



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

January/February 2004

2004 - 1

PER YOUR REQUEST

By Susan Robertshaw
Chief Hiking Guide

I have been asking our members to make sure to let me know about hikes that they would like offered. We have had some great suggestions and would welcome further input. You may e-mail me with your ideas or requests at jsrobertshaw@att.net.

We were able to include some of your suggestions in the January and February hikes. One of the requests was to

offer some more "B" hikes for "C" hikers. We are offering two new ones in this newsletter. You will see several new hikes offered. One will be to Canyon Lake Area and will include the boat ride. Another will be in the Alamo Canyon Area of Catalina State Park. Watch for the "***" which denotes a "New" hike. Our Full Moon hike with the campfire was requested and will be offered in February. For all you hungry hikers out there, we will be going to the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch for Lunch after a hike at Saguaro Park East. After some success last year with our Sunday afternoon hikes, we will be offering several in January and February. In addition, you will see we are

working on offering more backpacking hikes so get those muscles in tone.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers is coming up soon. Elections will be held at the Hiking Club Picnic on April 3rd. If there are any members who would like to serve on the nominating committee or who would like to be considered for an office, please call Mary Richling, 825-5238.

MEMBER REACHES 500 HIKES

Bill Leightenheimer is our first hiking club member to reach 500 hikes. Congratulations to Bill! He founded the club back in 1999. We all want to thank him for starting this great club.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT SADDLEBROOKE

By John Robertshaw

David Yetman from Channel 6's "The Desert Speaks" is scheduled to speak to the Hiking Club on January 4, 2004 at the MountainView Clubhouse in the ballroom at 7:00 p.m. The subject of his talk and slide presentation is "The Great Cacti".

Betty Leavengood, a local hiking book author, will be speaking to the Hiking Club on February 25, 2004 at the MountainView Clubhouse in the ballroom at 7:00 p.m. Both events are free, and open to all residents of SaddleBrooke. We have also invited the Sun City Hiking Club to both events.

A Thank you and a Request

A special thank you goes to Sue Berman who has consented to make the photocopies of our Newsletter. These are placed in the Clubhouses every month.

The Hiking Club is seeking someone who would be interested in updating and maintaining the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club web page. If you are interested, please contact Mary Richling at 825-5238.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Speaker/David Yetman	January 4 th	7:00 p.m.
Hiking Club Social Hour	January 21 st	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	February 4 th	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	February 4 th	4:00 p.m.
Hiking Club Social Hour	February 18 th	4:00 p.m.
Speaker/Betty Leavengood	February 25 th	7:00 p.m.
Hiking Club Picnic	April 3 rd	9:00 a.m.

OFFICERS:

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jmrichling@earthlink.net

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Note: Hiking Club Social Hours will be held at the Mountain View Clubhouse in the bar area

NEWS WE CAN USE

New e-mail address: If you change your email address please notify our Secretary so you can continue to receive the bi-monthly Newsletter and other communications.

Becoming a hiking guide: If you have gained experience hiking and are interested in becoming a hiking guide, contact the Chief Hiking Guide. It is a great way to help the Club and contribute to our great community.

Request a hike: If there is a special hike you would like to see included in our schedule of hikes, please feel free to send an e-mail to the Chief Hiking Guide. Provide a description of the hike and what time of year you would like to have it offered.

NEW HIKING GUIDES

We are pleased to announce that we have two new hiking guides. Mary Croft and Sandra Sowell will be co-leading hikes and will be a great addition. Watch for their hikes in this newsletter and help us give them a warm welcome.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at both the

SaddleBrooke and MountainView Clubhouses. Membership is \$5.00 a year and applications should be located with the newsletters. Send your completed application or renewal to Bob Perez at 65187 E. Desert Sands Court.

GENERAL HIKING INFORMATION

Reservations: Call the guide to make a reservation for a hike. Let the guide know if you would be available to drive and whether or not you have a 'park entry pass' for the area. Assume that the hike will proceed as scheduled unless the guide calls you. If you are unable to go on the hike after making a reservation, call the guide to cancel.

Arrival Time: The time listed for the hike is the departure time. It is important to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time.

Departure Area: All hikes leave from the left front parking lot of the MountainView Clubhouse (just east of the tennis courts) unless otherwise noted.

Medical Conditions: Prior to starting hike, inform the guide of any special medical conditions or medications you may need.

