



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

November/December 2003

2003 - 6

HIKING THE GRAND CIRCLE

by John Rendall

The "Grand Circle" encompasses the beautiful country of Northern Arizona and Southern Utah as well as small sections of New Mexico and Colorado. I think most of you know how vast and gorgeous the National Parks and Monuments can be across the entire area. Knowing this is an area that we seldom visit for hiking I am planning a number of trips for the region. All hikes will be 3 to 4 day back-pack hikes in the GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NAT. MONUMENT (slot canyons); PARIA WILDERNESS (water hiking); GRAND CANYON-NORTH RIM TRAILS (the trails with the fewest hikers and the most beauty); and possibly ZION AND BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARKS or MONUMENT VALLEY.

Many of these hikes require advance reservations, therefore I will need to reserve very soon for next Jan-Feb-Mar. Paria Wilderness only allows 20 hikers per day and is very hard to get reservations; in fact, many days are gone already. At this point I am only trying to see if any of our members may be interested in this kind of hiking. Again, it will require back-packing for numerous days (no motels, except for the first and last nights-before and after the trek). Most likely we will have several people from the Arizona Trail Assn. joining us for some, if not all of the hikes. *If interested, please let me know before October 30 so we may have a planning meeting and make the necessary reservations. Call John Rendall at 825-9395 or jbr@robsoncom.net.*

AFTERNOON FITNESS WALK OFFERED

Judy Barenkopf will be offering a fitness walk on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. The group will meet at the SaddleBrooke Tennis Center parking lot. Wear comfortable walking/athletic shoes. Remember sunblock, a hat, and water.

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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues were due September 30, 2003. Please send your dues to Bob Perez, club secretary, 65187 E. Desert Sands Ct., SaddleBrooke, AZ 85739. The membership will be voting at the Fall Picnic regarding changing the renewal date from September 30, 2004 to December 31, 2004. If approved, the renewal date will continue to be December 31st every year thereafter.

MISSION STATEMENT

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club exists:

- To provide quality, safe hiking and outdoor adventure experiences at various levels for its membership
- To promote the creation and maintenance of hiking trails in Southeastern Arizona.
- To instill respect for and knowledge of desert ecology.
- To provide enjoyable social outlets for its membership.

Achievement Awards August - September 2003

100 Hikes: George Adelman
50 Hikes: Norman Kyle, Mary Hlushko
25 Hikes: Laurel Snyder, Tom Smit
10 Hikes: Don Taylor, Donna Rezba,
 Jan Strada, Ron Tuxbury

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Fall Hiking Club Picnic:	November 1 st	9:00 a.m.
Hiking Club Social Hour	November 19 th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	December 3rd	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	December 3rd	4:00 p.m.
(There will be no Social Hour in December)		
Speaker/David Yetman	January 4th	7:00 p.m.

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.

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MEMORIAL TILE

Sabino Canyon has been hit with many problems due to the Aspen Fire and the floods that resulted from that fire. Our club offers several hikes that either originate from Sabino Canyon or travel through parts of the Canyon. The board of directors has voted to contribute \$250 to the Friends of Sabino Canyon for the cleanup of the area. Our club name will be placed on a permanent memorial tile in recognition of our contribution.

MORE CONDITIONING

By Susan Robertshaw
 Chief Hiking Guide

Many of you have tried including the "conditioning" hills from the last newsletter in your walks around SaddleBrooke. It was great to hear that you enjoyed the challenge and were able to reduce your times. Now I have a more natural terrain for you to try.

We have a marvelous conditioning area right out our back door on the Charouleau Gap Road. This road runs east from Lago Del Oro Road and has a parking area and sign-in board. It is just south of MountainView Blvd. It has several ups and downs (similar to a roller coaster) as it heads east toward Canada Del Oro Wash. These provide an excellent workout. Take a hiking partner and try this out.

The first time you go out, I would suggest that you determine the length of time you plan on exercising. If you choose to workout about one hour, then you will want to walk down the road for about a half-hour. Take note of the time when you start. Try to pick the top of one of the inclines on the road as your ending point. Take note of the time. Return back to where you started, once again taking note of the time. Keep a record of these times to compare to later workouts. It is about .75 miles to the top of the hill by treatment plant so 30 minutes = 1.5 MPH, 22.5 minutes = 2 MPH, and 15 minutes = 3 MPH.

