



# HIKE SCHEDULE: JAN-FEB 2024

## 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**

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 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]

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 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]

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024, Catalina State Park - Exploring the Trails/Introduction to the Sonoran Desert with a focus on Birding. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [142, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The park is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and riparian areas with plenty of native plants and wildlife. We will explore various trails in the park while watching for common desert birds. There are many winter visitors as well as residents present. We'll cover the history of the park, check out native flora, and watch for other wildlife. Come with questions or information to share and enjoy the beautiful views of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Binoculars are highly recommended. Hike 6 to 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 400 to 1000 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Melia Knecht, melia.knechtak1@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, January 4, 2024, Superstition Mountains - First Water TH to Peralta TH. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [New, 06:30 AM, \$15].** This is a key exchange hike. One group starts at the First Water Trail Head and the other group starts at the Peralta Trail Head. Northbound hikers will ascend the Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle, which offers fabulous views of Weaver's Needle. After passing the needle, the Peralta trail intersects with the Dutchman's trail which is followed over Parker Pass to First Water Trailhead. The trail follows Boulder Canyon Creek with great views of Black Mesa. Hike distance is about 12 miles. Accumulated elevation gain 2400 feet. RTD 190 miles. [Guides: Randy Park and Tom Stafford, rparktucson@gmail.com]

**Thursday, January 4, 2024, Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [172, 09:00 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. 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.]

**Friday, January 5, 2024, David Yetman Trail. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [165, 08:00 AM, \$8].** The hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. The trail has two trailheads; one at Camino de Oeste and one near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. Cars will be left at one end and hikers will drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, easy down a wash, but steep upward for a short distance along the climb back up to the ridge. Hikers pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that serves a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 643 feet; accumulated gain 730 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields, waltshields@mac.com, 520-404-8998.]

**Monday, January 8, 2024, American Flag to Windmill. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [10, 08:00 AM, \$4].** From the American Flag Trailhead off of the Mt. Lemmon Road, the trail proceeds in a northerly direction across National Forest and State Trust Land, crossing Webb Road and continuing to Oracle State Park. After traveling 1.7 miles through the park, the trail crosses Cottonwood Wash and continues to a windmill after another 0.3 mile. Hikers will stop and have a snack or lunch here and return via the same route. This section of the Arizona National Scenic Trail ambles through washes and across low ridges speckled with high desert plants. There are expansive views of the Galiuro Mountains and Oracle Ridge along the way. Hike 8.9 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; accumulated gain 1254 feet; RTD 41 miles. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, dave@daveandpam.com, 520-820-6110]

**Monday, January 8, 2024, 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, January 9, 2024, Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The Sutherland trail and wash are great 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 meanders around in the Sutherland Wash area. Hike 5 +/- miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; accumulated gain 358 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024, Double Crested/Dome Trail with Flag. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [510, 08:00 AM, \$0].** This hike is on a trail to Big Dome Rock that passes a rare double crested saguaro. We will add in a side trail to the flag that overlooks SaddleBrooke. Many SaddleBrooke residents have a view from their homes of Dome Rock - the large dome formation to the east that is bald in the middle with patchy vegetation on both sides, and located about a third of the way up to Charouleau Gap. The hike leaves from the end of Arroyo Way in Unit 21 (after carpooling from the usual meeting spot at Mountain View). We cross Canada del Oro Wash, and then follow the newly developed route east through a small wash, and along several ridgelines to our destination. \*\*\* There are areas of steep hills with some loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. We will pass through interesting granite formations, with many saguaros and ocotillo forests. One of the highlights along the way is Double Beauty, a rare double crested saguaro registered with the Crested Saguaro Society. On top of the dome there are great 360 degree views of Saddlebrooke and Catalina. We will return by the same route. Hike 3.75 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, seppylov@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024, Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Tucson. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [517, 08:00 AM, \$5 + \$trolley fee].** 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 2.5 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: Tom Stafford, tominpoint@gmail.com]

