



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

January/February 2003

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HIKES FOR EVERYONE

January and February are busy months. We have set a new record with a total of 110 Hikes and Fitness Walks. There are 9 A rated hikes, 16 B rated hikes, 33 C rated hikes and 52 D rated hikes (including 41 fitness walks).

As you read the schedule, you will notice there are a number of hikes not normally offered as well as nine new hikes and events including: a Tucson Orienteering Club (a real fun field event); a Full Moon Hike (with a campfire and samores); Stargazing Lecture and Dinner at Biosphere 2; a slot Canyon Hike (this is not Yosemite's El Capitan); a New Cliff Dwelling Hike (60-75 rooms plus a Uranium mine); Picacho Peak (especially for C hikers); Exploring New Territory (for the adventurous). Check the schedule for these special events; they will fill up quickly. And mark your calendar for March 18th—a Full Moon Hike on Wasson Peak.

HIKING CLUB PICNIC

On November 9th the semi-annual hiking club picnic was held at Catalina Park. A big thank you to the organizers for another successful picnic. There were two hikes before the catered lunch, door prizes, announcements and statistics of the number of hikes, etc. The Chief Hiking Guide was soliciting the membership for ideas about ways to encourage more participation. Please call John Rendall, 825-9395, with any ideas.

SOCIAL HOUR

The next hiking club Social Hour will be at the SaddleBrooke Country Club on Wednesday, January 15, 2003 at 4:00 p.m.

HIKING CLUB SHIRTS AND HATS FOR SALE

Looking for hiking togs for gifts or for yourself? Men's and women's collared cotton pique golf shirts with an embroidered SaddleBrooke Hiking Club logo, men's and women's long and short sleeved tee shirts with a silk screened SaddleBrooke Hiking Club logo, and baseball hats with an embroidered logo are available for purchase. Contact Diane Chase at 818-1115.

EARTHQUAKE IN THE CATALINAS

(This is an excerpt from Paradise Found, by Kathy Alexander. This book is reportedly available through the Catalina Public Library.)

"A few years after the Lemmons' visit, in May 1887, a strong earthquake hit the Catalinas, surprising the few residents who were there. The quake struck during the dry season and rocks tumbling on dry grass caused friction fires throughout the Catalinas. The local paper reported on this unusual event:

When the quake struck...great slices of the mountain gave away, and went tumbling down the canyons, huge clouds of smoke or dust ascended into the sky...At three separate points, separate from three to five miles, clouds of dust were seen to rise above the mountain crest which would indicate that great ruptures had taken place. Over the summit of Mount Lemmon, the highest peak of the Catalinas, for quite awhile after the shock hovered a high dark canopy of smoke or dust until it gradually faded away...Great boulders...wrested from their seats from the shock, came thundering down into the valley, bounding over and cutting their way through the air.

Another report of this quake came from a Yaqui Indian who was in the mountains when it occurred. On a previous trip, this Indian had found a 'rich placer in a gulch in the Santa Catalina

Mountains, where nuggets of gold as large as peas could be picked up.' On the day of the quake, he had returned to the site with burros and supplies, prepared to work his claim. Just as he started to work, the 'devils' made the 'earth dance and great peaks of the mountains came tumbling down, killed his burro and frightened him nearly to death.' After the quake, the Yaqui refused to go back and would not tell anyone where the site was.

FYI

In a recent Wall Street Journal Money's Worth section, three active retirement communities were featured and SaddleBrooke was one. What they deemed notable about our community was the Hiking Club and the many hikes it organizes year round. Looks like we helped put SaddleBrooke on the map.

FITNESS WALKS---FIVE DAYS A WEEK

If you want a good way to get in shape and stay healthy just join up with one of the Fitness Groups. These are walks around SaddleBrooke at a pace that will accommodate most everyone for about one hour. On occasion they may be extended for a longer distance with concurrence of the group. The Mon/Wed/Fri group is led by Bill Leightenheimer and the Tues/Thurs group (formally called Exploring SaddleBrooke) is led by Judi Barenkopf. See the write up for additional information at the beginning of the Hiking Schedule.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Change of Address: if you change your address – especially your email address – please notify our Secretary, Bob Perez, so you can continue to receive the bi-monthly Newsletter and any other communications that the Hiking Club sends out. Contact Bob Perez, 65187 E. Desert Sands Court, SaddleBrooke, AZ 85739, phone: 818-2111, e-mail: azsun65@mindspring.com

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HIKING GUIDES NEEDED

Our Hiking Club is always looking for new Hiking Guides. If you have gained experience hiking with us or elsewhere and have some favorite hikes you would feel comfortable leading, then please contact John Rendall at 825-9395 or by e-mail at tucsonrendall@aol.com.

