

SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<https://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2023



END OF AN ERA: KAREN GRAY RETIRES

Submitted by Ruth Caldwell



Karen Gray at March 17, 2023, Picnic

The end of an era: That is the best way to describe Karen Gray's announcement that she is retiring from guiding hikes for our club.

And it has been a long, positive, and impactful era of accomplishment in which Karen served our club as an elite guide for over 20 years. She has been one of our most popular and knowledgeable guides, sharing her expertise of regional geology to those who were on

one or several of the hundreds of hikes she led these past two decades. Her "lectures" during the hikes enhanced the total hike experience.

In addition to guiding, Karen has also taught geology through the Institute for Learning in Retirement program to further impart her knowledge to others and is an active volunteer at Catalina State Park. She also serves on our Picnic Committee.

Her contributions to the club have not gone unnoticed, with her selection as a 2022 Trailblazer awardee, given to a select group of members who, as the plaque inscription states: provide meritorious service above and beyond simply being a member of the hiking club, for performing duties greater than expected, and for exhibiting leadership that we all admire. This is the best description for what Karen has done.

Finally, at the March 17, 2023, picnic, Karen received a special certificate in appreciation for her service on the club's Board of Directors as Associate Chief Guide (2021 to 2022) and Senior Chief Guide (2022 to 2023).

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank you for your dedication and service to the club, Karen, Senior Guide, Emeritus!

MARK FLINT
OF SOUTHWEST TRAIL SOLUTIONS
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Submitted by Jim Solon

Ever really think about how that trail we love, that leads us to explore sites, sounds, and environment that amaze, came into existence? One that can stand the

test of time, weather, environment to be enjoyed now and into the future for all.

Mark Flint, the owner of Southwest Trail Design, based here in the Tucson area will join us on Wednesday, November 15, at 4 p.m. in the HOA #1 Activity Center – he will pull the curtain back on the important aspects that go into developing a successful trail system, that can sustain.

Mark and his colleagues (project lead Sirena Rana of Trails Inspire and trail builder Matt Roberts of Flagline Trails) recently were engaged by the Amerind Museum, to enhance their 1600-acre campus. Located in the ancestral homeland of the Chiricahua Apache. The team was challenged to develop a functional and sustainable trail network exploring the spectacular rock formations in the Dragoon Mountains of Southeast Arizona, known as Texas Canyon.



Mark is completely at peace and at home in nature! Mark has been designing, building, and maintaining trails since the early 1990's. He began in Oregon and moved to Southern Arizona in 1998, where he was involved in the design of the Arizona Trail. Since 2008, he has worked on sustainable trail design with his company. Other trail systems he has designed in Southern Arizona include a reroute of the 50-year Trail, 24 Hours in the Old Pueblo Race Course,

Tucson Mountain Park, Robles Pass, and the Sweetwater Preserve!

Mark describes his passions this way - "I'm a mountain biker, I'm a horseback rider, I'm a back packer, I'm a volunteer with the AZ trail veteran program - I see our trails, and the value they provide, from all different perspectives."

Back in April, The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club was invited to experience the newly developed hiking trails at the Amerind Museum campus. Tom Stafford, Jeff Love, and I met Mark to explore some of the newly groomed trails. We were able to hear firsthand about the process of developing a trail where none existed, coupled with the unique opportunities and challenges that the Amerind location presented!

These trails are planned to be opened to the public in October 2023, and will enhance an exciting Amerind Museum visit. Located just off the 1-10 between Benson and Wilcox, is just short of a two-hour drive from SaddleBrooke.

To learn more about Amerind, visit the website at <https://www.amerind.org>

To learn more about Southwest Trail Solutions, visit the website at <https://setrailsolutions.com>

SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB TRIP
PAGE, ARIZONA
April 16-18, 2024
Submitted by Dale Leman

There has been a robust response from our hiking club members for the Page trip. To ensure we have enough guides for all those who wish to participate we have established a cap of 90 participants. We have reached that cap and have started a waitlist (currently 15 on the list).

On past trips we have experienced quite a few cancellations before the trip date (no surprise, we are an older group, dynamics change, and the trip is months away). Thus, these totals may change. Please notify us if you are on the travel list or waitlist and your plans have changed, or if you wish to join the waitlist.

Thank you. Dale Leman, Trip Leader.

Page, Arizona, was chosen for the Club's Spring 2024 Hiking Club trip. Hiking dates will be April 16, 17, and 18, 2024.

The city lies 384 miles north of SaddleBrooke, about a 6-hour drive. Average high temperature in April ranges from 65-70 degrees, and average low range from 35-40 degrees. The area gets little rain. We anticipate Ideal hiking weather.

The area around Page offers many hiking opportunities at all levels, from easy walks to more difficult hikes. Ruth Caldwell agreed to manage the hikes and coordinate with our volunteer hiking guides.

The final hiking schedule will be emailed to all participants. The schedule will be determined by the number of hikers and the number of guides. The schedule will include a hike description, hike difficulty (A, B, C, or D), distance, elevation gain, meet up time, meet up location, etc. Sign up for hikes will be approximately two months before the trip. Also, many excursions are available in the area for non-hikers.

The area offers numerous lodging options from major chains to camping and RV options. We have not designated a specific hotel for this event - each participant will make their own arrangements. Most participants will want to arrive on Monday, April 15, and depart Friday, April 19.

There will be a pre-trip potluck in early April. At that event hiking guides will be available to answer your questions about the hikes. Ruth Leman will coordinate the potluck and communicate with participants in advance.

We are planning an optional hiking Club dinner while in Page. More information will be sent out in the future, regarding time, location, and date.

Signup procedure for this trip

Once you have made your lodging arrangements, email Dale Leman - SBHCPage@gmail.com - with the following information:

- 1) Your name (and the name of your travelling companion).
- 2) Your email address (and that of your travelling companion).

- 3) Your cell phone number (and that of your travelling companion).
- 4) Your lodging information (hotel, campground, RV park, etc.).
- 5) All the above information for any non-member guests planning to participate in hiking.