Voluntary driver donations: Voluntary driver donations are shown at the end of the hike descriptions. Most include the entry and/or parking fees where required, however some hikes may require additional fees. Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView.

Items to Bring: Every hiker should carry identification and any medical alerts in a waterproof container. Always bring ample water (this can vary from a pint on a winter fitness walk to 3 or 4 quarts on a summer hike). On strenuous hikes or in very hot weather you may need to replace electrolytes by eating salty snacks or adding electrolyte mix or sports drink to water. A wide brim hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hiking stick or trekking poles are recommended in Arizona. Other suggested items include comfortable hiking boots, whistle, map, compass, tweezers, first-aid kit, and moleskin. Layered clothing works well due to possible changes in weather conditions. In addition, you should bring a snack or lunch depending upon the hike. High complex carbohydrates (nuts, trail mix, and etc.) are good.

Choosing Hikes: Hikes are more difficult than a walk in SaddleBrooke due to elevation change and our Arizona terrain. It is not unusual to encounter rocks, unsteady ground, and steep inclines. It is your responsibility to choose an appropriate hike that matches your physical abilities. The hike description is a great tool. Look closely at the length, elevation change, and comments in the description to determine if a hike is within your physical ability. If you aren't feeling "up to snuff" on the day of the hike, don't hesitate to cancel until a better day.

Assumption of Risk: When you joined the club, you were asked to sign a 'Release of Liability'. We want to reinforce the fact that by signing the release you acknowledge that participation in the club's activities involves an inherent risk

of physical injury and that you assume all such risks. Accidents can happen. Learn about the risks and how to avoid them. Take an active part in protecting yourself and fellow hikers. We are an organization of volunteers who share their skills and love for the wilderness with one another.

Guest Policy: A SaddleBrooke resident, whether year-round or part-time, 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 under age 18, must be signed by parent or legal guardian). If the guest is younger than 16 years old, you must notify the guide who has sole discretion whether or not to allow minors on the hike.

HIKE RATINGS, PACE, AND SYMBOLS

Rating

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

Pace can refer to the length of 2 steps, the speed you walk/hike, or to the average speed of a hike. When we denote the pace of a hike we are referring to the average speed. This means that from start to finish (excluding lunch) you can expect to be traveling at an average speed of () MPH. The average speed or pace of a hike is affected by speed and length of stride, number of rest stops, incline, type of terrain, and trail conditions. We use the following three categories to describe our hikes.

Slow Pace – Average speed of hike < 1.5 MPH

Moderate Pace – Average speed of hike 1.5 to 2.5 MPH

Fast Pace – Average speed of hike > 2.5 MPH

Symbols

"+" and "-" after a rating. The plus and minus signs are used to show that a hike is harder or easier than the average hike in that rating category. It may have a plus sign added due to a loose rocky area or perhaps due to an unusually steep area. A minus sign might be added to a hike due to it having a very easy, smooth trail surface.

"" by a hike.** Hikes marked by a double asterisk are new additions to our club database or a new 'one time' hike.

"++" by a hike. Hikes marked by a double plus are Orientation Hikes. Orientation hikes are encouraged for all "beginner" hikers and are intended for sharing information and for personal assessment of current physical fitness.

SCHEDULED HIKES

Fitness Walks --- Four Days a Week

Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. Enjoy the company of other hikers while perusing SaddleBrooke. The sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. Occasionally, the Tuesday/Thursday group plans a 3-4 hour hike outside the SaddleBrooke boundaries. One-week advance notice is given. Wear comfortable walking/athletic shoes. Remember sunblock, a hat and water.

Tues/Thurs Group - 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday: Meet at MountainView Clubhouse parking lot.
Thursday: Meet at SaddleBrooke Tennis Center parking lot.
Judy Barenkopf 825-7077 (mbarenkopf@aol.com)

Wed. Afternoon Group - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Meet at SaddleBrooke Tennis Center parking lot.
Judy Barenkopf 825-7077 (mbarenkopf@aol.com)

Mon/Wed Group - 7:30 a.m.

Monday: Meet at SaddleBrooke CC by basketball court.
Wednesday: Meet at SaddleBrooke CC by basketball court.
Bill Leightenheimer 818-1953

Jan. 1 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 5 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 5 – Mon. 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; elevation change 1800 feet; starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

Jan. 6 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 6 – Tues. 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; we will hike through an area effected by the Aspen fire; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00.