HIKING GUIDE MEETING /BOARD MEETING

The next hiking guide meeting will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. at the SaddleBrooke Country Club. The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 7, 2003 at 3:00 P.M. at SaddleBrooke Country Club and any club member is welcome to attend.

GENERAL HIKING INFORMATION

Call the guide to make a reservation. Assume that the hike will proceed as scheduled unless the guide calls you. Persons who have made a reservation and then find they cannot go on the hike, must call the guide to cancel their reservation at the earliest time. The time listed for the hike is the departure time. It is important to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time. Always bring ample water (a minimum of 2 quarts is recommended), sunscreen, and appropriate footwear and headgear. Bring a snack or lunch as you see fit to sustain you. Always bring some sort of ID and medications you generally take.

All hikes leave from the left front parking lot in front of the MountainView Clubhouse (just east of the tennis courts) unless otherwise noted. Voluntary driver donations, shown at the end of the hike descriptions, include \$1.00 for entry/parking fees where required. There may be additional fees for entry to areas such as National Parks, Monuments, Wilderness Areas, Special Exhibits, some State Parks and for overnight stays, etc. These fees will be outlined by the Hiking Guide. Hiking Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated as the driver may not be able to provide change. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView. Also, please let the guide know ahead of time 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.

HIKE RATINGS AND PACE

A Hikes > 14 miles or > 3000 foot climb

B Hikes 8 to 14 miles or 1500 to 3000 foot climb

C Hikes 4 to 8 miles or 500 to 1500 foot climb

D Hikes < 4 miles and < 500 foot 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 to be covered. Ask your guide for clarification when you sign up.

NOTE: Sometimes a hike is harder or easier than its rating indicates. In an attempt to 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. ALL hikes, except the Fitness Hikes and Exploring SaddleBrooke hikes, have some rocks, unsteady ground, etc. Be sure you can handle the hike and the pace of the hike before signing up.

SCHEDULED HIKES

NOTE: Hikes marked by a double asterisk ** are new additions to our club database or a new 'one time' hike. Hikes marked by a double plus ++ are 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. Another way to assess ones fitness is to take one or more of the regularly scheduled Fitness Walks.

Fitness Walk – Tues. & Thurs. Rating 'D' These walks are oriented to those who want to get out early and keep your engine running smoothly. You walk at your own pace, meet some wonderful and interesting folks while perusing SaddleBrooke. The walks are usually for one hour except for an occasional 3-4 hour hike when we venture outside the SB boundaries. These longer hikes are decided by the group and planned one week in advance. We meet at MountainView Club House parking lot on Tuesday-7:30 AM and at SaddleBrooke Tennis Ctr. parking lot on Thursday-7:30 AM - For additional info and sign-up call Judi Barenkopf at 825-7077 or e-mail at mbarenkopf@aol.com.

Fitness Walk – Mon., Wed. & Fri. Rating D. Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. We'll begin and end with proper stretching techniques, learn power-walking techniques, and have some fun. Wear comfortable walking/athletic shoes. Remember the sunblock, a hat, & bring a quart of water. The sessions will last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. Walks conducted every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All fitness walks will begin at 7:30 AM. Monday's walk will meet in the parking lot by the fitness center at SaddleBrooke CC. Wednesday and Friday's walks will meet in the parking lot in front of Mountainview CC; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

Jan. 2 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 3 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 3 - Fri. 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$7.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Jan. 5 - Sun. Deer Camp from the 50-Year Trail. Rating C. Hike through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Mt. Samaniego. Limit 12 hikers; hike 8 miles; 600 foot elevation change; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 5 - Sun. 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. Hike 5 miles; climb 400 feet; pace slow, altitude at trailhead 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Jan. 6 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 7 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 7 - Tues. Pima Canyon to the Saddle. Rating A. 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. It then enters a beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. We will hike past a small dam to a springs and saddle to give a superb view of the entire Montrose and Romero canyon drainage, the most inaccessible region of the entire Catalina Mountains. Hike 11.2 miles; climb 3450 feet; altitude at start 2900 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Mike/Linda Matre 818-0206.