After the information is entered in the registrants' list, Dale Leman will send a confirmation email. Please be aware we may need to cap the number of participants. That decision will be made when we know how many guides sign up to lead hikes. In accordance with Club policy, signups will be accepted in the order received, including any non-member guests (must be with a resident who is a club member). SaddleBrooke residents must be club members if they plan to sign up for hikes.

If your plans change after you have signed up, please email Dale Leman at the email shown above so our participant list is up to date.

We look forward to an enjoyable Club trip to Page.

RIGHT OF WAY REMINDERS

Submitted by Ruth Caldwell



The hiking season is upon us! Know the "Rules of the Road" for a great hike.

Here's a quick breakdown of what you need to know:

1. Everyone stops for horses. Whether you are on a bike, walking, or using any other sort of trail transportation, you are directed to stop for equestrians. Horses take up a lot of room on the trail and may be subject to spooking, which makes

giving them space important from a safety standpoint.

2. Bikers yield to everyone. When operated in a fast and careless manner, bikes can pose a major risk to everyone on the trail due to their size, speed, and inability to stop quickly in all situations. Because of this, they should be operated with caution on multi-use trails. That is not to say a faster biker cannot overtake another trail user, but this should be done in a safe and courteous manner.
3. Those on foot only yield to horses, but there is nothing wrong with extending that to others when the time is right. Because hikers tend to require much less momentum to keep moving, the courteous thing to do can be to let bikers and other faster trail users pass when safe and appropriate. If you are a hiker and you happen to hear the bell of a biker coming your way, anticipate their arrival and, if possible, let them pass without disrupting their flow.
4. Downhill users yield to uphill users. Everyone knows that the uphill grind is tough – these trail users need to maintain their momentum. It is also often much easier to stay in control while moving uphill versus downhill and it's safer if the slower, uphill trail user is the one making the pass in this type of situation.
5. Faster users yield to slower users. There's nothing wrong with passing people on the trail, but it should be done so in a courteous manner. Give people a heads up you are making a pass by calling ahead or by using a bell. Give others adequate time to move to the side of the trail, even if this requires coming to a full stop. When alerted from behind an approaching trail user many can react with shock, making their movements less predictable for a brief moment. Give them space.
6. Be respectful to all trail users. Communication is key to avoiding conflicts when it comes to right-of-way. Let the trail users ahead of you know what you're doing (for example, say "passing on your right"). Be willing to slow down to make a safe pass. If it makes sense for another person to pass you, let them do so without difficulty or conflict.

7. Avoid stepping off the trail. When passing or getting passed, it is easy to justify taking a few steps off the trail, especially in the age of social distancing. Try to avoid doing this when possible and safe, as stepping off of the trail can damage the surrounding terrain and can be a factor in trail erosion.

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Submitted by Larry Linderman

Early last May, Jackie and I decided to begin our annual summer RV sojourn in the Chiricahua National Monument - just 2-1/2 hours by car southeast of Tucson near the town of Wilcox. Campground spots fill early, but we were lucky enough to get three consecutive nights in that popular monument.



We had both been there before, once with the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club and once by ourselves. It is a marvelous place, mostly known for the strange and some would say eerie hoodoos and balancing rock formations. In addition, it has 17 miles of hiking trails, an 8-mile scenic drive, and a remnant of early European settlers called Faraway Ranch.

When in the Chiricahua's, we were aware that all the buildings and trails were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. They were created by the Roosevelt Administration and enacted by Congress in the deepest part of the Depression. The CCC employed between three and four million young men who were sent to camps across the country to build trails, roads, lodges, outhouses, impoundments, and other improvements which are still visible today - ninety-years later. For their labors the men were given

room and board, medical care, schooling, and were paid \$30 per month (\$25 of which was sent home to their families).

The entire monument encompasses 12,025 acres, 84% of which is designated as Wilderness. The Wilderness Act was passed in 1964 and it allows Congress to designate any parcel of federal land it sees fit as wilderness - a designation which protects the land from any exploitation such as mining, lumbering, etc. This ethic is best described with the following quote from the Act: *"A wilderness in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."* Wilderness Act, 1964.

In 2022, there was an effort in Congress to make the Chiricahua National Monument a national park, as only Congress can create a national park. The bill passed the Senate, but it did not get a hearing in the House. It was reintroduced in 2023, but no action has been taken so far.

If a monument is changed to a national park, the visiting population increases dramatically. In 2018, there were 60,500 visitors to the Chiricahuas. Subtract the Wilderness area of 84% and you have just under 2,000 acres to accommodate the thousands more of potential visitors, so it could be difficult to gain entry to the Chiricahua's.

So, our advice is this: visit the Chiricahua National Monument while you can. You can still get a campsite as we did; or it is close enough to SaddleBrook to drive to Wilcox, get a motel, and be a 20-minute drive away from one of the most beautiful and historically significant national monuments in the West.

Good hiking! - Larry & Jackie

HIKER CASUAL CANCELLATIONS

AND 😞 NO SHOWS -
A GUIDE'S DILEMMA

Submitted by Rob Simms

Going on a Hike Part I: A lot "happens" behind the scenes before the bi-monthly hike list is published and members are invited to select outings. Our volunteer guides plan their schedule, select hikes, and reserve

that time in support of club activities weeks in advance.

As we all know, there is a flurry of activity to reserve spots when the schedule is published. Many hikes quickly fill and guides often begin "wait lists" in case of cancellations. Everything is wrapped up days to weeks before the actual hike date. By the way, did the hikes you selected get noted on your personal calendar? If your plans change early-on and you need to cancel, please contact the guide as soon as possible. It affords other members the opportunity to participate.

Going on a Hike Part II: Several days to a week before the hike most guides send out a "pre-hike" email, noting the start/departure time, the likely weather, the need for drivers, etc. Please confirm your participation; and importantly, let the guide know immediately if your plans have unexpectedly changed. There may be a waitlist, and fellow members could fill that slot.

The most difficult scenario for guides and other members is a "No Show" on the day of the hike. It delays the departure for everyone and puts an unnecessary burden on the guide to "reach out" to the missing hiker.