Mary Croft and Sandra Sowell, 818-3804.

Jan. 7 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Jan. 7 – Wed. 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 lunch and plenty of water. Leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Jon Chase, 818-1115.

Jan. 7 – Wed. Cochise Stronghold to the Saddle. Rating C. Slow Pace. 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. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting

elevation about 4500 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$10.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Jan. 8 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

++Jan. 8 – Thurs. Canyon Loop Trail and the Birding Trail. Rating D. We will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; follow the Canyon Loop Trail and come back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. Following this we will hike the Birding Trail. Hike 3.5 miles; elevation change 450 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Jan. 8 – Thurs. Big Rock Dome. Rating B-. This hike passes a rare double-crested saguaro and leads to a granite dome with great 360 deg. views. The hike will appeal to the adventurous hiker who is capable of doing a bushwack. Recommend wearing long pants and gloves. Bring a hiking stick, two quarts of water and snacks. This hike can be a loop by coming back down the Charouleau Gap Road. Hike limited to 8 hikers. Hike 2-4 miles; elevation change 770 feet, starting elevation 3095 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

Jan. 8 – Thurs. Mule Ears via Charouleau Gap. Rating A. This is a difficult hike 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. Hike 17.5 miles; elevation change 4000 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Jan. 9 – Fri. Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C-. Slow Pace. 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; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 9:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Jan. 9 – Fri. Picacho Peak - Sunset Vista Trail. Rating B. From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the lower route to the climb up to Picacho Peak. The climb to the top of Picacho Peak employs the use of cables (bring gloves!) to get to the top. This is a short, acrophobic, strenuous hike. Park entrance pass required. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 1500 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$5.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 10 – Sat. Soldier Trail. Rating B. Start at mile 1.3 pullout on Catalina Highway to Prison Camp and return. The first _ mile is very steep. The gorge in Soldier Basin may have water flowing below some rugged cliffs. Views of the Tucson area. This trail was used in the 1800s as a cavalry

passage into the mountains. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1600 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

++Jan. 11 – Sun. Fifty Year Trail Area. Rating D. Slow Pace. We will follow a jeep road to Sutherland Wash then loop back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. Hike 3+ miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at Noon; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 12 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 12 – Mon. Sycamore Canyon -- Rating B+ This hike takes us through a beautiful canyon situated in the Pajarito Wilderness within the Coronado National Forest. We hike 7 miles(one way) to the Mexican border viewing canyon side walls, spirals and lush vegetation, while crossing creeks, up and down river rock, climbing around a few boulders and side walls. We will pass Hank and Yank's (Mule skinner and Army guides) adobe ruins; eventually ousted by Indians in 1886. This is considered one of the top 10 spots for wildlife within the entire Sonoran Desert. The water level will be dependant upon the annual rainfall, but always be prepared for slightly wet feet. The canyon lies between Atacosa and Baboquivari Mts. to the north and the Pajarito Mts and Mexico to the east and south. Directions to trailhead-- South on I-19 to Exit 12; west on Hwy 289 to Puerto Blanca Lake (approx. 5 miles); left onto Ruby Rd. (dirt) to Sycamore Canyon. Starting elevation-4050 ft. dropping to 3550 ft. at the border. Hike 14 miles; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Jan. 13 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 14 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Jan. 14 – Wed. 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 6 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 15 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 15 – Thurs. Saguaro Park East & Tanque Verde Guest Ranch for Lunch. Rating C-. Slow To Moderate Pace. Start from the eastern end of Speedway at Douglas Spring Trailhead. Follow along the foot of the Rincon Mountains with a 1.5 mile loop into the foothills then back to the desert floor. After hike we will go for superb gourmet luncheon buffet at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. Cost \$14.50 . Hike 4.2 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 16 – Fri. Tortolita Mountains/Wild Burro Canyon. Rating C. Slow Pace. 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; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

****Jan. 16 – Fri.** Buster Spring Bushwack. Rating B. We will make a moderately difficult bushwack on the north side of the Front Range at Catalina State Park. This hike will offer bushwackers a closeup view of the tremendous cliffs and outcroppings in upper Alamo Canyon and around Table Mountain. Along the route, we will pass Buster Spring(4,150 feet) and climb to a prominent saddle east of point 4604(4,450 feet). From the saddle, we will drop down into Alamo Canyon and loop back to where we began. Hike 6.4 miles; elevation change 1750 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