Jan. 8 - Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 8 - Wed. 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, and 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 at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 9 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 9 - Thurs. Honey Bee Canyon - 2. Rating D. We will hike South (opposite of the other Honey Bee Canyon hike). We will explore the canyon, identify some of the vegetation, look for petroglyphs, find a large hole in a rock, look for animals and animal tracks. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, hat, camera (optional). Hike 3-4 miles; 100 foot elevation gain; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

****Jan. 9 - Thurs.** Soldier Trail to Molina Basin via Prison Camp. Rating B-. The start is at the 1.3 mile pullout on Catalina Highway. The first 1/2 mile is very steep and the trail will then proceed through Soldier Basin with views of a large gorge,

rugged cliffs and the Tucson area. This trail was used as a Calvary passage in the 1800's. After a stop at Prison Camp, the hike will proceed via the Arizona Trail to Molina Basin Campground. Limit 10 hikers & must have three 5 passenger vehicles for shuttle. Hike 6 miles, elevation change 1,400 feet, starting elevation 3,200 feet, leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Walt Faleschini, 818-6644.

Jan. 10 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 10 - Fri. Oracle State Park Trail Maintenance. Rating C. General trail maintenance on fairly well established hiking trails. Light to moderate physical activity including brushing, sweeping of the trails, widening, hoeing, raking, trimming, pruning, and brush/debris removal. It also involves erosion control with digging, trenching, and water barrier construction. Tools utilized include: hoes, rakes, shovels, picks, shears, and pruners. Some lifting and bending. Gloves are required and long pants are recommended. Bring plenty of water. Leave at 8:00 AM; Jon Chase, 818-1115.

Jan. 10 - Fri. 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 at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Don Colen, 825-0083.

****Jan. 11 - Sat.** Fifty Year Trail from Golder Ranch Gate. Rating D. We will start in the area of the Fifty Year Trail past the Golder Ranch Road Gate. We will follow a jeep road to Sutherland Wash then loop back on a ridge that has great views. Beautiful saguaros and rock formations. Hike 4 miles; altitude at start 3,200 feet; elevation change 200 feet; leave at 8:00; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 12 - Sun. Deer Camp from the 50-Year Trail. Rating C. Hike through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Mt. Samaniego. Limit 12 hikers; hike 8 miles; 600 foot elevation change; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Jan. 13 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 13 - Mon. 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 at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Jan. 14 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 14 - Tues. Sweetwater Trail (short version). Rating D. We start from the trail head at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson Mountains and hike approximately

half of the Sweetwater Trail through native plants and cacti and beautiful saguaro forests. (This trail meets the Hugh Norris Trail which goes to Wasson Peak.) Elevation change is gradual and the pace will be slow/moderate. Bring at least 2 quarts of water, a snack, a hat and sunscreen. Hiking boots and stick recommended. Hike 3-4 miles; starting elevation 2800 feet; elevation change 350 feet; limit 12; leave 8:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Bev Caldwell, 825-3071.

Jan. 15 - Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 16 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 16 - Thurs. Peralta Trail. Rating C+. Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle viewing Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains. This 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. Hike 5 miles; climb 1360 feet; altitude at the start 2500 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Bob Wynne 825-4056.

Jan. 17 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 17 - Fri. 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 distance and then back to the parking lot. Hike 3 miles; starting elevation 2700 feet, elevation change 500 feet; leave at 10:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Jan. 18 - Sat. Hidden Canyon. Rating C. This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. This trail connects to 4432 which connects to the Charouleau Gap Road. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; altitude at start 3120 feet. Binoculars, camera, and a hiking stick are recommended. Bring food and water. Leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Don Colen, 825-0083.

****Jan. 19 - Sun.** Tucson's Orienteering Club Meet. Rating D or above (depending upon course chosen). We will travel to and participate in the orienteering meet sponsored by the Tucson Orienteering Club. It is a great way to see new areas and practice your map reading skills. They hold a Clinic at 8:30 with the meet starting at 9:00. There is a fee of approximately \$10 per individual or \$15 for team of two people. We recommend teams of two. Bring a whistle and a compass (You can rent them for \$1). Wear long trousers. Leave at 7:30 AM. Driver donation and time of departure will vary with each meet. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 20 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

****Jan. 20 - Mon.** Picacho Peak. Rating B. THIS IS A SPECIAL HIKE FOR "C" HIKERS WANTING TO CONQUER THE PEAK. Pace will be modified to accommodate the group.