Please communicate any changes in your hiking plans to guides as soon as possible. Your SBHC guides (and colleagues) appreciate that consideration. Thank you.

WELCOME NEW SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB MEMBERS

Submitted by Dianna Wilson

A warm welcome to the following new members. We are happy to have you join the Club.

Barbara Casey
Paul Casey
Junus DaRugna
Linda DaRugna
George Delzell
Hara Lipman
Jayne Poppet
Bryan Silva

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. *First-time* members joining the Club in October, November, or December will receive

memberships through the current year and the next membership year. If you are unsure of your membership status, you may look it up in the “Contact” tab of our website or contact:

diwilson1life@gmail.com

Page, AZ	April 16-18, 2024	Dale Leman
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Future Trips		
Destination	Dates	Contact Person

News You Can Use		
Fall Picnic Catalina State Park Gila Monster Picnic Area	11/3 Fri.	11:30 A.M.
AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: Mountain View Lot	11/18 Wed.	7:30 A.M. - Noon
Club Program HOA 1 – Activity Center	11/15 Wed.	4:00 P.M.
SBHC Board Meeting HOA 1 – Coyote Room	12/6 Wed.	2:00 P.M.
SBHC Guide Meeting HOA 1 - Coyote Room	12/6 Wed.	3:30 P.M.

Hiking Information

HIKE RATINGS, PACE AND ELEVATION CHANGE

Ratings

Ratings are based on the following round-trip distances and accumulated gains in elevation over the course of the hike. The hike rating is determined by one (or both) of the two values being exceeded. For example, if a hike exceeds the criterion for distance but not for corresponding elevation, the rating would be set for distance. In the hike descriptions that follow, both parameter values are exceeded for some hikes. However, that does not necessarily justify a higher combined rating.

Hike Rating	Distance (miles)	Accumulated Elevation Gain (feet)
A	>14	>3000
B	>8 to 14	>1500 to 3000
C	>4 to 8	>500 to 1500
D	≤4	≤500

Special Conditions

***Some hikes may have special conditions that make a hike more difficult than the mileage/elevation gain rating would suggest. This could be due to unusual trail conditions, such as a very rocky trail, large steps up or down, or more exposure (steep banks or a cliff) which are present. These hikes are denoted with three asterisks beside the letter rating and will be repeated in the hike description with an explanation. When hikers sign up for a hike with the symbol *** they should clarify with the guide about the special condition to determine if the hike is right for them.

Pace

Pace for our hikes is described in terms of the moving average speed in miles per hour (MPH) over the course of a hike. The overall average speed is much more variable, depending on the number and duration of rest breaks and lunch, and the condition of a particular trail (smooth and flat versus rocky and steep). The following four categories are used to describe pace in the hike descriptions. The following four categories are used to describe pace in the newsletter:

Pace	Moving Average Speed (MPH)
Leisurely	<1.5
Slow	1.5 to <2.0
Moderate	2.0 to <2.5
Fast	≥2.5

Elevation Change

Three indicators are used in the hike descriptions to convey hike difficulty as it relates to elevation change:

Net Elevation Change is generally the change in elevation obtained by subtracting the starting elevation from the highest (or lowest) point reached during the course of the hike, in feet. This estimate may be obtained from USGS maps or a global positioning system (GPS). If no destination is listed, which may be the case for loop hikes or point-to-point hikes, net change is defined as the difference between the trailhead elevation and the highest elevation reached during the hike. If net elevation lost between the trailhead and the destination, a minus sign is used to show that elevation is lost. If an elevation profile is available, which applies in this database to mostly the Arizona Trail hikes for which GPS tracks have been generated, the net elevation change is the difference between the highest and lowest points along the trail.

Accumulated Gain is the sum of all upward stretches of a hike as recorded by a GPS device over the course of the entire hike. Accumulated elevation gain is always a more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation.

Accumulated Loss, another measure of hike difficulty, is the sum of all downward stretches of a hike. Accumulated elevation loss is useful for some downhill hikes and is usually obtained with a GPS device.

A cursory critique of the definition for “net elevation change” reveals that it is vague and imprecise and provides limited insight into trail difficulty, which is more accurately described in terms of accumulated gain or loss (parameters that are measured by GPSs). However, accumulated gain/loss information is unavailable for many hikes in the database, so net change has, for the time being, been retained because it is the only statistic available.

Accumulated gains are always greater than net elevation changes, except for point-to-point hikes where the destination is at a lower elevation than trailhead elevation. In this case, the accumulated gain could be much lower than the net elevation change. A good example of this is the hike from the top of Mt. Lemmon to Catalina State Park, which actually results in little gain but rather a significant accumulated loss. For loop and out-and-back hikes, accumulated elevation gains are usually greater, sometimes much greater, than net elevation changes.

Hikes Offered

Wednesday, November 1, Wild Horse Canyon. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [483, 07:00 AM, \$8]. The hike begins at the east end of Speedway at the Wild Horse Trailhead, just before the Douglas Springs Trailhead, and passes through part of the cactus forest of the Saguaro National Park – East and into the foothills of the Rincon Mountains. The destination is a small pool and dam in Wild Horse Canyon. Wild

Horse Canyon is a rugged and beautiful canyon that can be reached by using a combination of several trails. There are excellent views along the way of the Santa Catalina and Tucson Mountains, and most of the Tucson valley. Hike 6.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1600 feet; accumulated gain 696 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 1, Tucson Downtown Mural Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [541, 08:00 AM, \$5]. Fun walk around an area of downtown Tucson and north to University. We will visit over 4 dozen beautiful murals along the way. We will also pass the Ronstadt House and the Historic YWCA. Great way to acquaint yourself with Tucson! We will end with lunch at the Cup Cafe in the Historic Congress Hotel. Walk 4 mi, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation change < 50 ft, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 mi. [Guide: Kathy Minx, kminx@longrealty.com.]