Jan. 18 – Sun. Deer Camp from the 50-Year Trail. Rating C. Slow to Moderate Pace. We will start at the Equestrian Center on the 50-Year Trail. We hike through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Mt. Samaniego. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3200; leave at Noon; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 19 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 19 – Mon. 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 grave. Hike 10 to 11 miles; elevation change 1500 feet; starting elevation 4900 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$10.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Jan. 19 – Mon. 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 _ mile round-trip hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch there. Park entrance pass required. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

Jan. 20 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

++Jan. 20 – Tues. Canyon Loop Trail. Rating D. Slow Pace. We will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; follow the Canyon Loop Trail and come back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. Hike 2.5 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 9:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

****Jan. 20 – Tues.** Boulder Canyon/Canyon Lake Boat Trip. Rating C. Slow Pace. We drive to the Boulder Canyon Lake parking lot which is at the trail head and where the "Dolly" Stemboat tours start. We climb up Boulder Canyon to get

1/16 Summit Trail
Baboquivari Bill L. 0630

some great views into the Superstition Mountains and Canyon Lake. Bring your camera. The view of the Battleship Mountain and surrounding area are wonderful. Bring two quarts of water and lunch. We need to get back to the parking lot by 1:30 PM in order to be aboard the Dolly for a 2:00 PM departure for a 90 minute narrated tour of Canyon Lake. We will hopefully see Big Horn Sheep back in the Canyon. Cost of the boat tour is \$16. Cash or check only. Limited to 15. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1500 feet; starting elevation 2300 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$7.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Jan. 20 – Tues. 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; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Jan. 21 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Jan. 21 – 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; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Jan. 22 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 22 – Thurs. Boulder Ridge Loop. Rating B-. This hike begins and ends in SaddleBrooke. We begin at the NE gate (lot 36), continuing through the yet undeveloped RCI property and crossing the Canada' del Oro just north of the old dam. We cross state trust land (private grazing lease) and quickly enter the Coronado National Forest. Then we head uphill to the northeast, eventually looping back south along the base of the northern end of the Samaniego Mtn. range to the Charouleau Gap 4WD road and back to SaddleBrooke. This is a nice loop with many excellent views and includes a few rocky uphill sections on old jeep roads. Pick-up cars needed at south end. Hike 9 miles; elevation change 950 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Jan. 23 – Fri. Blackett's Ridge for CHikers. Rating B. Slow to moderate Pace. 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; elevation change 1700 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

++Jan. 25 – Sun. Oracle State Park Exploration. Rating D. Slow Pace. We will explore some of the trails at Oracle State Park. Enjoy the interesting boulder groups, oak woodlands, manzanita stands, and desert grasslands found in this new state park. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 200 to 400 feet; altitude 4,350 feet; leave at Noon; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 26 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Jan. 26 – Mon. Potatoc Ridge. Rating C+. 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. This hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. Hike starts at north end of Alvernon Way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1150 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at 9:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

~~****Jan. 26 – Mon.** Mt. Lemmon to SaddleBrooke (via CDO). Rating A. The hike will lead down from the west side of Mt. Lemmon to several adjoining trails and continue along a section of the Arizona Trail (also called Canada' del Oro). Eventually we will join up with the old 4WD road (FR736) and hike up to the back side of Charouleau Gap and back down to SaddleBrooke. Drivers will be needed for drop off at Mt. Lemmon. LIMIT 8 (plus 2 non-hiking drivers). Hike 18.7 miles; elevation change, drop to 3250' then gain 1020 feet; starting elevation 9120 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.~~

Jan. 27 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

++Jan. 27 – Tues. Sausalito Canyon to Honey Bee Canyon (upper)--Rating D. Slow Pace. This is a nice, nearby canyon hike with options to extend the hike within Honey Bee Canyon. The hike is approx. 4 mi. with minimal altitude change. 4WD vehicles are desirable and required near the end. We begin by driving 4.1 miles down Rail X Ranch Rd. and turning left on Sausalito Rd. for another 2 miles, taking the first spur to the left; the next spur to the right; and then left at the next spur. We are now heading east, parallel with a fence which eventually turns south for a short distance to the end of the road and near a windmill and concrete dam. Bring water, lunch, snack, camera (optional), sun protection. Leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Jan. 27 – Tues. 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. The hike is somewhat steep in parts. 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 at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Mary Croft and Sandra Sowell, 825-3804.