You should try to set a steady pace that will allow you to reach the top of the inclines without stopping and recover during the level or down hill areas. You will find the road is a combination of rocky areas and smooth areas. As with any activity, always listen to your body. Don't do more than you are able to do safely.



Hiking Tidbit:

According to studies, the use of two walking sticks (trekking poles) results in 250 tons of pressure being transferred from the back, knees, and legs to the arms during an 8 hour hiking day (Hiker's Little Book of Wisdom).

In addition, they can be helpful, especially for rough slopes, stream crossings, or other places where the footing is uncertain. The stick can also be used to push brush and low branches out of the way, probe potential hiding areas during snake season, prop up a pack into a backrest, or support a tarp for shelter from the weather (Desert Hiking Tips).

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 — Five 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 - 7:00 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/Fri Group - 7:00 a.m.

Monday: Meet at SaddleBrooke CC by basketball court.

Wed/Fri: Meet at MountainView Clubhouse parking lot.

Bill Leightenheimer 818-1953

Nov. 1 – Sat. The Hiking Club Picnic will be held at 12:00 p.m. at Oracle State Park. We encourage car pooling to reduce parking problems. There will be two different hikes offered before the picnic at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. There will be an Informational presentation at 11:00 a.m. Meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. Hiking Club shirts and hats will be available for sale at the picnic.

Nov. 2 – 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 2 – Sun. Josephine Saddle/Old Baldy/Vault Mine Trail. Rating B. Due to construction at the end of Madera Canyon Road we must start at the lower end of the Nature Trail, where we then connect to the Old Baldy Trail and hike to Josephine Saddle. We then take the Agua Caliente Trail across and return via Vault Mine Trail. The Vault Mine trail going down will be very steep. This hike can be done in reverse. There are some wonderful views of Mt. Wrightson and the eastern slope of Madera Canyon. Hike 12 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Nov. 3 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 4 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 4 – Tues. Oracle to SaddleBrooke. Rating A. This hike originates on the outskirts of Oracle and enters the Coronado Nat. Forest, proceeding south along a (class 4) 4WD jeep trail through the north end of the Santa Catalinas. We arrive at the high point of Charouleau Gap (12-mile point) and continue back to SaddleBrooke-Unit 9 via the 4WD-trail road. This is a very nice part of the Catalinas, with great views and rugged terrain. We pass many campsites along the Canada' del Oro and view Coronado Camp (adobe construction). Starting at 4664 feet and finishing at 3248 feet, we will have numerous up/down situations. Our highest elevation is 5090 feet at the Gap. (We may attempt a short 1-mile bushwhack to Pig Spring which would shorten the hike by 3 miles-no guarantees). Hike 17 miles; elevation gain 2494 with drop of 3910 feet; starting elevation 4664 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation for drop off transportation \$2.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Nov. 5 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Nov. 5 – Wed. Picacho Peak for "C" Hikers. Rating B. THIS IS A SPECIAL HIKE FOR "C" HIKERS WANTING TO CONQUER THE PEAK. Pace will be modified to accommodate the group. From the Barret Loop trailhead we hike up to a saddle, down to Sunset Vista Trail, then to the top of Picacho Peak using permanently installed guide cables to reach the summit. BRING COTTON OR LEATHER GLOVES for holding onto the cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short strenuous hike and a favorite among hikers. Park entrance pass required. Hike 4.2 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 1500 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00.

John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

++Nov. 5 – Wed. 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. Sally Laskey, 825-6996.

Nov. 6 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

++Nov. 6 – Thurs. 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Nov. 6 – Thurs. Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail. Rating B. Slow Pace. 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; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 5000 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Nov. 7 – Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Nov. 7 – Fri.** Sycamore Canyon/Short. Rating D. Slow Pace. This hike takes us through a beautiful canyon situated in the Pajarito 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.