Thursday, November 2, Catalina Hills Cleanup Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [141, 09:00 AM, \$0]. Volunteers are needed for the Trash Cleanup Walk for Catalina Hills Drive which is part of the Arizona Adopt A Highway Program. This is a community service that our club provides for SaddleBrooke and for Arizona. The walk will only take an hour to an hour and a half of your time. Trash bags and safety vests are provided by the Pinal County Highway Dept. Volunteers should wear long pants and shirts and bring gloves. A pickup stick will be provided. Volunteers will meet in the usual location at the MVCC parking lot. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Friday, November 3, Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [172, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be 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. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Terry McCarthy t.mccarthy410@gmail.com]

Friday, November 3, SBHC Fall Picnic at Catalina State Park [Gila Monster Picnic Area @ 11:30am]

Monday, November 6, Bug Spring Trail No.1. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [125, 08:00 AM, \$9]. From the Lower Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile up the Catalina Highway from Hirabayashi Campground), the hike proceeds southeast along a narrow ribbon of trail carved into the granite hillside. After an uphill set of switchbacks, the terrain mellows out with outstanding vistas and views of granite sculptures. The trail dives down the north side of the ridge into a heavily forested drainage. Upward to the highpoint of the trail, you can see a few big madrone trees and views of the Sierrita Mountains, Baboquivari and the mighty Rincons. The trail descends steeply to the Upper Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile south of General Hitchcock Campground), which is the turnaround point. Return is via the same trail. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change 1625 feet; accumulated gain 2270 feet; RTD 94 miles. [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com]

Monday, November 6, Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Bluff Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [427, 07:45 AM, \$6]. From the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, the hike proceeds along the Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake Canyon trails to the Bluff Trail overlooking Sabino Creek, and is a favorite with views of the canyon and Sabino Creek with velvet ash, cottonwood, willow, and Arizona sycamore trees. Our break will be at the Sabino Dam. We will finish on the Bajada Nature loop with a beautiful crested saguaro. Bring a camera and plenty of water and a snack. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2705 feet; net elevation

change 240 feet; accumulated gain 367 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, email: bflandeck@gmail.com]

Monday, November 6, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Terry McCarthy (404) 617-7286 e-mail: t.mccarthy410@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 7, Sabino Canyon - Bear Canyon Loop (no Tram). Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [374, 06:00 AM, \$6]. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, hikers follow the Phone Line and Sabino Canyon Trails to the East Fork intersection, the East Fork to the Bear/Sycamore intersection and then the Bear Canyon Trail past Seven Falls, back to the Visitor Center. We may have to revise the route if the stream is high in Bear Canyon. This is a very scenic hike on good trails. Hike 17.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 2683 feet; accumulated gain 3070 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 7, Garwood Dam/Wildhorse Tank Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [198, 08:00 AM, \$8]. From the end of Speedway on the east side of Tucson we enter Saguaro National Park East. Following several trail that circle Wildhorse Trail (but never actually on it) we make our way south to a junction with the Garwood Trail and turn south to visit the site of the old Garwood Dam. We then take Carillo Trail to intersection with the Wildhorse Trail turning south to reach the pools of Wildhorse Tank. We return on the Garwood Trail to resume our loop hike back to the parking area. After the hike we will have lunch at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch which is across the street from our parking area. Limited to 8 hikers. Bring plenty of water and a snack. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2770; net elevation change 470 feet; accumulated gain 740 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Wednesday, November 8, Josephine Saddle via Super Trail and Vault Mine Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [239, 08:00 AM, \$13]. The hike begins in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the gentle Super Trail to Josephine Saddle. We then take the Agua Caliente Trail across and return via Vault Mine Trail. The Vault Mine Trail is very steep going down. The hike may be done in reverse. The trail is mostly in the shade. Hike 7.9 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 130 miles. There is a fee for parking unless you have a National Park Pass that must be displayed. [Guide: Melia Knecht, melia.knechtak1@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 8, Flag, Dome Rock and Extension Trail. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [548, 08:00 AM, \$0].** This hike has been given *** due to several steep climbs along the route. Be prepared to climb; it will get you breathing heavily and your heart pumping. This hike begins on the Double Crested/Dome Trail from the south end of S Arroyo Way in Unit 21. We will meet at Mountain View and carpool to the trailhead. Please do not drive to the trailhead. We cross Canada del Oro Wash, and then follow the newly developed route east through a small wash, and along several ridgelines. The route breaks off of the Dome Rock Trail and goes north to the Flag Hill Lookout. After a short break the hike continues east meeting up with the Dome Extension Trail. At the intersection of the Extension Trail the hike progresses north and east along the ridgeline and around to the back side of Dome Rock. After a short break on The Dome we return towards the trailhead. On the return we pass a rare double crested saguaro registered with the Crested Saguaro Society. On top of the Flag Hill Lookout and Dome Rock there are great 360-degree views of Saddlebrooke and Catalina. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Tom Stafford, tominpoint@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 9, Arizona Trail: Redington Pass - La Milagrosa Ridge Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [62, 07:30 AM, \$9]. The hike begins at Molino Basin Campground on the Catalina Hwy and involves traversing a portion of AZT Passage 10. We hike south on the Arizona Trail, traversing 600 feet up the Molino Ridge (high point el. 4800 feet). It is mostly down hill as we reach the junction for the Milagrosa Ridge Trail, and continue along an up-and-down ridge to the vehicles at Horsehead Road (near Soldier Trail Road). There are great views along the way of the valley and sheer rock walls of Milagrosa and Agua Caliente Canyons. The trail is mostly good with a few rocky areas. Cars will need to be left at Horsehead Road (el. 2700 feet) and driven back to Molino Basin, 7 miles away. Hike 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4300 feet; net elevation change minus 1600 feet; accumulated gain 900 feet; elevation loss 2500 feet; RTD 88 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com]

Thursday, November 9, Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [124, 07:00 AM, \$7]. The Brown Mountain Trail is along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts at a trailhead on McCain Loop Road, just south of Kinney Road east of the Arizona Sonoran 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; trailhead elevation 2700 (trailheads at either end are 2640 and 2880) feet; net elevation change 424 feet; accumulated gain 943 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

Friday, November 10, American Flag. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [8, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at the American Flag Trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers take the American Flag/Cody Trail to its intersection with the Oracle Ridge Trail, where there are great views to the west of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas. On the return, we may swing by the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. Hike 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 995 feet; accumulated gain 1267 feet; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Bruce J Olson 920-205-6963 brucej0506@gmail.com]

