



# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

November/December 2004

2004 - 6

### GPS (Global Positioning System) CLASS

If you have an interest in learning what this system really is and how to use a GPS hand held receiver for backcountry trekking, we are scheduling a series of classes (3 or 4) in Nov/Dec. We will begin with the basics - the system itself, and how it works. Next we will discuss the hand held receivers, features, functions, limitations and selecting a unit that fits your needs. We will necessarily include TOPO map reading-scale-contour-datum-elevation-slope-shape-map preparation and grid drawings; all of which are used in conjunction with a GPS receiver and necessary for backcountry navigation. For the coordinate systems, we will discuss both the Angular (Lat-Lon) and Rectangular (UTM) systems with our main emphasis on Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM), which is the easier and most preferred backcountry land navigation system. After having a good understanding of the basics we will plan an outing (short hike) utilizing the skills learned and then finish with a Geocache session. It is not necessary to have a GPS receiver for the first class or until we finish discussing all the features / functions of receivers in general and topo map reading; for the field experience sessions it will be necessary to own/ borrow or work with another person. Class size will be limited. To enroll, call John Rendall at 825-9395 or e-mail to: [jbr@robsoncom.net](mailto:jbr@robsoncom.net).

Nov. 05, 1:00 p.m. GPS-1 Javalina Room (SB Clubhouse)  
Nov. 12, 1:00 p.m. GPS-2 Arts & Craft, Room #3 (SB Clubhouse)  
Nov. 19, 8:00 a.m. GPS-3 Hike using GPS Receivers--(TBD)  
Dec. 03, 8:00 a.m. GPS-4 Hike/ Geocache--(TBD).

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All memberships will be expiring on December 31<sup>st</sup>. A yearly membership will remain at \$5.00. For your convenience, you may renew when you pick up your Hiking Club Picnic tickets or at the picnic itself. Otherwise, send renewals to Bob Perez.

### HIKING CLUB PICNIC

The Fall Hiking Club Picnic is scheduled to be held on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the YMCA Triangle Y Ranch in Oracle. The meal will be catered by the YMCA food service and the cost will be \$10 per person. The hikes will be at 9:00 a.m., tours of the camp at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sign-up for your tour when you buy your ticket.

### CLUB SUPPORTS BOTH ORACLE STATE PARK (OSP) AND ARIZONA TRAIL (AZT)

Over the past few years our Hiking Club has committed to providing support to both Oracle State Park and the popular Arizona Trail (Segment 14A, known as the "Black Hills-South"). Our main responsibility is to maintain a few trails and occasionally assist in the development and building of new trails. Also, in past years we have built small bridges and re-routed existing trails. Up to this point we have relied on just a few members and often have had other hikes scheduled on the same day as our work sessions; consequently our work projects keep falling off. So, to better fulfill our commitment and be proud of the trails we consistently use and have our name attached, we have changed our schedule to better accommodate everyone. We will schedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month (except for the summer months) as our OSP / AZT Work Session. There will no longer be any single day hikes scheduled for the same day. Hopefully this will generate additional support and allow for better scheduling.

Sooooo...bottom line...this means we need anyone willing and able to help out. Additionally, you will learn trail design, development and maintenance skills along with having that "good feeling" of giving something back to our parks and trails across the state. To sign up for each and every session, call John Rendall at 825-9395 or e-mail to : [jbr@robsoncom.net](mailto:jbr@robsoncom.net).

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**Achievement Awards**  
August/September 2004

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- 100 Hikes:** Jennifer Stephens, Cheryl Werstler, Jan Wilson
- 50 Hikes:** Clare Collins, Sharon Simpson
- 25 Hikes:** Don Taylor, Hector Guiot, Stan Strebig
- 10 Hikes:** Stan Strebig, Sandy Businger, Bob Sabol, Nancy Rendall, Tony Anastasia, Marji Fey
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## FAREWELL TO TWO OUTSTANDING HIKING GUIDES

Walt Faleschini, a former Chief Hiking Guide, is moving on to greener pastures. We will dearly miss him with his always great smile and good humor. We can remember many memorable hikes to new places with Walt. Thanks, Walt.