Jan. 28 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Jan. 28 – Wed. Murray Springs Archaeological Site/Clanton Family Ranch. Rating C-. Slow Pace. We start at the Murray Springs parking lot located east of Sierra Vista. This archeological site dates back to the last Ice Age. It is a

13,000 year old hunter's camp of the "Clovis" people. Bones of mammoths, mastodons, sloths and saber tooth cats were found here along with hunter tools and other artifacts. A loop trail offers display boards explaining life in the late ice age at this site. 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 gunfight with Wyatt Earp, his brothers and Doc Holiday. Bring lunch and at least one quart of water. Hike 5 miles; minimal elevation change; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$7.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Jan. 28 – Wed. Wasson Peak/Hugh Norris Trail for C Hikers. Rating B. Slow To moderate pace. 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 elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Jan. 29 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Jan. 30 – Fri.** Apache Peak. Rating B. This hike starts in Oracle and follows the Oracle Ridge Trail south to the saddle on the southwest side of Apache Peak. From there it is a bushwack up a steep slope through the brush over unexpectedly loose rocks to the top. The return is down the north side of the peak over loose rocks again to intersect with the Oracle Ridge Trail and return to the trailhead. Suggest defensive clothing and gloves if desired. Hike 9 miles; elevation change 1800 feet; starting elevation 4750 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

****Jan. 30 – Fri.** Canada del Oro Loop (EXPLORATORY). Rating A. This will be a hike exploring the north end of the CDO. We will hike from SaddleBrooke over Charouleau Gap to the CDO and then head north in the river bed to where it circles back 180 degrees to the south, returning to Saddlebrooke on the NE end. This will entail water hiking and boulder scrambling. LIMIT 6. Hike 20.2 miles; elevation change 1850 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 1 – Sun. Maiden Pools. Rating C. Slow to moderate pace. We'll start at the public parking lot past the employees' parking lot and use the new Forest Service trail into the canyon. The trail is rocky in places with some steep climbing. Hopefully, we will be rewarded for our efforts with spectacular views of the East Side of Tucson. Lunch at the pools and return. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at Noon; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 2 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 2 – Mon. Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating B-. The hike will begin in the Sabino Canyon parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phoneline Trail. The trail is above and generally parallel to the tram road and offers outstanding views of the canyon. The return route will be back along the tram road. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave

at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

Feb. 3 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 3 – Tues. Arizona Trail Work Day-Tucson Wash. Rating B. This is a work session on our section of the ARIZONA TRAIL for which we have responsibility to maintain. We will be working on two places where the switchback's have eroded and must be built back up. All tools will be provided as well as refreshments. Join the group and learn a few trail building skills at the same time. If time allows we will hike to the area of a rare site (Two large Double-Barrel Cacti growing next to one another). Also, you will want to take pictures of the numerous Saguaro and Barrel Cacti on the hillsides. Leave at 7:00 AM. No driver donation. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 4 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Feb. 4 – 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. Bring binoculars. There is an admission fee of \$5.00. Hike 1.5 miles; elevation change 50 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Feb. 4 – Wed. 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; elevation change 1700 feet; starting elevation 2750 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

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Feb. 5 – Thurs - Baboquivari 0630 B
Feb. 5 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 6 – Fri. Ironwood Forest National Monument. Rating D. Slow. We will drive west towards the West Silverbell Mountains. We will stop to see the Petroglyphs on Corcaque Butte, then drive through the Ironwood Forest, stopping to see old cemetery for original town of Silverbell. Final stop will be at the Sasco Ruins. Bring lunch, camera, hiking boots. Hike <4 miles; minimal elevation change; starting elevation 2900; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Feb. 6 – Fri. FULL MOON HIKE. Canyon Loop to Montrose Pool. Rating D. Slow pace. This hike goes through a nice Sonoran Desert area in Catalina State Park up to the Montrose Pools, then returns. We will fork onto the Birding Loop at the end. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. We will have a campfire and roast marshmallows for samores. Fee \$2. Hike <4 miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 PM; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 6 – Fri. David Yetman Trail. Rating C. This hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. This trail has two trailheads – one at Camino de Oeste and one

near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. We can leave cars at one end and drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, then down a wash with a short but steep climb back up to the ridge. Later we have a mile of walking in a creek bed. Then the trail leaves the creek and emerges into open area. We follow along an old jeep road. Then, the trail narrows, and has some loose rocks and again climbs to a ridge. We pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that is a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick, if you wish. Hike 5.4 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