Monday, November 13, Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs loop from Golder Ranch. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [186, 08:00 AM, \$2].** This hike begins at Golder Ranch. It takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash. The Sutherland Wash Rock Art District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and beautiful vistas of Pusch Ridge. ***The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail, some rock scrambling, and a short section of mild bushwhacking. There are also two crossings of a wash which may involve some easy rock-hopping depending on the season. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest in the shade of some giant boulders at one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 250 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 10 miles. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. Starting the hike from this parking location avoids the need for high clearance vehicles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Monday, November 13, Sweetwater Preserve (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [507, 09:00 AM, \$6]. The trailhead is at the end of Tortolita Road, one mile off El Camino del Cerro. The 703-acre preserve is in the Tucson Mountains (this is not the Sweetwater Trail which leads to Wasson Peak.) There is a system of trails within the park made in 2008 by a crew of Piima County trail builders. It consists of 12 distinct loops and paths that interconnect so they can be linked together. Each trail is 0.5 to 1.5 miles in

length. A map of the area may be found on the website (www.sdmdb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html). Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2464 feet; net elevation change 220 feet; accumulated gain 310 feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, 520-404-8998, waltshields@mac.com.]

Tuesday, November 14, Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [481, 08:00 AM, \$6]. The hike begins at the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro (the west extension of Ruthruff Road) on the east side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike on the Sweetwater Trail 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 up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. There is little shade along the way. Bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 9.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 1887; accumulated gain 2329 feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

Tuesday, November 14, Middle Gate Meander. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [524, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This is a pleasant hike from the Upper Corral parking lot to the Middle Gate using mostly social trails. The route largely avoids the busy 50 Year trail except for a 0.4 mile stretch. This is a relatively flat hike with great, open views of Samaniego, Pusch, and Baby Jesus Ridges. Hike 4.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 160 feet; accumulated gain 290 feet; RTD 10 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: "The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land." Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 15, Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [87, 07:30 AM, \$4 Paid by club]. Come and join the fun — it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain the "Oracle Passage" section of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. This 6.5 mile section starts at the American Flag TH, ambles through washes and across low ridges speckled with high desert plants just east of Oracle State Park south to Highway 77. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, pruning, building cairns and developing/clearing erosion control devices. Bring along defensive clothing, gloves, hat, sunscreen, and water. Tools, hard hats and refreshments will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 3.5 hours. Hike 3-4 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$4 driver donation. [Guide: Seana Kobak, seanabk88@gmail.com, or Ray Peale, ray.peale@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 15, SBHC Program @4pm HOA#1 Activity Center

Thursday, November 16, Tanque Verde Ridge Trail - Part Way. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [444, 07:00 AM, \$8]. The hike begins at the Javalina picnic area in Saguaro National Park – East, and is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We hike east up to and along the Tanque Verde Ridge and turn around at about 3 miles (by a crested saguaro.) The hike is somewhat steep at some points, but there are great photo stops along the way. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 1646 feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 16, Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. This hike can be done on north side trail in-out or as a loop around Alamo Canyon going up one side and returning down the other (clockwise or counter-clockwise). Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is generally gradual. The south-side trail traverses several rocky washes. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. There is a very scenic large flat-rock area above the falls. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no significant water crossings. Hikers may stop by the Romero Ruins and

take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 429 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Rob Simms ... Spartan7375@gmail.com]

Friday, November 17, Barrio Viejo Cultural & Historic Walking Tour, Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 9:00 AM, \$5]. An interesting walk thru Barrio Viejo; the largest 19th century collection of adobe buildings and best preserved Barrio in the United States. This will be a cultural & historical walk; through neighborhood residences, art studios and galleries, and markets-restaurants. Along the way we will see colorful murals and shrines both old and new. Key landmarks include; Teatro Carmen, El Pacque de San Cosme, El Tiradito, The Wishing Shrine, and location of early Tucsons Public Baths & Gardens. The walk will leave Saddlebrooke and begin at the 5 Points Market in Barrio Viejo. We will take a lunch break at one of the local eateries. Our walk is 3.5 miles, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation gain 50 feet, accumulated gain 50 ft. RTD 50 Mi. [Guide: Carol Olson 920-277-7687 carolson3855@gmail.com]

Friday, November 17, CCP Chutes Gem and Cowboy Slickrock, Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [New, 08:00 AM, \$0] From Catalina County Park, just south of Miraval Resort, we will follow some local trails that approach Miraval, then turn southeast to climb up to The Chutes network of trails, connect to the Gem trail, the 50 Year Trail, the Cowboy Slickrock trail, and finally to a view of Hidden Canyon. At about 3.5 miles we will stop for a snack and return on a similar route. Hike 7.0 miles, accumulated gain 800 feet. RTD 5 miles. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Guide: Susan Hollis and Randy Park, rparktucson@gmail.com]

Monday, November 20, Pair O' Chutes. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [540, 08:00 AM, \$4]. Nice hike with some rolling hills from the Upper Corral parking area. This hike combines a couple of the "Chutes" trails in the northwestern part of the 50 Year trail area. There are great views of the Catalina mountains as we hike north before circling back along a ridge and then return on a trail alongside some beautiful juniper trees. This hike begins and ends on Arizona State Trust Land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. Hike 4.0 mi, trailhead elevation 3260 ft., net elevation change 175 ft., accumulated gain 340 ft. RTD 10 mi (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 21, Tour de Tortolitas: Loop of Alamo Springs Trail, Ridgeline Trail, Loop Trail, Wild Burro, and Wild Mustang Trail. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [171, 06:00 AM, \$4]. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through Wild Burro wash and Lower Javalina Trail to Alamo Spring Trail. Follow Alamo Springs Trail to the Ridgeline Trail. Return on the Loop Trail, a segment of the Wild Burro Trail, and the Wild Mustang Trail, returning to the parking lot down the Upper Javelina Trail and Hotel spur trail. Hike 15.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3000; net elevation change 1449 feet; accumulated gain 3216 feet; RTD 44 miles [Guide: Margaret Valair mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 21, Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [172, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be 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. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 475 feet; accumulated gain 475 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 21, History Hike: The Sutherlands. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate. [8:00 am, \$2]