Gary Gouvea, also a former Chief Hiking Guide, is moving on. We will sincerely miss his hikes that specialized in integrating historical background information such as Cochise's last speech on the Cochise Stronghold hike. We all learned some Arizona history from Gary due to his extra efforts. Thanks, Gary.

## HIKING TIDBIT



Your twist-lock trekking poles have a secret. It's an ingenious little mechanism called an "expander plug" hidden inside the telescoping sections. Follow these easy steps to keep the widgets working smoothly.

- ❖ Take poles apart once every season to clean and inspect the plugs. Simply twist and pull the sections free.
- ❖ Scrub inside the female end with water and a gun-barrel brush or toothbrush, or attach a moist rag to a coat-hanger wire. Be careful not to scratch the metal—ice or dirt can settle there.
- ❖ To de-grit the plugs, move them up and down the screw and scrub with a brush. If dirt persists, run under a faucet with good water pressure or use a hose. Air-dry thoroughly.
- ❖ Friction holds the sections in place. Maximize it by gently filing the bottom of the plug with an emery board or sandpaper. Clean with a damp cloth and dry well.
- ❖ Use lube only on push-button poles. Twist-lock poles work because of friction; lube kills friction. Clean push-button poles same as above.
- ❖ If the expander plug is shot, call the pole maker for a replacement—they only cost about \$3.

Taken from Backpacker Magazine, October 2004

## FREEZING WATER IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS

By Susan Robertshaw, Chief Hiking Guide

The question concerning the safety of freezing water in plastic containers and reusing plastics bottles keeps coming up in conversations on hikes. I have tried to determine how I could address this issue when I have little scientific background in this area. A search of the Internet has resulted in a tremendous volume of sites. Generally they all agree that freezing actually works against the release of chemicals and that there is no reason to suspect that dioxins are present in plastic bottles. They seemed more concerned about the cleanliness of a reused bottle rather than any leaching of chemicals. There does however seem to be a concern that only plastics specifically designed for cooking or microwaving be used for that purpose and that films placed on top not touch the food. I will have copies of these articles at the picnic. I would ask that you do your own research on these matters. I have provided some of the websites that I found interesting. You may want to do your own searches under key words.

[http://www.jhsph.edu/Press\\_Room/articles/Halden\\_dioxins.html](http://www.jhsph.edu/Press_Room/articles/Halden_dioxins.html)

In a press release from Johns Hopkins University through their Office of Communications and Public Affairs, they were asked "What do you make of this recent e-mail warning that claims dioxins can be released by freezing water in plastic bottle?" They responded: "No. This is an urban legend. **Freezing actually works against the release of chemicals.** Chemicals do not diffuse as readily in cold temperature, which would limit chemical release if there were dioxins in plastic, and we don't think there are." It has much more information. Good resource.

[http://www.cancer.org/docroot/MED/content/MED\\_6\\_1x\\_Microwaving\\_Plastic.asp?sitearea=MED](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/MED/content/MED_6_1x_Microwaving_Plastic.asp?sitearea=MED)

In a press release from the American Cancer Society they address microwaving plastic: "The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on its website does say substances used to make plastics **can leach into foods.** But the agency has found the levels expected to migrate into foods to be **well within the margin of safety** based on information available to the agency. As for dioxin, the FDA says it "**has seen no evidence that plastic containers or films contain dioxins** and knows of no reason why they would."

<http://www.snopes.com/toxins/bottles.htm>

Addresses reusing plastic water bottles.

<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/d/dioxins.htm>

Addresses using plastic for heating foods in microwaves.

<http://www.ccc.cornell.edu/food/fsarchives/050602microwaving.htm>

Addresses using plastic for heating foods in microwaves.

<http://www.snopes.com/toxins/plastic.htm>

Addresses using plastic for heating foods in microwaves.