From Barret Loop trailhead hike up to a saddle, down to Sunset Vista Trail, then to the top of Picacho Peak using the permanently installed guide cables to reach the summit. BRING COTTON OR LEATHER GLOVES for holding onto the cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short strenuous hike and a favorite among hikers. \$6.00 park entrance fee or pass (car with up to 4 people); hike 4.2 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; elevation at start 1500 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 21 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 21 - Tues. Squaw Peak and Camelback. Rating B. These two well-traveled hikes are both in the central Phoenix mountains with beautiful views to all areas of the Valley. We will do the easier Squaw Peak trail first which is 1.2 miles (2.4 roundtrip) with a climb of 1190 feet on a good improved trail with many switchbacks. We will then drive a very short distance to the Camelback trailhead. This trail is only 1.16 miles (2.32 roundtrip) but climbs 1300 feet. It is a very steep hike with many large rocks to scramble over as well as slippery dirt and gravel. Gloves are recommended. The two hikes back-to-back the same day are guaranteed to give a challenging aerobic workout. Hike 4.72 miles; elevation change 2490 feet (2 hikes total); elevation at start 2000 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Walt Faleschini, 818-6644.

Jan. 21 - Tues. Murray Springs Archaeological Site/Clanton Family Ranch -Rating D+ We leave a car at the Clanton Family Ranch trailhead and drive to the Murray Springs site, an 11,000 year old hunters camp archaeological site dating back to the late ice age. Bones of mammoths, mastodons, sloths and saber tooth cats were found along with hunter tools and other artifacts. A loop trail offers 10 exhibits on life in the late ice age. We then hike to the Clanton Ranch ruins; not much remains today, but still of interest. The Clanton's were the alleged 'black hats' in the OK Corral gun fight with Wyatt Earp, his brothers and Doc Holiday. Bring lunch and at least one quart of water. This is fairly level hiking for 3.5 miles. Leave at 7:00AM. Driver donation \$8.00. Gary Gouvea--825 3868

Jan. 22 - Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 22 - Wed. Pontatoc Ridge. Rating B-. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," this trail goes up the north side of Pontatoc 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 at 9:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Jan. 23 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 23 - Thurs. Oracle State Park Trail Maintenance. Rating C. General trail maintenance on fairly well established hiking trails. Light to moderate physical activity including brushing, sweeping of the trails, widening, hoeing, raking, trimming, pruning, and brush/debris removal. It also involves erosion control with digging, trenching, and water barrier construction. Tools utilized include: hoes, rakes, shovels, picks, shears, and pruners. Some lifting and bending. Gloves are required and long pants are recommended. Bring plenty of water. Leave at 8:00 AM; Jon Chase, 818-1115.

Jan. 24 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 24 - Fri. Peralta Trail. Rating C+. Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle viewing Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains. This 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. Hike 5 miles; climb 1360 feet; altitude at the start 2500 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Jan. 25 - Sat. 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 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 26 - Sun. Canyon Loop to Montrose Pool. Rating D. This will be a slow paced hike to Montrose Pools and return in Catalina State Park. We will fork onto the Birding Loop (some water crossing possible) at the end. Hike 4 miles; pace slow; climb 200 feet; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave at 1:00 PM; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 27 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 27 - Mon. Thimble Peak. Rating B. We start at Prison Camp Road (now Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site), 7 miles up the Catalina Highway and take the beautiful Sycamore Reservoir Trail down to the abandoned reservoir, connect to the Bear Canyon Trail on the way to Thimble Flat then follow a faint trail to the base of Thimble Peak. Bring gloves to do the fairly easy scramble to the top of the east summit. Enjoy outstanding views from this prominent landmark. We will return by the same route. Hike 11 miles; elevation change 1500 feet; starting elevation 4850 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$4.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 28 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 28 - Tues. Mt. Kimball/Finger Rock Canyon. Rating A. Starting at the north end of Alvernon Way, this rocky trail climbs steadily and follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail passes Linda Vista Saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball" and onto the Pima Canyon Trail. 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 at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Mike/Linda Matre 818-0206.