Nov. 7 – Fri. Incinerator Ridge. Rating C. We will begin at the Palisade Ranger station and climb 400 feet to a saddle. Then we will walk along the ridge to reach a viewpoint towards Barnum Rock and Peck Wilderness. This is one of the premier views off of Mt. Lemmon, which truly gives you the concept of a sky island. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting

elevation 8000 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Nov. 7 – Fri. Elephant Head. Rating B+. A hike to climb the craggy massive rock on the west side of the Santa Ritas. The rock is mentioned in Apache legend of the area. The hike starts out along a gentle mountain road but after about 2 miles there is some tough bushwhacking across Chino canyon and then rock scrambling to get to the top. On the way back we must cross Chino canyon again! Dress defensively and bring gloves. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; starting elevation 4600 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$5.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 9 – Sun. Hidden Canyon via Fifty Year Area. 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. Hike begins past the Golder Ranch Gate in the Fifty Year Trail area. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 10 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 10 – 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. 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.

Nov. 10 – Mon. Wasson Peak/Sweetwater Trail. Rating B. Fast Pace. 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.

Nov. 11 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 12 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

****Nov. 12 – Wed.** Aravaipa/Booger Canyon. Rating B+. The hike will take us halfway through the beautiful Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness and then heading to the north up through Booger Canyon. We will be in ankle to knee-deep water through the Aravaipa Creek for the first 5 miles and then scrambling for another mile or two as we climb large boulders while exploring Booger Canyon. The sights from the top of the canyon are gorgeous and the fall colors should be outstanding. Depending upon how quiet we are; we may see Golden Eagles, Coati, Gila Monster, Big Horn Sheep, Rattlers as well as other numerous animals, reptiles, birds and fish that live throughout the wilderness. The hike will be limited to 8 people; permits must

be reserved in advance which means you must sign up by OCTOBER 25th. Two pair of shoes are recommended—one for water; one for canyoneering. Camera and binoculars desirable. We must start very early so we will be back at the trailhead by nightfall. \$5 permit fee (paid in advance & non-refundable). Hike 13 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2600 feet; leave at 5:30 AM; driver donation \$5.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Nov. 12 – Wed. 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; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Don Colen, 825-0083.

Nov. 13 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 13 – Thurs. Carrie Nation Mine. Rating C+. Slow Pace. Due to construction at the end of Madera Canyon Road we must start at the lower end of the Nature Trail, where we see some wonderful views of Mt. Wrightson and the eastern slope of Madera Canyon. We then connect to the Old Baldy Trail and Vault Mine Trail. From there we must bushwhack up the rocky bottom of a creek bed for about 3 miles. Sometimes called the "No Name Mine" this mine is tucked away in a shady part of Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains. At the mine site are an ore car, boiler, a small steam engine and other interesting abandoned mining artifacts. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 1400 feet; starting elevation 5200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation: \$6.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Nov. 14 – Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 14 – Fri. Florida Saddle. Rating A. Located in the Santa Rita Mountains, this is a very steep and continuous climb from the Experimental Range Headquarters through a beautiful canyon, along open hillsides and thick forests, up to the Florida Saddle at 7800'. We return by the same route. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 3900 feet; starting altitude 4400 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$5.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 14 – Fri. Oracle State Park Trail Maintenance. Rating C. General trail maintenance on fairly well established hiking trails. Light to moderate physical activity including brushing, sweeping of the trails, widening, hoeing, raking, trimming, pruning, and brush/debris removal. It also involves erosion control with digging, trenching, and water barrier construction. Tools utilized include: hoes, rakes, shovels, picks, shears, and pruners. Some lifting and bending. Gloves are required and long pants are recommended. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Jon Chase, 818-1115.

Nov. 16 – 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; elevation change 1800 feet; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Nov. 17 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 17 – Mon. Miller Peak. Rating A. Miller Peak is the highest point in the Huachuca Mountains. There is a 100-mile view from the top. The hike starts at the Coronado National Memorial, located within Montezuma Canyon. We take the Crest Trail. We must drive 45 minutes beyond Sierra Vista to the trailhead. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 3400 feet; starting elevation 5800 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 17 – Mon. 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 – 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. Don Colen, 825-0083.