## CLUB HIKE TO GRAND CANYON A SUCCESS

On September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> ten members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club hiked down the South Kaibab Trail, stayed overnight at Phantom Ranch and hiked up the Bright Angel Trail the next day. The hikers stopped to take lots of pictures, observed the geology of the canyon layers, identified formations, talked about some history and above all completed the hike in a safe manner. The goal of the Hiking Club is to have one trip to the Grand Canyon every year.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

Fall Picnic	November 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.
Hiking Club Social Hour	November 17 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	4:00 p.m.
Hiking Club Social Hour	December 15 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m.

**Note:** Social Hours held at the MV Clubhouse in the bar area.

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at both the SaddleBrooke and MountainView Clubhouses.

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

## NEWS WE CAN USE

**New e-mail address:** If you change your e-mail address please notify Bob Perez at [azsun65@robsoncom.net](mailto:azsun65@robsoncom.net) so you can continue to receive the 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.

### OFFICERS:

**President:** Jim Strickler 825-8735  
[sherabjim@robsoncom.net](mailto:sherabjim@robsoncom.net)  
**Vice-President:** Bob Wynne 825-2974  
[bwynne@robsoncom.net](mailto:bwynne@robsoncom.net)  
**Secretary:** Mary Richling 825-5238  
[JMRichling@earthlink.net](mailto:JMRichling@earthlink.net)  
**Treasurer:** Sherry Jacobson 825-4036  
[Louis.jacobson@ey.com](mailto:Louis.jacobson@ey.com)  
**Chief Hiking Guide:** Susan Robertshaw 818-6727  
[jsrobertshaw@att.net](mailto:jsrobertshaw@att.net)

### NON OFFICER POSITIONS:

**Editor:** Volunteer needed  
**Publicity:** John Robertshaw 818-6727  
[jsrobertshaw@att.net](mailto:jsrobertshaw@att.net)  
**Membership Roster:** Bob Perez 818-2111  
[azsun65@robsoncom.net](mailto:azsun65@robsoncom.net)  
**Statistics & Awards:** Art Cross 818-9288  
**Newsletter Copies:** Sue Berman 818-1954  
**Arizona Trail Steward:** John Rendall 825-9395  
**Catalina State Park Steward:** Volunteer needed  
**Social:** Volunteer needed  
**Merchandise:** Sally Sample 825-0985

## 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 the 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 (eat salty snacks, add electrolyte mix to water, or use sport drinks). 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 or less and 500 foot climb or less

**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.

## 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.

### NO HIKES ON THANKSGIVING

**Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri Group - 6:45 a.m. in November  
7:00 a.m. in December**

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

**Tues/Thurs Group - 6:45 a.m.**

Tuesday: Meet at MountainView Clubhouse parking lot.  
Thursday: Meet at SaddleBrooke Tennis Center parking lot.  
Judy Barenkopf 825-7077



**\*\*Nov. 1 – Mon.** Circlestone Ruin Hike in the Superstition Mountains. Rating A. We will hike 16.6 miles round trip starting from the Rogers Trough trailhead. This trip requires four wheel drive vehicles as the approach is up a very rough jeep road. Along the route, we will visit the grave site of Elisha Reavis. Circlestone Ruin is located on a small knoll northeast of Mound Mountain and 2.4 miles from Reavis Ranch. The ruin is surrounded by a three foot sandstone wall and dates to A.D. 1250 to 1300. Some experts believe Circlestone to be celestially oriented. Hike 16.6 miles; elevation change 4420 feet to 6010 feet; starting elevation 4800 feet; leave at 5:30 a.m.; driver donation \$10.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953. Hike limited to 8 hikers.

