



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

November/December 2002

2002 - 6

NEW MEMBERS—ORIENTATION HIKES

If you are new to hiking in So. Arizona it may be wise to get familiar with the terrain and know what you should take along on every hike before starting out on one of longer duration. Hiking in Arizona is much different than most other areas in the US, therefore a short orientation will be beneficial for most everyone and better prepare you for the longer hikes. We have three 'D' rated hikes on the schedule for Nov/Dec that are considered Orientation Hikes. Call the guide for additional information.

- Nov 1 —Honey Bee Canyon
- Nov 15 —Canyon Loop
- Dec 2 —Canyon Loop

FITNESS WALKS—FOUR 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/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.

FIVE NEW HIKES-including PETROGLYPHS—CLIFF DWELLING—AZ TRAIL

We have added five new hikes to our database, all of which are scheduled for Nov/Dec. Two are rated as 'C' level and three rated as 'A' level and include some of the most beautiful and adventurous areas in Arizona. A short description follows; a more detailed version can be found in the hiking schedule or by calling the guide.

- Sutherland Wash to Mt. Lemmon (A) This is a

strenuous hike to Mt. Lemmon gaining over 6000'.

- AZ. Trail/Tucson Wash segment (C) A nice hike in a rather new segment of the AZ Trail just north of Oracle State Park in an area most members have not ventured as of yet.

- Devil's Chasm (A) Hidden in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness, this is a short, but difficult trek to one of the most beautiful cliff dwellings ever seen—still containing original tools and instruments.

- Mt. Lemmon to Oracle Ridge TH via CDO (A) A long spectacular hike down to and through the Canada del Oro and back up to Mt. Lemmon via Oracle Ridge.

- Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs (C) This is a nice nearby hike through mesquites and saguaros to an area of many petroglyphs.

HIKING CLUB PICNIC

Mark your calendars—the Fall SaddleBrooke Hiking Club picnic will be on Saturday, November 9, at Catalina State Park. There is a \$6 per car entry fee, so car pooling is encouraged. There will be hikes in the morning with lunch at 12:00 noon. We are planning door prizes, and hopefully new Hiking Club tee shirts will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$10 per person and will be on sale at MountainView Country Club on Monday, October 14, from 1:00-3:00 PM. A 2.3 mile hike (Canyon Loop) will commence at 9:30 AM led by Gary Gouvea. A 2.0 mile hike (Nature & Birding Trails) will start at 10:00 led by Jon Chase. For further information on the picnic, contact Diane Chase at 818-1115.

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Sponsors Talk By Western National Park Association

On Monday, October 21st, Keith McHenry, manager of the Western National Park Association store in Oro Valley spoke at the MountainView ballroom about the association, the national parks and the many ways to enjoy the natural and historic

wonders of the West. Keith is third generation National Park Service and has lived at Rocky Mountain, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Big Bend, Shenandoah and Everglades National Parks. Keith showed a video about the association and brought examples of the many items available at the store.

Western National Parks Association is a nonprofit cooperating association of the National Park Service. Headquartered in Tucson, AZ, since 1984, the association began as Southwest Parks and Monuments Association in 1938 and operated under that name until April of this year. They are now located at 12880 N. Vistoso Village Drive, Oro Valley, AZ. Tel: 520-622-6014.

Today they operate bookstores at 63 National Park Service sites throughout the western United States plus an online store with more than 600 educational products. In addition to developing publications, Western National Parks Association supports park research and helps fund programs that make park visits more meaningful. Since their 1938 founding, they have contributed more than \$25 million to national parks, generated through store sales to park visitors and the support of their members. They have a 2000 square foot store in Oro Valley that features nearly 500 titles, hiking accessories and authentic Native American crafts. There are dozens of award winning publications on national parks, military history, geology, Native Americans, earth sciences, field guides, cookbooks, children's books, prehistoric cultures, archaeology, natural history and maps. One of their founding goals was to create and publish park related information unavailable elsewhere. Currently, they have more than 140 books in print with many new publications introduced yearly. Western National Parks Association supports parks by producing more than a half million pieces of free literature annually, including trail guides, newspapers, schedules, and brochures. They also host weekly educational events in their auditorium such as slide presentations, Hopi Art discussions, basket weaving demonstrations and history programs.

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.

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 GUIDES MEETING/BOARD MEETING

The next Hiking Guides Meeting to schedule January/February hikes will be on Wednesday, Dec. 4th at 4:00 PM in the Javelina Room, SaddleBrooke Clubhouse. If you can think of a walk or a hike you wish to offer other club members, please come to the meeting. Even if you have no idea of what you would like to do,

come anyway just to see how the hikes are scheduled. All club members are encouraged to lead walks or hikes and are welcome to come to the meeting. There will be a board meeting at 300 PM prior to the Guides meeting.

SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jon Chase 818-1115 Jonchase@robsoncom.net

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Check out our Newcomer's Orientation Guide on the web (www.saddlebrooke.org) under hiking club.

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 MPS, 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. 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 Hikes or Exploring SaddleBrooke hikes.

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-7:00AM and at SaddleBrooke Tennis Ctr. parking lot on Thursday-7:00 AM-For additional info and sign-up call Judi Barenkopf at 825 7077 or e-mail at mbarenkopf@aol.com.

Fitness Walk – Mon. & 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 and Friday. All fitness walks will begin at 7:00 AM for November and December. Monday's walk will meet in the parking lot by the fitness center at SaddleBrooke CC. Friday's walk will meet in the parking lot in front of Mountainview CC; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

Nov. 1 - Fri. 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 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 1 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Nov. 1 - Fri.** Honey Bee Canyon. Rating D. (Orientation Hike) We will walk Honey Bee Canyon at Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes, and pioneer adobe ruins. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time this is a real eye opener. Limit 12; hike 2 miles; 100 foot elevation change; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

****Nov. 2 - Sat.** Sutherland Wash to Mt. Lemmon. Rating A+. Distance 10.8 miles. Elevation gain of 6,307 feet. This is a very strenuous hike for the very fit and experienced hiker. We will begin at Sutherland Wash where FR 643 intersects the Catalina State Park boundary. From there at an elevation of 2,850 feet, we will hike up the Old Trico Electric Company road to where it intersects the Sutherland Trail. We will hike up the Sutherland Trail to Mt. Lemmon to an elevation of 9,157 feet. We will see many wildflowers. There are great views of "the Window Formation" in the Front Range, of SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere. Driver Fee of \$6.00; leave at 6:30 AM; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

Nov. 3 - Sun. Charouleau Gap Road - Short version. Rating C. Starting from Lago Del Oro just outside of SaddleBrooke we will hike on the jeep (ORV) road to the picturesque table rock for lunch. The hike will be through desert area filled with huge granite boulders and outcroppings. Return on the same road. Great views of your SaddleBrooke home. Bring binoculars. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 4 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

****Nov. 4 - Mon.** 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 6:30 AM; Driver donation \$8.00; John Rendall, 825-9395.

Nov. 5 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Nov. 6 - Wed.** Arizona Trail-Tucson Wash—Rating 'C' —This 5.3mile section on the AZ. Trail begins just north of Oracle St.Pk. The Trail Head is on Tiger Mine Rd. 1.5 miles north of Hwy.77 (mile post 105). This is a newly developed trail running in a north-south direction along a series of ridges, alternately dropping into several washes offering impressive panoramas of the Black Hills to the east and Antelope Peak to the north. The entire Tucson Wash Segment is one of the last segments of the 790 mile Arizona Trail (Mexico to Utah borders) to be completed and runs for an additional 8.5 miles to Bloodsucker Wash making it 13.8 miles in total. Our hiking club is the Segment Steward for this section and is responsible for the on-going maintenance and reporting status of the trail; therefore spotting cars/key swapping is desirable when hiking and/or maintaining. Leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

Nov. 7 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 7 - Thurs. 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Walt Faleschini, 818-6644.

Nov. 7 - Thurs. Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail. Rating B. We hike from the Bog Springs Campground in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, through three springs areas which are home to bamboo, huge Arizona sycamore, walnut and fir trees. There are great views of Madera Canyon, Green Valley, Kitt peak, and Baboquivari from this trail with strenuous, steep climbs in spots. Limit 15 hikers. Hike 6 miles; climb 2100 feet; starting altitude 5000 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Nov. 8 - Fri. 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 6.5 miles; altitude at start 2800 feet.; climb 250 feet.; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 8 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 9 - Sat. PICNIC DAY @ CATALINA STATE PARK

Start the day with a hike:

Canyon Loop Trail. Rating D. Start up Romero Trail in Catalina State Park to Canyon Loop Trail.

Come back on the Sutherland Trail. Pace will be slow. Hike 2.5 miles; 400 foot elevation change; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 9:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Nature & Birding Trails A 2.0 mile hike (Nature & Birding Trails) will start at 10:00 led by Jon Chase, 818-1115.

Nov. 10 - Sun. Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C+. We park opposite Peppersauce Campground on the old Mt. Lemmon Road (backside of Mt. Lemmon). We hike up the Mt. Lemmon Road to Nugget Canyon turnoff, loop up the canyon, and back down through Peppersauce Canyon, passing Peppersauce Cave and some old mining relics. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills we go over. We will travel over old jeep roads and rough paths. Hike 7.6 miles; climb 1200 feet; altitude 4600 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$4.00; John Rendall, 825-9395.

Nov. 11 - Mon. 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 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; bring binoculars; Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Nov. 11 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 12 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 12 - Tues. 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.