++Feb. 8 – Sun. Alamo Canyon, Catalina State Park. Rating D. Slow pace. Hiking up the Birding Trail to a cutoff, we will intercept the trail to the Alamo Canyon Falls. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at Noon; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 9 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 9 – Mon. 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 elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Feb. 10 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 11 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Feb. 11 – Wed. 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 lunch and plenty of water. Leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Jon Chase, 818-1115.

****Feb. 11 – Wed.** Josephine Saddle via Carrie Nation Mine. Rating B. Slow Pace. We start at the parking lot at the end of Madera Canyon by taking the Old Baldy Trail for a short distance then connecting to the Vault Mine Trail. From there we branch off into the rocky bottom of a canyon for about a mile to the mine site. Sometimes called the "No Name Mine", this mine is tucked away in a shady part of Madera Canyon. It is not shown on any local maps. We return on the Super Trail. Bring lunch and 1 to 2 quarts of water (depending upon time of year). Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 1700 feet; starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Feb. 12 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 12 – Thurs. Cactus Forest Trails. Rating C. Slow to

moderate pace. We will take an easy hike in the Cactus Forest of the Saguaro National Park East and identify 20 plants as we go. We will take the scenic 8 mile Cactus Forest Loop Drive and stop at the 1920's Freeman Homestead Ruins and the National Park Visitor Center. Pack a lunch. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 2750 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 13 – Fri. 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 10 miles; elevation change 4150 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 14 – Sat. First Water/ Second Water Trail Loop. Rating B. We start on the Dutchman Trail from the First Water Creek Trailhead, north of Apache Junction, in the Superstition Wilderness. After 4.3 miles, we pick up the Boulder Canyon Trail and head north for an additional 3.5 miles, passing Battleship Mountain, to the Indian Paint Mine, where we will have lunch. We then return to the trailhead via second Water Trail (4 miles). Numerous water crossings and boulders all along these trails, wonderful scenery. Hike 11.8 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 2,300 feet; leave 7:30 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Feb. 15 – Sun. Fifty Year Trail (North End). Rating C. Slow to moderate pace. 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 Noon; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 16 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 16 – Mon. 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 4 miles; elevation change 1135 feet; starting elevation 2300 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Feb. 17 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 17 – Tues. Anza Trail - Tubac to Tumacacori. Rating C. Slow Pace. The hike will commence at Tubac Presidio State Historical Park and terminate at Tumacacori National Monument. We will be making river crossings, but there are wooden bridges (no hand rails), so we shouldn't get wet feet. Sneakers are okay for this hike. Lunch in Tumacacori at Wisdoms' Cafe. (Written up in April, 2003 Arizona Highway Magazine, page 4.) Bring \$ for lunch, shopping, and \$3 or Golden Age Pass for entrance to Tumacacori Historic Park.

Shopping will be after lunch, if your driver is willing. Hike 4.5 miles; minimal elevation change; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Feb. 17 – Tues. Peralta Trail. Rating C+. Slow pace. 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; elevation change 1360 feet; starting elevation 2500 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

****Feb. 17 – Tues.** Cooper Forks Canyon-Cliff Dwellings. Rating A+. This will be a strenuous hike in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness-Tonto Nat. Forest. The hike will take us to a rather intimidating archaeological site high up in a rugged gorge of the mountains. The site is protected, therefore most of the structure remains in original form with a perfectly intact roof, wooden beams, sticks and mud. This structure also has a rather peculiar layout with rooms connected by small tunnels. Two sets of clothing/ rugged pants/ gloves required. 4WD vehicles required. LIMIT 4 or 8 depending on 4WD availability. This hike will be done in conjunction with the Workman's Creek - Falls and Cliff Dwellings hike. We will stay overnight in local motel. Hike 3+ miles; elevation change 2000 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 5:30 AM; driver donation \$10.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 18 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