**++Nov. 3 – Wed.** Tohono Chul Park and Tea Room, "birders walk" and breakfast. Rating D. Join a Tohono Chul docent for a guided bird observation walk in beautiful Tohono Chul Park. Pace slow. We can continue strolling through the park at our leisure and end with breakfast at the Tohono Chul Tea Room. Bring binoculars. There is an admission fee of \$5.00. Hike 1.5 miles; elevation change 50 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:45 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

**Nov. 3 – Wed.** Pima Canyon. Rating C. The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. It then enters a beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. We will hike to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near Indian grinding holes and then return to the trailhead. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

**\*\*Nov. 4 – Thu.** El Capitan Canyon Exploratory. Rating C. We will drive ten minutes past Winkleman on Highway #77. We will explore the canyon by hiking up 4 wheel drive road. The road may be rocky. Bring lunch, sunscreen, hiking sticks, hat, camera-optional, plenty of water. Hike 4+ miles; elevation change 500 feet; leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$6. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**\*\*Nov. 4 – Thu.** 4<sup>th</sup> of a 4-part series of day hikes on the Arizona Trail through the entire Catalinas. Rating A. We start this car shuttle hike at the Mt. Lemmon Control Road near the Fire Station and progress down the Oracle Ridge Trail to Dan Saddle to pick up the Arizona Trail. After 3 more miles, the trail joins up with an old mine road and we go around the base of Rice Peak. The mine road becomes FR 4483 and continues another 4.5 miles past Apache Peak. We then leave the Oracle Ridge Trail heading east on American Flag Trail which ends after 2.5 miles on Oracle-Mt. Lemmon Rd. Hike 14.8 miles; elevation change 3550 feet; starting elevation 9100 feet, leave 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

**\*\*Nov. 5 – Fri.** GPS Class - 1; 1:00 p.m.; Javalina Room (SaddleBrooke Clubhouse); John Rendall, 825-9395.

**Nov. 7 – Sun.** Fifty Year Trail (South End). Rating D. We will start at the Golder Ranch Gate and hike south to a stream terrace that gives a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area

and the Santa Catalina Mountains. In addition, there will be good views of Sun City and the Tortolitas. Hike <4 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

**Nov. 10 – Wed.** Oracle State Park/Arizona Trail Work Day. 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 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. John Rendall 825-9395.

**Nov. 11 – Thu.** Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating C+. This is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We park at the Saguaro National Park East Trail. The hike is somewhat steep in parts. We lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some photo stops along the way. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1300 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$5.00. Sandra Sowell and Mary Croft, 825-3804.

**\*\*Nov. 12 – Fri.** GPS Class - 2; 1:00 p.m.; Arts & Craft, Room #3 (SaddleBrooke Clubhouse); John Rendall, 825-9395.

**Nov. 12 – Fri.** Chivo Falls. Rating C. This is a hike to one of the tallest desert falls in the Tucson area (Rincon Mountains). If we have some rain or spring snow melt the falls are very impressive. We'll lunch in a rock amphitheater below the falls. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 700 feet; starting elevation 4000 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$4.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**Nov. 13 – Sat.** Fall Hiking Club Picnic at the YMCA Triangle Y Ranch outside Oracle. Hikes start at 9:00 a.m.; tours 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.; lunch 12:00 p.m.

**Nov. 16 – Tue.** 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 7.5 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Nov. 17 – Wed.** 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 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

**Nov. 17 – Wed.** Boulder Ridge Loop. Rating B. This hike begins and ends near the Dancing Horse Ranch (on the edge of SaddleBrooke) and quickly enters the Canada 'del Oro. We hike north in the CDO passing the 'old dam" and then enter the Coronado Nat. Forest on a old jeep road looping around the boulders, and along a hillside filled with beautiful Saguaro's and