Jan. 28 - Tues. Josephine Saddle. Rating B. We start in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and go up Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Rest there and return on the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike, 6 miles; climb 1700 feet; starting altitude 5400 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver

donation \$6.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Jan. 29 - Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 29 - Wed. Tohono Chul Park and Tea Room, "birders walk" and breakfast. Rating D. Join a Tohono Chul docent for a guided bird observation walk in beautiful Tohono Chul Park. Pace slow. We can continue strolling through the park at our leisure and end with breakfast at the Tohono Chul Tea Room. Hike 1.5 miles; elevation change 50 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; bring binoculars, \$5.00 park admission, Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Jan. 29 - Wed. 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, and 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 at 9:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Jan. 30 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Jan. 30 - Thurs. 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 at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Bob Wynne, 825-4056.

Jan. 31 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

****Jan. 31 - Fri.** El Capitan Canyon (upper). Rating C. This beautiful canyon is advertised in the Arizona Milepost Travel Guide as being Southern Arizona's only slot canyon. Investigation reveals that it is not a true slot canyon, but is definitely very narrow with steep walls on both sides. We drive to a point along Highway 77 about 20 miles north of Winkelman and park at a pullout along the highway. The hike descends on an old bulldozed road about 200 feet to the stream bottom. From there we walk down the bottom of the canyon, over lots of rocks and several short waterfalls. We turn around after about 2 miles and return by the same route. Needless to say, we cannot do this hike if there is any significant amount of water in the canyon, or if thunderstorms threaten a flash flood. Hike/scramble 4 miles. Elevation change 500 feet. Leave at 9:00 AM. Driver donation \$6.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Feb. 1 - Sat. Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C-. 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 waterfall (depending on recent rains). Much of 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 at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 2 - Sun. Romero Pools. 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 then down the canyon area where several pools are located. An option is a ¾ mile round-trip hike to the upper pools. 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 at 9:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Larry Gray, 818-0337.

Feb. 3 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb 3 - Mon. Roger's Trough Cliff Dwellings. Rating B. The hike is deep in a wilderness area of the Superstition Mountains. The trailhead is reached via Florence to Highway #60 east and then NE on 19 miles of scenic, rough unimproved Forest Service roads that require 4WD vehicles with adequate clearance. The trail is slippery in places during rainy seasons with 58 significant stream crossings (roundtrip). This is a reverse hike since we go downhill into the canyon area that was home to some Salado Indians (Arizona Highways 3/2001). The cliff dwellings can be explored but some require difficult rock scrambling to enter. Care should be taken not to damage 700 years of history. An additional 1 mile round-trip hike to Angel Basin is an option. The hike out is all uphill via the same route. Bring a change of shoes for the return trip. Hike 9 miles; elevation gain approximately 1,100 feet; Limit 8 hikers; we need two 4WD vehicles. Leave at 7:30 AM. Driver donation \$10.00. Walt Faleschini, 818-6644.

Feb. 3 - Mon. Mule Ears via Charouleau Gap. Rating A. This is moderate to difficult 17.5 mile hike (round-trip) to a prominent point on the Samaniego Ridge with outstanding views in all directions. We lunch at a spot on the edge of cliffs just north of Mule Ears, viewing the "Reef of Rocks". The hike starts from SaddleBrooke along the 4-WD road, to the gap; then begins a rather steep uphill climb for 1.5 miles. Eventually, the trail levels off and continues along the ridge with moderate up/down hiking through the pine trees over to Mule Ears. We return via the same route. Starting elevation 3100 feet; Mule Ears 7100 feet. Leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 4 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb. 4 - Tues. Esperero Trail/Cardiac Gulch. Rating B. This is a hike to the saddle overlooking Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon parking lot over a few small foothills to "the Gulch". The hiking is initially steep.... then it gets much steeper! We'll have lunch at the saddle while viewing the falls below, assuming that the spring thaw supplies a rushing brook. Extra water is recommended. Hike 8 miles; climb 1700 feet; altitude at start 2750 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00 Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Feb. 5 - Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 5 - Wed. 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. It then enters a beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. 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 at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Feb. 6 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating

Feb. 6 - Thurs. 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 boots and stick recommended; trail is rocky in places. Pace slow/moderate. Limit 12; hike 3 miles; elevation change 300 feet; starting elevation 2680 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Bev Caldwell, 825-3071.