**Thursday, January 11, 2024, 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 for 1.5 miles to where it joins the Carillo Trail. We hike for 0.5 miles and rejoin the Douglas Spring Trail. Bring sun protection. 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, January 11, 2024, Pima Canyon to 1st Dam. Rating: D\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [335, 09:00 AM, \$4].** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. There are pools of water at the dam most of the year. \*\*\*The trail is rocky at some points and involves some steps-up and steps-down but is not difficult. Hike 2.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 320 feet; accumulated gain 487 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, January 11, 2024, Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Slow [6, 09:00 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: Michael Reale, 520 271-3337, mjreale@msn.com]

**Friday, January 12, 2024, Oracle State Park: NatureLoop, Wildlife Corridor, and Kannally Wash.**

**Rating: C. Pace: Moderate. [NEW,08:00 AM, \$4].** DOG FRIENDLY! 🐕 Woof! The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch house parking lot trailhead. Enjoy this 5-mile loop trail, as we begin up around the Nature Loop, then down the wildlife corridor, through to the windmill, and then back up to Kannally Wash, past the old corrals, finishing around the nature loop. Hike 5.0 miles; trailhead elevation 4433 feet; net elevation change 0; accumulated gain 521 feet. RTD 43 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com]

**Saturday, January 13, 2024, Oracle Ridge. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [302, 08:00 AM, \$4].**

The hike begins in Oracle at a trailhead off the Cody Loop Road. It follows the Oracle Ridge Trail to the junction with the American Flag/Cody Trail there are great views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas to the west. We will lunch on the ridge and return by same route. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 700 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor; donald\_r\_taylor@yahoo.com.]

**Sunday, January 14, 2024, Baby Jesus / Madonna and Child / Petroglyph Loop. Rating: C. Pace:**

**Moderate [97, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the Corral and heads to the beginning of the Baby Jesus Trail across the Sutherland Wash. Hikers follow the trail on the east side of the Baby Jesus Ridge 4 miles to a rock grouping which has the appearance of the Madonna and Child. The trail lops by a grouping of 1200 year-old petroglyphs. This portion of the trail, about a mile, is unmaintained, potentially requiring moderate bushwacking in places. Some spots may be steep, hikers should bring hiking poles. Views south to the Catalinas are beautiful. A hike back along the Sutherland Wash trail system completes the loop. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3234 feet; net elevation change 850 feet; accumulated gain 1030 feet; 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: Bill Bender, wbender@uw.edu.]

**Monday, January 15, 2024, Basic All Trails Instruction Hike/Cordones. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate**

**[509, 08:00 AM, \$0].** We meet at Mountain View and carpool to the retail center on SaddleBrooke. The purpose of this hike is to instruct hikers in the basic use of the AllTrails app. Hikers must have the app downloaded on their phone prior to the hike (either from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store - free version is fine) The hike is in the desert area (state trust land parcel 10S-14E-22) between the northwest border of Saddlebrook unit 8A, and the ridgeline in the Cordones, along which Catalina Hills Blvd follows to the Preserve. It is a smooth, level trail that offers a good introduction to desert hiking. We pass a water trough for livestock leasing this parcel of state trust land, and cross over a wash with an old abandoned truck. There are nice views to the east of Saddlebrooke and the Catalinas. Hike 3.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; accumulated gain 328 feet. RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024, Double Crested/Dome Trail. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [510, 08:00**

**AM, \$0].** This hike is on a newly constructed trail to Big Dome Rock that passes a rare double crested saguaro. Many SaddleBrooke residents have a view from their homes of Dome Rock - the large dome formation to the east that is bald in the middle with patchy vegetation on both sides, and located about a third of the way up to Charouleau Gap. The hike leaves from the end of Arroyo Way in Unit 21 (after carpooling from the usual meeting spot at Mountain View). We cross Canada del Oro Wash, and then follow the newly developed route east through a small wash, and along several ridgelines to our destination. \*\*\* There are areas of steep hills with some loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. We will pass through interesting granite formations, with many saguaros and ocotillo forests. One of the highlights along the way is Double Beauty, a rare double crested saguaro registered with the Crested Saguaro Society. On top of the dome there are great 360 degree views of Saddlebrooke and Catalina. We will return by the same route with option to turn this into a loop if the group is interested. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Cathy Meyer, cathymeyer115@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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, January 17, 2024, 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: Lori Anderson, msalaa19@gmail.com, or Ray Peale, ray.peale@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024, SBHC Program @4pm HOA#1 Activity Center.** Occurs on 3rd Wednesday of October, November, January, February, March & April.