great views. We then begin the loop to the south through a few miles of mesquites, mild hills and valleys while viewing the northern end of the Samaniego Ridge. Eventually we join the Charouleau Gap-4WD road (FR 736) and back to the ranch where we started. Hike 10.5 miles; elevation change 950 feet; starting elevation 3250 feet; leave at 7:30; driver donation \$1.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**Nov. 18 – Thu.** Picacho Peak. Rating B. THIS IS A SPECIAL HIKE FOR "C" HIKERS WANTING TO CONQUER THE PEAK. Pace will be modified to accommodate the group. From 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 2000 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**Nov. 18 – Thu.** Picacho Peak to Saddle. Rating C. We will hike the Hunter Trail from the Barret Loop trailhead up to the saddle. Terrific views of surrounding area. Park entrance pass required. Hike <3 miles; elevation change 960 feet; starting elevation 2000 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**\*\*Nov. 19 – Fri.** GPS Class - 3; 8:00 p.m. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**Nov. 19 – Fri.** Butterfly Trail. Rating B-. Starting at Soldier Camp in the Catalinas we will hike down to the Novio Spring area in Alder Canyon where we will lunch in the vicinity of a 1957 F-86 plane crash. All of the steady climb is on the way out. We will be in the shade of very tall Douglas fir and ponderosa pines, up to the saddle and exit at Palisade Ranger Station. Along the way are views of San Manuel to the east. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1800 feet; starting elevation 7700 feet; leave at 6:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**Nov. 20 – Sat.** Soldier Trail. Rating B. Start at mile 1.3 pullout on Catalina Highway to Prison Camp and return. The first ½ mile is very steep. The gorge in Soldier Basin may have water flowing below some rugged cliffs. Views of the Tucson area. This trail was used in the 1800s as a cavalry passage into the mountains. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1600 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$4.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**Nov. 21 – Sun.** Blackett's Ridge. Rating B. **FOR "C" HIKERS.** This hike takes you up to a ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. It has spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons. We hike through lower Sabino Canyon to the Phoneline Trail. After 0.4 miles we turn onto the Blackett's Ridge Trail where we begin the ascent. This trail has several series of steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits at the top. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1700 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

**\*\*Nov. 22 – Mon.** Bluff Loop Trail Sabino Canyon. Rating D. This is a short Fall color hike along the Bluff Trail overlooking Sabino Creek. Velvet Ash, Cottonwood, Willow, and Arizona Sycamore trees will highlight Fall's colors. Bring a camera and a minimum of one quart of water. Hike 3.1 miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **2:00 p.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**Nov. 23 – Tue.** Mt. Lemmon to SaddleBrooke via Samaniego Ridge Trail. Rating A. Hike begins on Mt. Lemmon and proceeds down the trail to the AZT (Arizona Trail) which we follow for a short distance. We then veer off on to the Samaniego Trail up along the backside of the three peaks of the Samaniego Ridge and over to Mule Ears, eventually dropping down to the summit of Charouleau Gap. From the Gap we continue down FR736 (4WD road) and back to the horse ranch in SaddleBrooke. This is a beautiful hike with great views of the Reef of Rocks as viewed from Mule Ears as well as the entire Canada 'del Oro Canyon watershed originating from Mt Lemmon.(Everything you can't see from SaddleBrooke). The trail is seldom used and slow going at places so be prepared for some bushwhacking. Minimum 4 liters of water, headlight, long pants and plenty of snack food recommended. Drivers will be needed to drive hikers to Mt Lemmon. Hike 15.7 miles; elevation change - gain 1299 feet and lose 7146 feet; starting elevation 9097 feet; leave at 5:30 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**Nov. 24 – Wed.** Phoneline Trail - Round Trip. Rating B-. The hike will begin in the Sabino Canyon parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phoneline Trail. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road. It offers outstanding views of the canyon. We will choose between three routes back, the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