Nov. 18 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 18 – Tues. Anza Trail/Tubac to Tumacacori. Slow Pace. Rating D. The hike will commence at Tubac Presidio State Historical Park and terminate at Tumacacori National Monument. We will be making river crossings. Towels and water shoes suggested. Sneakers okay for this hike. Lunch in Tumacacori at the Wisdoms' Café. (Written up in April, 2003 Arizona Highway Magazine, page 4). Bring \$ for lunch, shopping, and \$2 for tour of Tumacacori Historic Park. Drivers needed to park cars at finish. Hike <4 miles; minimal elevation change; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 19 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Nov. 19 – 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.

Nov. 19 – Wed. Fifty Year Trail Area. Rating D. 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 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Sally Laskey, 825-6996.

Nov. 20 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 20 – Thurs. 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 8:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Nov. 20 – Thurs. 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 6:30 AM; driver donation \$10.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Nov. 21 – Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 21 – Fri. Wasson Peak/Hugh Norris Trail. Rating B. We will take the Hugh Norris trail in both directions. This is the longest trail to Wasson peak (incredible views at the top) but the climb is gradual and the trail is primarily a ridge trail with spectacular views. Hike 10 miles elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 22 – Sat. Arizona Trail-Tucson Wash--Rating 'C' This will be our committed 'Work Day'. We will groom the trail and fix any areas that have been damaged by the summer rains. *Our hiking club is the Segment Steward for this section* and is responsible for the on-going maintenance and reporting status of the trail. We may have additional help from Arizona Trail Volunteers. The Arizona Trail functions only because of volunteers. It is a small payback for a great trail. This 5.3mile section on the Arizona Trail begins just north of Oracle State Park. 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. Spotting cars/key swapping will be required. Leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Nov. 23 – Sun. Deer Camp from the 50-Year Trail. Rating C. 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 24 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Nov. 24 – Mon.** Finger Rock/Finger Rock Guard. Rating A. This hike starts with the first 2.5 miles of Finger Rock Canyon Trail and descends a steep 200 feet into the bottom of Finger Rock Canyon. There we continue up a faint path and bushwack into the saddle between Mount Kimball and Finger Rock. From there it is somewhat tricky to climb 200 feet out of the saddle to the base of Finger Rock. The final 50 feet to the top of Finger Rock requires a technical rock climb so we will stop at the base. Finger Rock is a well-known landmark that can be seen from many places in Tucson. In addition, we will hike to the top of Finger Rock Guard, the large rock mass to the east of Finger Rock. Rock scrambling and climbing required. Call to discuss the hike with the Hiking Guide. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 3500 feet; starting elevation 3100; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Nov. 24 – Mon. Romero Pools. Rating C+. Fast 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 ¼ 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

Nov. 25 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Nov. 25 – Tues.** Devils' Chasm. Rating A+. This is a short but very strenuous 2000 foot climb requiring hand and knee scrambling, pulling over a large boulder and squeezing through a small hole. This narrow chasm is in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness and surrounded by the Tonto National Forest. It is also one of the more densely populated rattlesnake areas in Arizona which is why we prefer the colder months to hike this canyon. The reward is one of the grandest archaeological sites you will ever set your eyes upon as it ends at a spectacular cliff dwelling—a nicely preserved 700+ year old ruin that only a few will ever get to see. The structure clings to the side of the cliff high above the creek at the bottom, almost impossible to see until you get within 100 feet or less as it blends in perfectly with the cliff and the surroundings. Experts believe it was built for pure defensive purposes making it extremely rare. You cannot walk around the structure, but only through room to room with many of the original tools still in place. It was only inhabited from A.D. 1275 to 1300 according to tree ring samples. Limited to 8 people-2 cars (4WD preferably). The drive is approximately 140 miles one way with 25 miles of dirt road. Pictures and maps will be provided. Two sets of clothing required. Wide angle and telephoto lens camera desirable. Depending on weather conditions we may have to hike in from the road for 2.5 miles before starting the 4-mile round trip trek up the canyon, potentially adding 5 more miles to the hike. Leave at 5:30 AM;

driver donation \$10.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

Nov. 26 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Nov. 27 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Nov. 28 – Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Nov. 30 – Sun.** Charouveau Gap Road to Big Rock Dome, Rating B-. Starting from Lago Del Oro just outside of SaddleBrooke we will hike on the jeep road past the picturesque table rock and through desert area filled with huge granite boulders and outcroppings. We will hike over to the Big Rock Dome where you will have great views of SaddleBrooke. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 1 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 1 – Mon. 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.