Nov. 13 - Wed. Canyon Loop Trail. Rating D. Start up Romero Trail in Catalina State Park to Canyon Loop Trail. Come back on the Sutherland Trail. Pace will be slow. Hike 2.5 miles; 400 foot elevation change; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Bev Caldwell, 825-3071.

****Nov. 13 - Wed.** Mt. Lemmon to Oracle Ridge Trailhead via the Cañada del Oro Trail. Rating A. This 15.5 mile hike begins atop Mt. Lemmon at an elevation of 9,125 feet and descends to the Cañada del Oro at 5,600 feet. We will climb to Dan Saddle and return to Mt. Lemmon via the scenic Oracle Ridge Trail. This is a spectacular hike with fabulous views and interesting sights including old mines and Catalina Camp. Elevation change is a loss of approximately 3,525 feet and a return gain after lunch of 2,400 feet. Leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00, Call Bill Leightenheimer at 818-1953.

Nov. 14 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 14 - Thurs. 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 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Nov. 15 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

****Nov. 15 - Fri.** Canyon Loop Trail. Rating D. (4 water crossings possible) Start up Romero Trail in Catalina State Park to Canyon Loop Trail. Come back on the Sutherland Trail. Pace will be slow. Hike 2.5 miles; 400 foot elevation change; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 16 - Sat. Tonto National Monument. Rating C-. A park ranger guided tour hike of the Upper Cliff Dwellings, normally closed and allowed only by reservation. The tour is approx. 3 miles on unpaved, moderate to steep trail with a gain of 600 ft. Time permitting, we will also visit the lower cliff dwelling on our own. This will be an educational experience regarding the life of the Salado Indians (People of the Salt River). National Park Fee - \$3 (without a pass). The monument is approx. 110 miles one way, on good roads and overlooks Roosevelt Lake. Limited to 12 members (3 cars). MUST SIGN UP AT LEAST 3 DAYS PRIOR TO HIKE. Bring lunch, ample water, and a hat. Leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00; John Rendall, 825-9395.

****Nov. 17 - Sat.** 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 foot elevation change; moderate pace; limit 15 hikers; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 17 - Sat. 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; Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Nov. 18 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 18 - Mon. Quantrell Mine. Rating C. A scenic trek through a historic and legendary mining area of the Santa Rita Mountains. We will lunch at the head of Chino Canyon at the Quantrell Mine and enjoy magnificent views down the canyon, as well as that of the mythical giant rock sculpture known as

Elephant Head. You will not be berated if you have visions of Jesuit gold, Teddy Roosevelt, and Apache sacrifices. This hike features a good trail with no steep sections. Hike 6 miles; pace slow to moderate; climb, 800 feet; altitude at start 4500 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Nov. 19 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 19 - Tues. Mt. Wrightson via Super Trail. Rating A. Hike up the Super Trail (8 miles) to the summit and come down either the Super Trail or Old Baldy Trail. At the top are 360-degree views from Tucson to Mexico. This is an all day hike to an outstanding mountain. Hike 14-16 miles; climb 4050 feet; altitude at start 5400 feet; shady; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Linda & Mike Matre, 818-0206.

****Nov. 20 - Wed.** Oracle Ridge Trail from Mt. Lemmon. Rating A-. This is a long downhill hike northwards along Oracle Ridge from Mt. Lemmon to the Mt. Lemmon Road near Oracle. Hikers need a minimum of three quarts of water. This is a very scenic hike with great views. Hike 13.2 miles; descend 3576 feet; altitude at start 8076 feet; limit of 8 hikers; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

Nov. 20 - Wed. Picacho Peak. Rating B. From Barret Loop trailhead hike up to a saddle then down to Sunset Vista Trail then to the top of Picacho Peak using the permanently installed guide cables to get to the top. Bring cotton or leather gloves for holding on to cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short, strenuous, 'acrophobic' hike & a favorite among hikers. \$5.00 park entrance fee or a pass (car with up to 4 people); hike 4 miles; climb 2100 feet; elevation at start 1500 feet; limit 8 hikers; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 21 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 21 - Thurs. Tortolita Mountains/Wild Burro Canyon. Rating C. We will take the Rail-X Marble Mine road off Oracle Highway for 5 miles to the county line, then hike on a jeep road to the windmill and into Wild Burro Canyon. The jeep road will take us to a meadow and corral in the mountains. Weather and hikers' agreeing, we may go further along a wash to a canyon lookout. We may get lucky and see some wild horses. Hike 7 miles; climb 600 feet; pace slow to moderate; altitude at start about 3000 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Walt Faleschini, 818-6644.

Nov. 22 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 22 - 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 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Nov. 24 - 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 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 24 - Sun. 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Don Colen, 825-0083.

Nov. 25 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 26 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 26 - 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.

Nov. 26 - Tues. 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.