****Feb. 18 – Wed.** Workman's Creek -Falls and Cliff Dwellings. (EXPLORATORY) Rating A. This is a exploratory hike to the Falls and then on to a steep 2000 ft .climb to the unprotected cliff dwellings. It is located in the Sierra Ancha Experimental District of Tonto Nat. Forest. The 4WD vehicles required. LIMIT 4 or 8 depending on 4WD availability. This hike will be done in conjunction with the Cooper Forks Canyon-Cliff Dwellings hike. We will stay overnight in local motel. Hike length will depend upon the gate opening/closure of the Forest Service Road to the fire lookout; elevation change >2000 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$10.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 19 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 20 – Fri. 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; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 4500 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Feb. 20 – Fri. 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; elevation change 4200 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 22 – Sun. Peppersauce Canyon Short Hike. Rating D+. Slow pace. We will park opposite the Peppersauce Canyon campground and hike up Peppersauce Canyon approximately 1.5 miles. Good mixture of vegetation to study. Some views, depending on how far we go. Bring lunch. Hike 3 miles; elevation change 450 feet; starting elevation 4600 feet; leave at Noon; driver donation \$4.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 23 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 23 – Mon. 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; elevation change 1700 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

Feb. 23 – Mon. Roger's Canyon 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 1mile round-trip hike to Angel Basin is an option along with an exploration of Fish Creek Canyon. The hike out is all uphill via the same route. Bring a change of shoes for the return trip. We will need 4WD vehicles. Hike 8.4 miles; elevation change approximately 1200 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$10.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 24 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 24 – Tues. Chiricahua Echo Canyon Loop. Rating C-. Slow pace. 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; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 6780 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$10.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Feb. 24 – Tues. 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

Feb. 25 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

****Feb. 25 – Wed.** Backpack Charouleau Gap .Rating B+. Primarily, this will be a one day (up and back) *shakedown hike* with full backpack for hikers preparing for the Grand Circle backpack trips in March/April or any other planned backpack hikes. We will set-up/take down, re-pack, have lunch, and then return to SB. Also, others may join the group for a day hike-rating B. Hike 11 miles; elevation change 1850 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Feb. 26 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Feb. 26 – Thurs. Sycamore Canyon/Short. Rating D. This hike takes us through a beautiful canyon situated in the Pajarita Wilderness within the Coronado National Forest. We hike south toward the Mexican border viewing canyon side walls, spirals and lush vegetation, while crossing creeks, up and down river rock, climbing around a few boulders and side walls. We will pass Hank and Yank's (Muleskinners and Army guides) adobe ruins; eventually ousted by Indians in 1886. This is considered one of the top 10 spots for wildlife within the entire Sonoran Desert. The water level will be dependant upon the annual rainfall, but always be prepared for slightly wet feet. The canyon lies between Atacosa and Baboquivari Mts. to the north and the Pajarito Mountains and Mexico to the east and south. Directions to trailhead-- South on I-19 to Exit 12; west on Hwy 289 to Puerto Blanca Lake (approx. 5 miles); left onto Ruby Rd. (dirt) to Sycamore Canyon. Hike <4 miles; elevation change <500 feet; starting elevation 4050 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Feb. 26 – Thurs. 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; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Croft & Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

****Feb. 27 – Fri.** Rattlesnake Peak. Rating A. From the parking lot at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center we travel 1.3

miles up the road and Esperero Canyon Trail. Here we leave the trail and head north on a "route"/bushwack up the ridge to Rattlesnake Peak. Suggest defensive clothing. Rattlesnake Peak is not an eye-catcher but that doesn't mean it is not a challenge. An early hiker, Don Everett, 60 years ago called it Challenge Peak. Hike 12 miles; elevation change 3900 feet; starting elevation 2750 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Feb. 28 – Sat. Dutchman's Trail/Bluff Springs Loop-Superstition Wilderness. Rating B. We start at the Peralta Trailhead and follow the Dutchman's Trail through Barkley Basin; climb past Miners Needle (smaller sister of Weaver's Needle) to Miners Summit; then descend to Bluff Springs Trail and Bluff Spring with seasonal water, Netleaf Hackberry and Oak shade trees. We then continue back to the trailhead with superb views of Weavers Needle. Hike is 9.1 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2450 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Feb. 29 – Sun. Romero Pools. Rating C+. Slow to moderate pace. 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 _ mile round-trip hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch there. Park entrance pass required. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at Noon; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.