Dec. 2 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Dec. 2 – Tues.** Ironwood Forest National Monument. Slow Pace. Rating D. We will drive west towards the West Silverbell Mountains. We will stop to see the Petroglyphs on Cocoraque 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 7:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 3 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Dec. 3 – Wed. Murray Springs Archaeological Site/Clanton Family Ranch -Rating D+. Slow Pace. We leave a car at the Clanton Family Ranch trailhead and drive to the Murray Springs site, an 11,000 year old hunters camp archaeological site dating back to the late ice age. Bones of mammoths, mastodons, sloths and saber tooth cats were found along with hunter tools and other artifacts. A loop trail offers 10 exhibits on life in the late ice age. We then hike to the Clanton Ranch ruins; not much remains today, but still of interest. The Clanton's were the alleged 'black hats' in the OK Corral gun fight with Wyatt Earp, his brothers and Doc Holiday. Bring lunch and at least one quart

of water. Hike 3.5 miles; minimal elevation change; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Dec. 4 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 4 – Thurs. Peralta Trail. Rating C+. Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle viewing Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains. This may be the area's most beautiful canyon. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver's Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge, thought-provoking boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. It's a steep, rocky trail most of the way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1360 feet; starting elevation 2500 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$8.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

++Dec. 4 – Thurs. Honey Bee Canyon. Rating D. We will walk Honey Bee Canyon at Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes, and pioneer adobe ruins. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time this is a real eye opener. Hike 2 miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Sally Laskey, 825-6996.

Dec. 5 – Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 5 – Fri. Finger Rock Trail to Mt. Kimball and Pima Trail to Pima Trailhead. Rating A+. This is a very difficult hike up the Finger Rock Trail to Mt. Kimball. We will take the Pima Canyon Trail from Mt. Kimball down to the Pima Canyon Trailhead. Bring lunch, snacks, and a minimum of 4 quarts of water. Hike 14.1 miles; elevation change 4300 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 5 – Fri. 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

****Dec. 7 – Sun.** Tucson Half Marathon. Rating B. Participate as a group in the Tucson Half Marathon. The course begins at Oracle Junction and continues downhill until the last .4 mile where it goes uphill to finish at the beautiful El Conquistador Resort at the base of Pusch Peak. Please call the hike guide to sign up with our hiking group. In addition, you must register prior to race day with the race officials. See www.tucsonmarathon.com. Race numbers are not transferable and there are no refunds. The registration fee increases as it gets closer to race day. Registration fees range from \$45 to \$55. Hike 13 miles; elevation change minus 720 feet; starting elevation 3320 feet; leave at TBD A.M.; driver donation \$1.00. Judy Barenkopf, 825-7077.

Dec. 8 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 8 – Mon. Pima Canyon. Rating C. Fast Pace. 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; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

Dec. 8 – 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. Don Colen, 825-0083.

Dec. 9 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 10 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Dec. 10 – Wed. Thimble Peak. Rating B. We start at Prison Camp Road (now Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site), 7 miles up the Catalina Highway and take the beautiful Sycamore Reservoir Trail down to the abandoned reservoir, connect to the Bear Canyon Trail on the way to Thimble Flat then follow a faint trail to the base of Thimble Peak. Bring gloves to do the fairly easy scramble to the top of the east summit. Enjoy outstanding views from this prominent landmark. We will return by the same route. Hike 11 miles; elevation change 1500 feet; starting elevation 4850 feet; leave at 6:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 10 – Wed. Seven Falls. Rating C+. Slow Pace. 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; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 7:45 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Dec. 10 – 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.

Dec. 11 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 11 – 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. Sally Laskey, 825-6996.