From the Catalina State Park north gate, the hike proceeds into CSP to see the adobe remains of William H. Sutherland's homestead, his hand-dug well, and nearby old Rail N corrals and signed water trough. The group then drives north to E. Equestrian Trail road to hike into Sutherland Wash to see the Cottonwoods (Mystery) Dam and the down-stream stone reservoir (William Ray Sutherland). The sites of Frank's and William Ray's homesteads will also be noted. Local historian (and longtime hiking club member) Bob Simpson will be providing narration during the hike. NOTE: This hike will depend on a sufficient number of drivers with high clearance vehicles for the road to the north entrance of Catalina State Park. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. Hike approx. two miles with minimal elevation gain, trailhead elevation 3,200 ft. RTD 10 miles. [Guide: Terry McCarthy t.mccarthy410@gmail.com (404) 617-7286]

Wednesday, November 22, Painted Hills: Tucson Mountains. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 9:00 AM, \$5].

This hike is a loop traverse around the Painted Hills Preserve which is a pretty park off Anklam Road on the westside of Tucson. Here we will also climb up & back on spur trails to these two summits, Bactrian Summit (140 feet to 2760', .4 mile extra) & Recoil Peak (85 feet to 2705', .4 mile extra). This is a pleasant morning trek to a new area for our club to hike in the Tucson Mountains. Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2583 feet; net elevation differential 200 feet; accumulated gain 535 feet; RTD 53 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg askus3@centurylink.net]

Monday, November 27, Fifty-Year Trail Area Loop – Long Version. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [185, 08:00 AM, \$4].

The hike begins at the Lower Corral then follows Middle Gate trail to the Grand Junction. Hikers proceed north on the Middle Gate trail to the Middle Gate/Upper Fifty Year trail intersection in the Sutherland Wash. At that point the route goes north on the Upper Fifty Year trail, passing a classic crested saguaro as the trail climbs steeply up a ridge. This portion of the hike is a difficult 0.8 mile stretch - very steep with loose rock. The lunch spot is a large flat slick rock area near the top of the Upper Fifty Year loop. The return is via the west side of the Fifty-Year Trail loop. There are beautiful saguaros and rock formations, in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 425 feet; accumulated gain 934 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 28, Picket Post Loop Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [530, 07:30am AM, \$15].

This scenic trail loops around Picket Post Mountain near Superior, AZ. The first half of the hike features an undulating desert landscape with large saguaros and granite formations, against the backdrop of the towering and colorful cliffs of Picket Post Mountain. The second half journeys through Telegraph Canyon, a seasonal wetland with grasses, perennials, and a canopy of giant cottonwood and willow trees, perhaps one of the best riparian habitats in southern Arizona. We will pass ancient grinding holes, and boulders a hundred feet in diameter that have fallen from the shear cliffs above. Although classified as an easy B level hike according to distance, the accumulated gain is moderate, making this suitable for any strong C level hiker. See video, <https://www.relive.cc/view/vMv8QLD1yNO> Hike 9.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation change 482 feet; accumulated gain 787 feet; RTD 146 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com]

Wednesday, November 29, Rams Creek Basin Short Version Rating: C. Pace: Slow [NEW, 09:00 AM, \$2] This is a shorter version of the popular Rams Creek Basin hike but it affords most of the same beautiful scenery. From the Rams Creek subdivision, we hike up a canyon with stands of giant saguaros and stunning mountain views. There are several steep sections which are suitable for strong D hikers or C hikers. Poles are recommended. At the top of the climb there is a large water tank where we turn around. The return is by a slightly different route. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2,600 feet; net elevation change 523 feet; accumulated gain 563 feet; RTD 21 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Thursday, November 30, Bridal Wreath Falls Loop. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [119, 07:00 AM, \$8]**. The Douglas Spring Trailhead is located at the east end of Speedway Blvd. The hike involves some relatively steep climbing up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles, before turning off on the 0.3 mile spur leading to the falls.*** The trail is well used and easy to follow, but does require some rock scrambling to reach the falls. We return via the Douglas Spring trail for 0.3 miles, and then take the Three Tanks Trail to the Garwood Trail that joins the Douglas Spring Trail only 0.3 mile from the trailhead. Water may be flowing over the falls if there has been sufficient rainfall. Hike 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1050 feet; accumulated gain 1368 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

Thursday, November 30, Stone House Ruins and Rancheria Spring Loop. Rating C*. Pace: Moderate. [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$0]**. The Trailhead is located at the south end of S. Desert Sky Lane in the Preserve. We will carpool from the usual meeting spot at Mountain View. Please do not drive to the Trailhead location. This is an out and back hike with a short loop in the middle. The special condition designation of *** for this hike is due to the steep climb up the bare rock surface to the top of Titanic Rock. The trail begins by following the route up to the top of Titanic Rock where you have great views of the Preserve, Biosphere and CDO. After taking a short break on the top of Titanic Rock, the hike continues east for about a mile to the remnants of an old stone structure presumably used by ranchers working the foothills of the Catalinas. From the Ruins the hike loops around to Rancheria Spring. Rancheria Spring, while still containing water, had been used as a water source for cattle and other desert animals. The Spring can be found on maps as far back as the 1920s. The hike continues back to Titanic Rock and loops around the south side of Titanic Rock meeting up with the original route. The hike then returns to the trailhead at Desert Sky Lane. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3285 feet; net elevation change 693 feet; accumulated gain 827 feet. RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Tom Stafford tominpoint@gmail.com]