**Nov. 26 – Fri.** 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; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**\*\*Nov. 29 – Mon.** Big Rock Dome and Elephant Trunk Bushwack. Rating B-. This hike is a strenuous bushwack for an adventurous minded fit hiker in the granite rocks across the Canada del Oro Wash to the east of SaddleBrooke. Long pants, long sleeved shirts, and gloves are required. Hikers will see a rare double crested saguaro. Hike 4 to 5 miles; elevation change 770 feet, starting elevation 3095 feet; leave at 7:30 a.m.; no driver donation. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**Nov. 30 – Tue.** Sweetwater Wetland Birding Hike. Rating D. We will be traveling to the Sweetwater Wetland located east of the Santa Cruz River near Prince Road. It was built in 1996 and

serves as an environmental education facility and habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. It consists of several ponds surrounded by cattails, willows and cottonwoods. Ducks visit the ponds. Red-winged, yellow headed, and Brewer's blackbirds frequent the cattails. Thick stands of saltbush provide cover to song sparrows, Abert's towhees, wrens and many other birds. Bring binoculars or telescopes for viewing birds along with water and a snack/lunch. Hike < 4 miles; elevation change minimal; starting elevation 2500 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Maury Stern, 825-5530.

**++Nov. 30 – Tue.** 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 8:30 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**Dec. 1 – Wed.** Romero Pools. Rating C+. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and follows Romero Canyon Trail. Trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down the canyon area where several pools are located. We will have snack/lunch there. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

**Dec. 1 – Wed.** Pueblo Canyon Cliff Dwelling. Rating B+. Deep in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness of Tonto Nat. Forest lies one of the most beautiful and largest cliff dwellings. This particular dwelling is one of many buried in this remote part of the wilderness and included up to 75 rooms high up on the canyon wall. Most all of the Anchan culture dwellings remain "unprotected", but still reside on federal land under the protection laws. These dwelling remain in excellent condition after 700+ years because of their strategic location, thus making it a strenuous hike to reach the ruins. The hike is only 6 miles (roundtrip), but gains close to 2000 feet on a trail that is not always discernible and passes a rare Uranium mine and a large waterfall at the end of the canyon which we must pass under. The trip up is approx. 135 miles one way; with 24 miles on dirt road; the last 5 miles only passable with high clearance 4WD vehicles. Long pants and shirts, good traction foot gear required. During the winter months "black ice" may be present. LIMITED to 12 people and dependant on 3- 4WD vehicles. (If only 2 - 4WD vehicles are available we will be limited to 8 hikers). Hike 6 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; leave at 5:30 a.m.; driver donation \$12.00. John Rendall 825-9395

**Dec. 2 – Thu.** Florida Canyon to Old Baldy Trail. Rating A. We will leave a vehicle at the Santa Rita Agricultural Experimental Station. We will hike up the Super Trail and Old Baldy Trail to Baldy Saddle and then North down the ridge to Florida Saddle and the Experimental Station. Hikers should bring lunch, snacks, and a minimum of three quarts of water. Hike 11.2 miles; elevation change 3560 feet; starting elevation 5240 feet; leave at 6:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**Dec. 3 – Fri.** Rams Creek Basin Rating C We start from a little park in the Ramsfield Pass 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. We

take a short side trail into the basin to a watering tank (560 ft. elevation gain), then continue on to a water fall where we will have lunch. Return via same route. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation 2600 feet; leave at 10:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**\*\*Dec. 3 – Fri.** Rincon Peak. Rating A+. Betty Leavengood refers to this hike as the Ph.D. of hiking. Rincon Peak is the second highest peak in the Rincon Mountains located east of Tucson. An enormous rock cairn graces the summit. The views from the summit are worth the rigorous trek. Hike 16.2 miles; elevation change 4194 feet; starting elevation 4288 feet; leave at 5:00 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. Bill Leightenheimer, 818-1953.