Dec. 12 – Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 12 – 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; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3300 feet; leave at 8:30 AM; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

****Dec. 14 – Sun.** Baby Jesus Trail/Petroglyphs Loop. Rating B. We will take the Baby Jesus Trail to the Sutherland Trail then come down via the Petroglyphs. This hike has beautiful saguaros, rock formations (including a window), oak woodlands, and ancient petroglyphs. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 1050 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 14 – Sun. Golden Gate Trail. Rating C. Ever wonder why there's a big parking lot just west of Gates Pass? Well, so did your guide who will lead a hike around the mountains used as the backdrop in many Hollywood horse operas. In Saguaro National Park – West, we will hike ½ mile along the David Yetman Trail and then take the Golden Gate Loop. This is an easy hike with moderate elevation gain. Some bushwhacking. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Dec. 15 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

++Dec. 15 – Mon. 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.

Dec. 15 – 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 ¾ 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 7:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Don Colen, 825-0083.

Dec. 16 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

****Dec. 16 – Tues.** Anza Trail/Rio Rico Section. Rating C-. We will hike along the east side of Santa Cruz River. (No river crossing required). The Rio Rico section of the Anza Trail opened in December 2002. The sensory experience begins as soon as you exit your vehicle, with the rustling of leaves and the chirping of birds that promise to add an idyllic soundtrack for this walk. This part of the Anza trail has not been discovered by a lot of hikers. Sturdy walking shoes are fine (hiking boots not required). Hike 5 miles; minimal elevation change; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:30 AM; driver donation \$6.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 17 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Dec. 17 – Wed. 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; starting elevation 2650 feet; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$1.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 17 – Wed. Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C+. Slow Pace. The hike begins at Peppersauce Campground on the northeast side of the Catalinas. It follows the old Mt. Lemmon Road up to the Nugget Canyon turnoff. There we will stop to see Peppersauce Cave. Bring a flashlight. We then travel up the canyon, follow jeep roads, view an old mine, then come down Peppersauce Canyon. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills. This is a strenuous hike for this level due to a steep incline in one area and loose rocks in another. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 4600; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$4.00. Gary Gouvea, 825-3868.

Dec. 18 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 18 – Thurs. Wasson Peak Loop, Rating B. Start at King Canyon Trailhead. From King Canyon Trail, hike Esperanza Trail over to Hugh Norris Trail, up to Wasson Peak, then back down King Canyon wash to trailhead. We will have stops for lots of different views and a variety of scenery. Hike 9.5 miles; elevation change 1900 feet; starting elevation 2800; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Dec. 19 – Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 19 – Fri. Finger Rock Canyon/Pontatoc Canyon Loop, Rating B. This hike starts on level ground for about 1 mile then sharply climbs 2500 feet to Linda Vista Saddle. From there, we will bushwack over to the Pontatoc Canyon Trail and return to our vehicles. Scrambling is necessary at some points & coming down is just as difficult. Beautiful views from the many vista points along the way. Hike 7.8 miles; elevation change 2500 feet; starting elevation 3100; leave at 6:30 AM; driver donation \$2.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

++Dec. 19 – Fri. Canyon Loop to Montrose Pool. Rating D.

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. Hike <4 miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$2.00. Sally Laskey, 825-6996.

****Dec. 21 – Sun.** Pusch Peak to First Overlook. Rating C. We will hike part way up Pusch Peak to a great overlook. The first mile and half of the trail is mostly level then a steep, difficult one-half mile climb begins. It has fantastic views north, south, and west. Hiking stick desirable. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 1350 feet; starting elevation 2650 feet; leave at 7:00 AM; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

Dec. 22 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 22 – Mon. Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating B-Fast Pace. 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.

Dec. 23 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 24 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.

Dec. 25 – Thurs. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 26 – Fri. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 28 – Sun. Brown Mountain. Rating C. Brown Mountain Trail is a trek along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts in a picnic area near the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Along this "ridge ramble" are excellent views of the mountains, valleys and desert vegetation. The route has many up and downs. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 8:00 AM; driver donation \$3.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Dec. 29 – Mon. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 30 – Tues. Fitness Walk. Rating D.

Dec. 31 – Wed. Fitness Walk. Rating D. Two Hikes offered.