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; trail is steep; leave 7 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Norm Kyle, 818-0563

February 20th – Tuesday. Wasson Peak/Sweetwater Trail. Rating B. We start from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike up through some of the prettiest Saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue on up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Little shade. Hike 9.2 miles; climb 1800 feet; altitude at trailhead 2,900 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953

February 21st – Wednesday. Picacho Peak. Rating B. From Barret Loop trailhead hike up to a saddle then down to Sunset Vista Trail then to the top of Picacho Peak using the permanently installed guide cables to get to the top. Bring cotton or leather gloves for holding on to cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short, strenuous, 'acrophobic' hike & a favorite among hikers. \$5.00 park entrance fee or a pass (car with up to 4 people); hike 4 miles; limit 10 hikers; climb 2100 feet; elevation at start 1500 feet; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$5.00; Walt Faleschini, 818-6644

**** February 22nd – Thursday.** Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating D. We follow the Sutherland Trail to the wilderness sign. The hike then veers to the right and follows a small canyon where there is a beautiful water fall (depending on recent rains). Much of the this part of the trail is sandy with 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. Hike 4 miles; limit 10 hikers; elevation at start 2700 feet; elevation change 500 feet; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Mary Croft, 825-3804

February 22nd – Thursday. Atascosa Lookout. Rating B. We hike to the fire lookout station in the Tumacacori mountains, near Rio Rico, with the famous outhouse (yes, outhouse) ready for use. This is considered a most scenic trail with views over 75 miles in all directions. Kodak moments will be taken on the return if you haven't used up all your film on the summit. Limit 12 hikers. Hike 5 miles; climb 1600 feet; altitude at trailhead 4700 feet; pace slow; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00; John Rendall, 825-9395

February 23rd – Friday. Peralta Trail. Rating C. Peralta Trail to Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains may be the area's most beautiful canyon. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver's Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge, thought-provoking boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. It's a steep, rocky trail most of the way. Slow pace. Bring a lunch and at least 2 quarts of water. Hike 5 miles; limit 14 hikers; climb 1360 feet; altitude at the start 2500 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$8.00; Bob Wynne, 825-4056

February 24th – Saturday. Baby Jesus Trail - Golder Ranch entry. Rating C. We will drive out Golder Ranch Road to the end of the pavement. We will hike on the Fifty Year Trail to the Baby Jesus Trail. Then hike the Baby Jesus Trail seeing beautiful saguaros and rock formations including a window. We will return by the same route. Hike 6.5 miles; climb 900 feet; starting altitude 2700 feet; leave at 9:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Jim Strickler, 825-8735

February 25th – Sunday. Josephine Saddle. Rating B. We start in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and go up the Super Trail to Josephine Saddle. Rest there and return on the Old Baldy Trail. This hike can be done in reverse going up the Old Baldy Trail and returning on the Super Trail. Hike 6 miles; climb 1700 feet; starting altitude 5400 feet; leave, 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Karen Gray, 818-0337

February 26th – Monday. Elephant Head. Rating B+. A hike to climb the craggy massive rock on the west side of the Santa Ritas. The rock is mentioned in Apache legend of the area. The hike starts out along a gentle mountain road but after about 2 miles there is some tough bushwhacking across Chino Canyon and then rock scrambling to get to the top. On the way back we must cross Chino Canyon again! Dress defensively and bring gloves. Hike 8 miles; total climb 2000 feet; elevation at start 4600 feet; moderate/slow pace; leave 7:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00; Ron Noton, 825-7374

February 26th – Monday. Pontatoc Canyon to the Amphitheater. Rating C. Hike in 2.5 miles from the trailhead at the end of Alvernon Way. Good views of the city and Finger Rock. Hike 5 miles; climb 1200 feet; altitude at trailhead 3100 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Norm Kyle, 818-0563

February 27th – Tuesday. Cochise Stronghold to the saddle. Rating C. This is a beautiful hike through the Dragoon Mountains where Cochise hid during the Indian wars. He is buried in this area in a hidden location. There is an extension of this hike that expands it to 10 miles for the more advanced hiker. Distance 6 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation about 4500 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$8.00; Gary Gouvea, 825-3868

**** February 28th – Wednesday.** Pima Air & Space Museum and AMARC. Rating D. Walk less than ½ mile. We will tour the AMARC facility by bus. This is the storage and reconditioning center next to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base covering hundreds of acres with thousands of current and out-of-service military aircraft. It's a virtual "used fighter plane lot" for 3rd world countries. Following this we take a private docent-led tour of the covered museum areas and then finally a tram ride and tour through the outdoor area of the museum grounds. This is a fascinating tour of some of our best military aircraft and the storage areas of current out-of-service aircraft. Minimum of 20 needed for the tour rate, minimum of 30 for the docent-led museum tour and maximum of 40 for the whole thing. Cost \$14.50 admission to be paid by the day of the trip. We need reservations as soon as possible to give the Pima Air Museum folks notice that we have qualified for the docent-led tour (we must let them know 30 days in advance). Leave at 8:10 AM; snack bar facilities available at the museum; drivers needed; driver donation \$3.00; contact Dave Caldwell at 825-3071 for more information and reservations.