Nov. 29 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Nov. 29 - Fri. Picacho Peak. Rating B. From Barret Loop trailhead hike up to a saddle then down to Sunset Vista Trail then to the top of Picacho Peak using the permanently installed guide cables to get to the top. Bring cotton or leather gloves for holding on to cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short, strenuous, 'acrophobic' hike & a favorite among hikers. \$5.00 park entrance fee or a pass (car with up to 4 people); hike 4 miles; climb 2100 feet; elevation at start 1500 feet; limit 8 hikers; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00; Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

****Dec. 2 - Mon.** Canyon Loop Trail. Rating D. Start up Romero Trail in Catalina State Park to Canyon Loop Trail. Come back on the Sutherland Trail. Pace will be slow. Hike 2.5 miles; 400 foot elevation change; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Mary Richling, 825-5238

Dec. 2 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 3 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 5 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating

Dec. 6 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 6 - Fri. Phone Line Trail with Tram Ride. Rating C. This requires purchase of a tram ticket at \$6. Start at the Visitor's Center, ride tram to Stop Number 9, hike up to the Phone Line trail and then back to the Center. The trail is above and generally parallel to the tram road and offers outstanding views of the canyon - an easy downhill pace with photo opportunities. Hike limited to 15 hikers. Hike 5 miles; climb 900 feet; pace slow; altitude at start 2700 feet; leave at 7:45 AM; driver donation \$3.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 7 - Sat. 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 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Dec. 8 - Sun. 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 7:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 9 - Mon. Elephant Head. Rating B+. A hike to climb the craggy massive rock on the west side of the Santa Rita Mountains. The rock mentioned in Apache Legend of the area. The hike starts out along a gentle mountain road up to the Quantrell Mine. After briefly exploring the mine we will bushwhack along the slope toward Elephant Head and ascend to the peak rather than descend into Chino Canyon. Dress defensively. Hike 9.5 miles, total climb 1500 feet; elevation at start 4600 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$5.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 9 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 10 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating

Dec. 10 - Tues. 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; Linda & Mike Matre, 818-0206.

Dec. 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 plenty of water. Leave at 8:00 AM; Jon Chase, 818-1115.

Dec. 11 - Wed. Linda Vista Loop. Rating D+. Drive to trailhead, 15 minutes from the MountainView parking lot. We climb 300 ft. in the first 1.5 miles. Trail skirts the base of Pusch Ridge and has great views out onto Oracle Road and environs. Hiking stick recommended as trail is rocky in places. Pace slow/moderate. Limit 12; hike 3 miles; elevation change 300 feet; starting elevation 2680 feet; leave at 8:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Bev Caldwell, 825-3071.

Dec. 12 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating

Dec. 12 - Thurs. 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.

Dec. 13 - 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.

Dec. 13 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 14 - Sat. Pusch Peak. Rating A. The first mile of the trail is mostly level then a steep, difficult climb begins. In a few places you may want to use your hands to climb the trail. Bring gloves. Hiking stick desirable. One and one-half miles more and we reach the top. The views of Oro Valley and Tucson are fantastic. This is a very strenuous hike. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 2700 feet; altitude at start 2650 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00; Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Dec. 15 - Sun. Sutherland Trail to Corgadero Canyon. Rating C. We will start at the trailhead at the end of the road in Catalina State Park and hike to the Corgadero Canyon. We will continue about another mile or so up the jeep road. We will have lunch in this area. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 2950 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 16 - Mon. 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.

Dec. 16 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 17 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating

****Dec. 18 - 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 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.

Dec. 19 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating

Dec. 19 - Thurs. Alamo Canyon (Upper), Catalina State Park. Rating C-. We will hike up the Birding Trail to a cutoff that intercepts Alamo Canyon. From there, we will go off trail and hike up to the canyon ridge with views of Alamo rock formations and of the valley below. Hike 5 miles; starting elevation 2700 feet, change in elevation 500 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Walt Faleschini, 818-6644.

Dec. 20 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 20 - Fri. Picacho Peak - Sunset Vista Trail both ways. 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. Hike 6.2 miles; climb 2100 feet; altitude at start 1500 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$5.00; John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 21 - Sat. 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 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Dec. 22 - Sun. 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 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00; Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Dec. 23 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 24 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating

Dec. 26 - Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating

Dec. 27 - Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 29 - Sun. Oracle Ridge. Rating B. This hike begins at the American Flag Trail Head on old Mt. Lemmon Road and continues up Cody Trail to the Oracle Ridge Trail. From the ridge are views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas in the west. We will hike south along the ridge toward Apache Peak. We will lunch in a saddle below Apache Peak. Hike 9 miles; climb 1800 feet; altitude at trailhead 4400 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00; Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Dec. 30 - Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D

Dec. 31 - Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating

Dec. 31 - Tues. 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; Jim Strickler, 825-8735.