Friday, December 1, History Hike: Charouleau Ranch and Dodge Tank. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate. [NEW, 9:00 AM, \$1]**. Learn the history of Pierre Charouleau's Cañada del Oro Ranch dating from the early 1880s. From Edwin Road see the new vineyard on the Ranch's southwest corner before parking near the adobe remains known locally (and incorrectly) as "the old stagecoach stop." Hike up scenic Dodge Wash to Charouleau's double-walled dam/reservoir (today called Dodge Tank). See the dramatic alteration in terrain resulting from later dam modifications by Lloyd Golder III. Climb to the top of Edwin Road with beautiful views of the rugged and rocky Dodge Canyon area and north to Biosphere 2.***Portions of the hike require significant boulder scrambling and traversing slopes made slippery by loose decomposed granite. Only persons with good balance and body strength, preferably with experience in this type of hiking, should apply. Hike narration provided by local historian (and longtime club member) Bob Simpson. Hike approximately 2.0 miles. Elevation gain 212 feet. [Terry McCarthy t.mccarthy410@gmail.com]

Monday, December 4, Sweetwater Trail to the Saddle. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [434, 08:00 AM, \$6]. The hike begins from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson

Mountains. The trail passes through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there are good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. The hike reaches a saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon Trail and returns. The King Canyon Trail, an alternate route to Wasson Peak, leads up from the Desert Museum on the west side of the Tucsons. We will have lunch at the saddle before heading back to the trailhead. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 60 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com]

Monday, December 4, Tucson Downtown Mural Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [541, 08:00 AM, \$5]. Fun walk around an area of downtown Tucson and north to University. We will visit over 4 dozen beautiful murals along the way. We will also pass the Ronstadt House and the Historic YWCA. Great way to acquaint yourself with Tucson! We will end with lunch at the Cup Cafe in the Historic Congress Hotel. Walk 4 mi, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation change < 50 ft, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 mi. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, December 5, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Rob Simms ... Spartan7375@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 6, Board of Directors Meeting [2pm-3:30pm in the Catalina Room in HOA #1 downstairs]

Wednesday, December 6, Guide Meeting [3:30pm-5pm in the Catalina Room in HOA #1 downstairs]

Thursday, December 7, Hutch's Pool. Rating: B*. Pace: Moderate [227, 07:15 AM, \$6 + \$15 tram].** Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram (\$15 fee required) to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon. After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon, the trail is mostly level but involves several stream crossings along the East and West Forks before reaching the pool. ***Some boulder hopping may be necessary depending on seasonal rains and winter snow melt on Mt. Lemmon. During periods of heavy rain or significant snow melt, the crossings can be difficult. Ask the guide about current stream flow conditions. This lovely hike will take the group to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees, which is a great place for a snack or lunch. The return is via the same route to the trailhead to catch the tram. Hike 8.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 550 feet; accumulated gain 1386 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

Thursday, December 7, Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Tucson. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [517, 09:00 AM, \$5]. Tucson has a unique and colorful history. This walking tour begins at the Mercado where we will take the trolley into the downtown area to walk the "Turquoise Trail." The trail encompasses many of the historical buildings and sites that define Tucson. We will visit the newly opened Tucson Visitors Center and its cultural displays. The tour is 2.8 miles and will last approximately 3 hours. At the conclusion we will take the trolley back to the Mercado and enjoy traditional local cuisine. The tour will be limited to 16. RTD 51 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

Friday, December 8, OSP Arizona Trail/Windmill Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [512, 08:00 AM, \$3]. From the Arizona Trail parking lot at Highway 77 and Tiger Mine Road, we follow the Arizona Trail 1 mile south to the Windmill Loop. The Windmill loop follows a 2 mile scenic ridgeline (with abundant

wildflowers and mariposa lilies in the spring) to Kannally Wash. We follow the wash 1 mile west to the Windmill. From the Windmill we hike the Arizona Trail 2.7 miles north to the parking lot at 77. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation: 3741 feet; 1214 ascent; 1145 descent; 524 elevation change. RTD 32 miles. [Guide: Bruce J Olson 920-205-6963 brucej0506@gmail.com]

Monday, December 11, Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [170, 08:00 AM, \$8]. Hikers drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the Douglas Spring Trailhead. The hike involves moderately some steep hiking on a well-used trail to the campground. Coming back we may take the spur out and back to Bridal Wreath Falls, and follow Douglas Spring Trail back to the trailhead. The trails are mostly open, so bring sun protection. Bring lunch. Hike 13.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 2165 feet; accumulated gain 2684 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

Monday, December 11, Middle Tank/Baby Jesus Trails Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [167, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The hike begins at Lower Corral then follows Middle Gate trail to Grand Junction. From there it follows the Deer Camp Trail for 0.16 miles to the Middle Tank Trail on the right. Follow the trail south until it ends at the Baby Jesus Trail; turn north which leads back to the trailhead. The area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 650 feet; accumulated gain 1126 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). A medium to high clearance vehicle is required for driving on the Forest Service road beyond N. Equestrian Trail. This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Monday, December 11, Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. This hike can be done on north side trail in-out or as a loop around Alamo Canyon going up one side and returning down the other (clockwise or counter-clockwise). Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is generally gradual. The south-side trail traverses several rocky washes. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. There is a very scenic large flat-rock area above the falls. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no significant water crossings. Hikers may stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 429 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, December 12, History Hike: The Dams of SaddleBrooke. Pace: Moderate. [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$0]. Meet at the Mountain View Parking area. We will carpool to the Trailhead. Please do not drive yourself to the trailhead. From the south end of S. Desert Sky Lane, we will hike to the top of old Golder Dam and see the emergency spillway, hydraulic controls, and great views. Learn the dam's history and see old photos of Golder Lake. Descend to the Canada del Oro to Pierre Charouleau's masonry of the 1880s and learn its history. Hike is approximately one mile; 200 feet elevation gain. **** rating due to short steep sections, loose rocks, and uneven terrain. Recommend cleated hiking boots and protective clothing. Barbed wire fence crossing. There will be a post-hike option to view the nearby railroad flat car and suspension bridges over the Canada. Limit 8 hikers. [Guide: Tom Stafford, tominpoint@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 13, Aviation Parkway Bike Path. Rating: B. Pace: Fast [NEW, 9:00 AM, \$8]. This hike gives you an opportunity to traverse an interesting bike path in Tucson. It is a long distance but easy walking. Sneakers will suffice. We will follow the bike path from Stevens Avenue in the center of Tucson to the junction of Kolb Road with Lakeside Drive to the east. Highlights along the way are art murals, bridges, Todd M. Harris Sports Complex and a close up of the parked jets at the Davis-Monthan

Air Force Base. Stops for beverage, snack and public restrooms will be made. Hike 10.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2370/2710 feet; net elevation differential 340 feet; accumulated gain 440 feet; RTD 66 miles + 9 mile car shuttle. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg askus3@centurylink.net]

Wednesday, December 13, Romero Springs. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [371,08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the eastern most trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. The spring is located about 2 miles past the Romero pools in a very scenic section of the canyon. It has been known to have quite a bit of wildlife. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. Lunch will be at the spring. The return is via the same route. Hike 10.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 2020 feet; accumulated gain 2736 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Melia Knecht, melia.knechtak1@gmail.com.]