**\*\*Dec. 3 – Fri.** GPS Class - 4; 8:00 a.m. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**Dec. 4 – Sat.** First Water/ Second Water Trail Loop. Rating B-. We start on the Dutchman Trail from the First Water Creek Trailhead, north of Apache Junction, in the Superstition Wilderness. After 4.2 miles, we turn onto the Black Mesa Trail. After another 1.5 miles, up a hill, we'll have lunch on a bluff, overlooking the heart of the Superstitions. Then on to the Second Water Trail and back to our trailhead. Numerous water crossings and boulders all along these trails, wonderful scenery. Hike 9.2 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 2,300 feet; leave 7:30; driver donation \$8.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**\*\*Dec. 5 – Sun.** Fifty Year Trail/Sutherland Trail (North from Catalina State Park). Rating C. We will start at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park and hike north to a stream terrace that gives a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area and the Santa Catalina Mountains. We will then hike down to the Sutherland Wash, take the Sutherland Cutoff Trail to the Sutherland Trail and head back to Catalina State Park. Hike 7.6 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

**Dec. 6 – Mon.** 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 7.5 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Dec. 7 – Tue.** 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 a.m.; driver donation \$6.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

**Dec. 8 – Wed.** Oracle State Park/Arizona Trail Work Day. 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 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. John Rendall 825-9395.

**Dec. 10 – Fri.** Charouleau Gap Road to the Gap. Rating B. **FOR "C" HIKERS.** Starting from below Unit 9, we will hike along the wash to the jeep road and then climb this road to the gap, which overlooks SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and the Tortolitas. The hike will be through desert area and then a steep climb with switchbacks to the gap. Return on the same road. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; altitude at the start 3200 feet; leave at 9:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**Dec. 13 – Mon.** 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 8:00 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Dec. 15 – Wed.** 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 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Wayne Kennedy, 818-1812.

**Dec. 15 – Wed.** Sycamore Canyon. Rating B+. This hike takes us through a beautiful canyon situated in the Pajarita Wilderness within the Coronado National Forest. We hike 7 miles(one way) to the Mexican border viewing canyon side walls, spirals and lush vegetation, while crossing creeks, up and down river rock, climbing around a few boulders and side walls. We will pass Hank and Yank's (Mule skinnners 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. Hike 14 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 4050 feet dropping to 3550 ft. at the border; leave at 6:00 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. John Rendall, 825-9395.

**Dec. 16 – Thu.** Soldier Trail. Rating B. Start at mile 1.3 pullout on Catalina Highway to Prison Camp and return. The first ½ mile is very steep. The gorge in Soldier Basin may have water flowing below some rugged cliffs. Views of the Tucson area. This trail was used in the 1800s as a cavalry passage into

the mountains. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1600 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$4.00. Sandra Sowell and Mary Croft, 818-0995.

**Dec. 17 – 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 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

**Dec. 18 – Sat.** 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 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**Dec. 18 – Sat.** Parker Canyon Lakeshore Trail. Rating C. This will be a very easy hike with no elevation change. We will walk the 5-mile trail around Parker Canyon Lake. There are several benches around the lake for watching waterfowl and for eating a snack. The lake is located 35 miles south of Sonoita. Leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$8.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**Dec. 19 – Sun.** Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C+. 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 a.m.; driver donation \$4.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

**Dec. 20 – Mon.** 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 7:30 a.m.; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

**Dec. 21 – Tue.** Sausalito Canyon to Honey Bee Canyon (upper). Rating D. This is a nice, nearby canyon hike with options to extend the hike within Honey Bee Canyon. The hike is approx. 4 mi. with minimal altitude change. 4WD vehicles are desirable and required near the end. We begin by driving 4.1 miles down Rail X Ranch Rd. and turning left on Sausalito Rd. for another 2 miles, taking the first spur to the left; the next spur

to the right; and then left at the next spur. We are now heading east, parallel with a fence which eventually turns south for a short distance to the end of the road and near a windmill and concrete dam. Bring water, lunch, snack, camera(optional), sun protection. Leave at 8:30 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

**Dec. 30 – Thu.** 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 a.m.; driver donation \$3.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

**\*\*Dec. 31 – Fri.** Pena Blanca Lake. Rating D. The lake is a little over a mile long and offers a lush quiet setting where you can go birding watching and hike the easy two mile trail around the shoreline. It is located 9.3 miles off Interstate 19, on State Route 289 west of Rio Rico. Leave 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$6:00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.