Feb. 7 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb. 7 - Fri. Hutch's Pool. Rating C+. We will take the Sabino Canyon tram to the trailhead. After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon the trail is mostly level. This lovely hike will take us to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees. Bring \$6.00 for the tram. Hike 8 miles; climb 900 feet; altitude at start 3300 feet; leave at 7:45 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

****Feb. 8 - Sat.** Biosphere 2 Dinner and Stargazing. Meet at Biosphere 2's Canada del Oro restaurant at 4:45 PM for dinner at 5:00 PM. Dinners range in price from \$10 to \$15. After dinner we move to the lecture program which starts at 7:30 PM. Tonight's program is Dr. Charles Wood on his new book, "The New Moon: A Personal View" He'll discuss observing the Lunar 100 - the most challenging, informative and interesting craters, volcanoes, scarps and oddball features of the moon. Following his presentation, Wood will point out some of the Lunar 100 objects using Biosphere 2's 24-inch telescope. The lecture and stargazing program is free when you purchase a dinner. It otherwise costs \$10. Bring warm clothing. If cloud cover is a problem, program will go on without telescope use. Carpooling is encouraged and can be arranged by your guide. Drivers donation - \$2. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Feb. 8 - Sat. 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 at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Larry Gray, 818-0337.

****Feb. 9 - Sun.** Fifty Year Trail from Golder Ranch Gate. Rating D. We will start in the area of the Fifty Year Trail past the Golder Ranch Road Gate. We will follow a jeep road to Sutherland Wash then loop back on a ridge that has great views. Beautiful saguaros and rock formations. Hike 4 miles; altitude at start 3,200 feet; elevation change 200 feet; leave at 1:00 PM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 10 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb. 10 - Mon. Garwood Dam. Rating C. This is a slow easy hike in the desert of the Saguaro National Park-East. The pace will be set by the group; no rush. We will hike in the cactus forest of the Park across mostly level terrain. There is some climbing as we near the dam. Our destination is a dam with a

history in the foothills of the Rincon Mtns. Hike 4.7 miles; altitude at start 2800 feet.; climb 250 feet.; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 11 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating

Feb. 11 - Tues. 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 at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Mike/Linda Matre 818-0206.

Feb. 11 - Tues. Cochise Stronghold to the Saddle. Rating C. This is a beautiful hike through the area (Dragoon Mountains) that Cochise hid in 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 at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$10.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Feb. 12 - Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Feb. 12 - Wed.** Rice Peak. Rating A. Hike up Peppersauce Canyon from the campground to the Oracle Ridge then follow part of the Arizona Trail to Rice Peak. Interesting "peppersauce conglomerate" in Peppersauce Canyon, great views along Oracle Ridge and interesting conglomerate rock on the peak. Superb views from the peak to the San Pedro River and the Galiuro Mountains beyond. Hike 10.0 miles; elevation change 3000 feet; starting elevation 4600 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$4.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 12 - Wed. Sweetwater Trail to the Saddle. Rating C+. 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. We end at the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail. The King Canyon trail goes down to the Desert Museum or up to Wasson Peak. We will have lunch at the saddle before heading back to the trailhead. Hike 6.8 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; elevation at start 2800 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00, Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Feb. 13 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating

****Feb. 13 - Thurs.** Sycamore Canyon Exploratory Hike. Rating B. This hike is not in our database and will be a new adventure for all through one of the top 10 spots for wildlife viewing in the entire Sonoran Desert; yes, even Jaguars. We will hike through the canyon, situated in the Pajarita Wilderness of Coronado National Forest. Plan on hiking across canyon creeks and climbing around typical canyon barriers. The canyon trailhead is located 14 miles west of I-19(Hwy 289 exit) off Ruby Rd.with the Atacosa and Baboquivari Mts. to the north and the Pajarito Mts. and Mexico to the south. Leave at 6:30AM. Driver donation \$8.00 . John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 14 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb. 14 - Fri. 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 climb 2100 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Feb. 14 - Fri. Chivo Falls. Rating C. This is a hike to one of the tallest desert falls in the Tucson area (Rincon Mountains). If we have some rain or spring snow melt the falls are very impressive. We'll lunch in a rock amphitheater below the falls. Hike 8 miles; climb 700 feet; altitude at start 4000 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Feb. 15 - Sat. Oracle State Park Trail Maintenance. Rating C. General trail maintenance on fairly well established hiking trails. Light to moderate physical activity including brushing, sweeping of the trails, widening, hoeing, raking, trimming, pruning, and brush/debris removal. It also involves erosion control with digging, trenching, and water barrier construction. Tools utilized include: hoes, rakes, shovels, picks, shears, and pruners. Some lifting and bending. Gloves are required and long pants are recommended. Bring plenty of water. Leave at 8:00 AM; Jon Chase, 818-1115.