Thursday, December 14, Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [323, 07:30 AM, \$6]. The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. There are three options for the return: 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. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 964 feet; accumulated gain 1425 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com.]

Thursday, December 14, Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [354, 07:00 AM, \$2]. From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision, we hike up a wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are great views of Rancho Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere along the way. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 789 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

Friday, December 15, Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Phoneline Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$2]. From the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, the hike proceeds along the Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake Canyon trails to the Tram stop 1 picnic area on Sabino Creek - a favorite with views of Sabino Creek with velvet ash, cottonwood, willow, and Arizona sycamore trees. After a short break we will cross Sabino Creek (if water level permits) and climb a spur trail up to the Phoneline Trail where we turn to head back down towards the Visitor Center. We will finish on the Bajada Nature loop with a beautiful crested saguaro. Bring a camera and plenty of water and snack. Hike 5.1 miles trailhead elevation 2450 feet net elevation change 500 feet accumulated gain 780 feet RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Bruce J Olson 920-205-6963 brucej0506@gmail.com]

Monday, December 18, Superstitions: Boulder Canyon Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [398, 08:00 AM, \$19]. The hike begins at a trailhead across the road from Canyon Lake parking lot. Hikers climb up Boulder Canyon Trail to a high point and return the same way. The trail takes hikers high enough to provide tremendous views of the mysterious Superstition Mountains. Your camera is a must on this hike. Hikers also get a great view of Canyon Lake. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Hike 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 1700 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain 1965 feet; RTD 190 miles. [Guide: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

Monday, December 18, Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs Loop from the south.. Rating: C*. Pace: Moderate [98, 08:00 AM, \$4].** This hike begins at the CSP North Gate. It takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash.

The Sutherland Wash Rock Art District is a special place right in our backyard and is on the National Historic Register. Hohokam petroglyphs dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD number in the thousands on the western slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and vistas of Pusch Ridge. ***The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail and uneven footing at times. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest on rocks near one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 4.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2950 feet; total ascent: 722 ft, net elevation change: 431 ft. RTD 12 miles (dirt). This hike is on or crosses Arizona State Trust Land: The Arizona Land Department's trust management responsibilities include requiring a permit or lease and charging a fee for use of Trust land. Please note that Trust Land is private (not public) and requires a recreation permit for hiking which can be obtained through the state land department. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Monday, December 18, Tucson Downtown Mural Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [541, 08:00 AM, \$5]. Fun walk around an area of downtown Tucson and north to University. We will visit over 4 dozen beautiful murals along the way. We will also pass the Ronstadt House and the Historic YWCA. Great way to acquaint yourself with Tucson! We will end with lunch at the Cup Cafe in the Historic Congress Hotel. Walk 4 mi, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation change < 50 ft, accumulated gain < 50 ft. RTD 50 mi. [Guide: Kathy Minx, kminx@longrealty.com]

Tuesday, December 19, Blacketts Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [108, 08:00 AM, \$6]. I'm leading this for hikers that have completed several C*** hikes. We will go at a slow to moderate pace due to the steep climb. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blacketts Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1668 feet; accumulated gain 1733 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 20, Barrio Viejo Cultural & Historic Walking Tour, Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 9:00 AM, \$5]. An interesting walk thru Barrio Viejo; the largest 19th century collection of adobe buildings and best preserved Barrio in the United States. This will be a cultural & historical walk; through neighborhood residences, art studios and galleries, and markets-restaurants. Along the way we will see colorful murals and shrines both old and new. Key landmarks include; Teatro Carmen, El Pacque de San Cosme, El Tiradito, The Wishing Shrine, and location of early Tucsons Public Baths & Gardens. The walk will leave Saddlebrooke and begin at the 5 Points Market in Barrio Viejo. We will take a lunch break at one of the local eateries. Our walk is 3.5 miles, starting elevation 2400 ft, net elevation gain 50 feet, accumulated gain 50 ft. RTD 50 Mi. [Guide: Carol Olson 920-277-7687 carolson3855@gmail.com]

Thursday, December 21, OSP East Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [307, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$2]. The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. Hikers follow the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection, we turn southeast and follow trail to the intersection with the Manzanita Trail. We follow this trail west and onto the Nature Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. This route is fairly level with little elevation change with wide open views and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. Hike 6.2 miles, trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 760 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

Tuesday, December 26, Wasson Peak at Sunset and Moonrise. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [476, 03:00 PM, \$7]. The hike takes place on the evening of the full moon, arriving at the summit in time to observe sunset, and to watch the city lights turn on in Tucson. The view is spectacular at night with thousands of lights visible across southern Arizona. Bring a gourmet dinner, and candles. The hike down will be by the light of the moon, and supplemented by red and white headlamps if necessary. We will use the Sendero Esperanza Trail which is well maintained, smooth, and relatively clear of loose rocks. The special conditions designation (exclamation mark) for this hike is due to the decreased visibility after dark. A headlamp with both red and white LEDs is required. This hike will also be enjoyed by any strong C level hikers. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2985 feet; net elevation change 1702 feet; accumulated gain 1720 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Bill Bender, wbender@uw.edu.]

Wednesday, December 27, Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 08:00 AM, \$4]. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small first dam as we enter the beautiful, rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1010 feet; accumulated gain 1315 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Bruce J Olson 920-205-6963 brucej0506@gmail.com]