Feb. 16 - Sun. Sweetwater Trail to the Saddle. Rating C+. 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. We end at the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail. The King Canyon trail goes down to the Desert Museum or up to Wasson Peak. We will have lunch at the saddle before heading back to the trailhead. Hike 6.8 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; elevation at start 2800 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Dave Caldwell, 825-3071.

Feb. 16 - Sun. FULL MOON HIKE. Canyon Loop to Montrose Pool. Rating D. This will be a slow paced hike to Montrose Pools and return in Catalina State Park. We will fork onto the Birding Loop (some water crossing possible) at the end. Hike 4 miles; pace slow; climb 200 feet; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 PM; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 17 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb. 17 - Mon. Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C-. This hike is a gradual hike through a mesquite bosque with 100+ year old saguaros, Arizona Poppies/Morning Glories in season, on the way to an area of many, many petroglyphs. Per the book Paradise Found by Kathy Alexander there are over 1400 petroglyphs in the area. Some rock scrambling is necessary to search for the petroglyphs. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 4.2 miles; starting elevation 3200 feet; 200 feet elevation change; moderate pace; limit 15 hikers; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 18 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating

Feb. 18 - Tues. Chiricahua Echo Canyon Loop. Rating C-. This hike covers a couple of trails in the Chiricahua National Monument. We will start out on the Hailstone Trail and connect

with the Echo Canyon Trail. The Hailstone Trail gets its name from tiny "hailstones" of volcanic origin. The Echo Canyon Trail winds up and through some outstanding pillars of rocks and rock grottos and back to the parking lot. At this point, those who still have some lung and leg left will have time to take the short hike to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain – a 2 mile round trip with a 500 foot elevation change to one of the highest viewpoints in the Chiricahua National Monument Wilderness area. Vegetation consists of Pinion Pine, Evergreen Oak, and Alligator Juniper with an assortment of semi arid plants. Hike 3.3 miles; starting elevation 6780 feet; climb 400 feet. Leave at 7:00 AM. Driver donation \$10.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Feb. 19 - Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Feb. 19 - Wed.** Pueblo Canyon Cliff Dwellings. Rating B+. Deep in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness (Tonto National Forest) this canyon hosts one of the most beautiful and largest cliff dwellings in Arizona with 60-75 rooms. The 6 mile hike (round trip) is strenuous with a 2000 foot altitude gain. The trail disappears at times, but is easy to pick up again and will take us by a rare Uranium mine. At the end of the canyon is a huge waterfall which we must pass under; if flowing. Most all the Anchan culture dwellings are unprotected, yet remain in excellent condition after 700+ years because of their strategic locations. The trip is approx. 125 miles one way; the last 24 miles on dirt road and 4WD required for the final four miles. Long pants and excellent foot gear necessary; black ice may be present in very cold weather. 2000 foot gain, climbing to 5300'. Leave at 6:30AM. Driver donation-\$10.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 20 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating

****Feb. 20 - Thurs.** Tortolita Mtns/Wild Burro Canyon Extension, Plus. Rating B. We take 4WD vehicles on the Rail-X Marble Mine road off Oracle Highway for 5 miles then a jeep road for another mile to the base of the mountains. We will hike into Wild Burro Canyon past the stone corral and windmill down a wash to the end of the trail where there is a major drop-off into a canyon. From there we will bushwhack up to a ridge on the right and then up to a peak for outstanding views down the canyon and beyond. Hike 8 miles, climb 1,000 feet, altitude at start about 3,000 feet, leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Walt Faleschini, 818-6644.

Feb. 21 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb. 21 - Fri. Miller Peak. Rating A. Miller Peak is the highest point in the Huachuca Mountains. There is a 100-mile view from the top. The hike starts at the Coronado National Memorial, located within Montezuma Canyon and we take the Crest Trail. Hike 12.5 miles; elevation change 3400 feet; starting elevation 5800 feet; leave at 6:00 AM. Drive 45 minutes beyond Sierra Vista to the trailhead; driver donation \$8.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 22 - Sat. DEVIL'S CHASM Rating A- This is a bushwhack trek for only the adventurous hiker to a nicely preserved 700+ year old cliff dwelling in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness/ Tonto Nat. Forest. The Anchan culture dwellings are in excellent condition and as you hike/climb your way up through very tough terrain you will get a feeling of searching for

a lost culture which ends at this uniquely constructed dwelling. The structure clings to the side of a cliff high above the creek at the bottom of the chasm and is nearly impossible to see until you are within a very short distance; looking almost straight up. Because of the difficult location we will enter from the far side, ducking through many doors and peering through peepholes. The hike up this treacherous canyon includes difficult steep climbing, narrow crawls, rocky waterfalls and an unusually high number of rattlesnakes--making it all worthwhile as you finally view this spectacular 'defensive dwelling' that only very few people will ever experience. The trek is approx. 4 miles round trip with a 2400' gain ---GPS will be used for exact location. Cameras will require wide angle and telephoto lenses. Bring small day pack, rugged pants, nourishment and 2 liters of water and expect to be getting a little grubby. Limited to 6 people. Leave at 6:00 AM; Driver donation \$8.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 22 - Sat. Canyon Loop to Montrose Pool. Rating D. This will be a slow paced hike to Montrose Pools and return in Catalina State Park. We will fork onto the Birding Loop (some water crossing possible) at the end. Hike 4 miles; pace slow; climb 200 feet; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 23 - Sun. Golden Gate Trail. Rating C. Ever wonder why there's a big parking lot just west of Gates Pass? Well, so did your guide who will lead a hike around the mountains used as the backdrop in many Hollywood horse operas. In Saguaro National Park - West, we will hike ½ mile along the David Yetman Trail and then take the Golden Gate Loop. This is an easy hike with moderate elevation gain. Some bushwhacking. Hike 7 miles; climb 400 feet; altitude at trailhead 3000 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Feb. 23 - Sun. Fifty Year Trail (North End). Rating C. We will start at the end of the paved part of Golder Ranch Road, go north on the 50-Year Trail and then loop back. Beautiful saguaros and rock formations. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 24 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb. 24 - Mon. Deer Camp from the 50-Year Trail. Rating C. Hike through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Mt. Samaniego. Limit 12 hikers; hike 8 miles; 600 foot elevation change; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 25 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating

Feb. 25 - Tues. Hutch's Pool Plus - Sabino Canyon. Rating A. We will hike from the Visitors Center to the pools and return the same way. The trail follows Sabino Creek eventually crossing the creek near the pool. We will then continue west of the pool for about 2 more miles and have lunch. Hike 17 miles; climb 1200 feet; elevation 3300 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Mike/Linda Matre 818-0206.

Feb. 26 - Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 26 - Wed. 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. It then enters a beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. 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 at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 26 - Wed. Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating C. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. We start at 4500 foot elevation from the lower area and ascend 3.2 miles up the canyon to the 5400 foot Roundup Picnic Area. Along the way, we enjoy the shade of Apache pines, Douglas Firs, Emory Oaks, Mexican Blue Oaks, Willows, Cottonwoods, and Sycamores. Our return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 7.5 miles; climb 900 feet; starting elevation 4500 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Feb. 27 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating

Feb. 27 - Thurs. Oracle State Park Trail Maintenance. Rating C. General trail maintenance on fairly well established hiking trails. Light to moderate physical activity including brushing, sweeping of the trails, widening, hoeing, raking, trimming, pruning, and brush/debris removal. It also involves erosion control with digging, trenching, and water barrier construction. Tools utilized include: hoes, rakes, shovels, picks, shears, and pruners. Some lifting and bending. Gloves are required and long pants are recommended. Bring plenty of water. Leave at 8:00 AM; Jon Chase, 818-1115.

Feb. 28 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Feb. 28 - Fri. Panther Peak. Rating B. The hike begins near Saguaro West National Park, with the first mile on old mining roads. Then, a steep, difficult climb begins and you may need to use your hands to climb the trail. The use of gloves, long pants, and a hiking stick is recommended. Enjoy outstanding views from the top, all the way to Picacho Peak. We will return by the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike limited to 10 hikers. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 1135 feet; starting elevation 2300 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00 Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Feb. 28 - Fri. Tanque Verde Peak. Rating A. This hike is in Saguaro NP East. We begin at the Javelina picnic area off the loop road. The trail takes us to Juniper Basin at 5.9 miles and Tanque Verde Peak at 7.8 miles. Erik Molvar's guidebook says, "From this lofty perch, fantastic views stretch in all directions." Hike 16 miles; Climb 4000 feet; elevation at start 3100 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.