**Thursday, January 18, 2024, 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: Dave Corrigan, daveandpam.com, 520-820-6110]

**Thursday, January 18, 2024, Golden Gate Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [204, 07:00 AM, \$7].**

The hike begins at the parking lot at the bottom of Gates Pass on the western side of Tucson Mountain Park. Golden Gate Mountain was used as the backdrop in many Hollywood horse operas and movies made at Old Tucson. In Tucson Mountain Park, we will hike 0.5 miles east along the David Yetman Trail and then take the Golden Gate Loop west to a picnic area on the west side of Kinney Road. The hike has some rocky stretches and a moderate accumulated gain. Some bushwhacking across a wash is needed to return to the parking lot. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 70 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, January 18, 2024, 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, kathrynminx@gmail.com.]

**Friday, January 19, 2024, Middle Gate/50 Year/Hidden Cyn. Loop 2. Rating: B or C. Pace: Moderate [522, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The B/C rating is due to the length of the hike which just exceeds the upper limit for C hike designation. From the Upper Corral area we hike to the Middle Gate and take the N. 50 Yr.Trail north to the junction with the Hidden Canyon Loop Trail. We take the Hidden Cyn. Loop Trail clockwise around Hidden Canyon Peak. We will have lunch on rock slabs with a magnificent view. We then head down the Hidden Canyon Trail to a spur trail which takes us west to join the Middle Gate Trail. We will take that trail back through the Middle Gate and return to the Upper Corral. Hike 8.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3260 feet; net elevation change 718 feet; accumulated gain 1104 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]

**Friday, January 19, 2024, Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: D. Pace: Slow [499, 09:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. After starting on the Fifty-Year Trail hikers will turn left onto an unmarked trail and hike along a rugged, scenic ridge line trail for about 2 miles. At the junction with the Fifty-Year Trail we return to the Equestrian Center via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike is 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 386 feet; total ascent 446 feet. RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale, 520 271 3337, mjreale@msn.com]

**Saturday, January 20, 2024, Activity Fair, 8:00 – 11:00am, HOA2 Ballroom**

**Sunday, January 21, 2024, OSP American Avenue. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [306, 01:00PM, \$4 + \$2].** Oracle State Park contains native Sonoran cacti, desert grassland, oak trees, and Manzanita stands, and contains several miles of well-maintained trails. The hike begins at the trailhead off American Ave. on the western edge of the park and proceeds along the relatively smooth Mariposa Trail toward the Oak Woodland picnic area. About 0.25 miles before reaching the picnic area, the group will take the 0.8-mile Bellota Loop Trail which nearly reaches the Group Use Area adjacent the historic Kannally Ranch House before connecting back to the Mariposa Trail for the return. Along the way are excellent views of the Galiuro Mountains and San Pedro Valley to the north and the Santa Catalina Mountains to the south. Hike 3.2 miles; net elevation change less than 500 feet; accumulated gain less than 500 feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Susan Hollis, slhollis@yahoo.com .]

**Monday, January 22, 2024, Seven Falls. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [387, 08:00 AM, \$6].** The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and continues to lower Bear Canyon, then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls. The return is via the same route. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but maybe dry if there has been inadequate rain. The trail crosses the Bear Canyon wash several times in each direction and can involve significant boulder hopping/wading after rainy periods. Ask the guide about current conditions. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 662 feet; accumulated gain 1307 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com.]

**Monday, January 22, 2024, Stone House Ruins and Golder Dam Loop. Rating C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate. [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$0].** This hike takes in several significant landmarks just east of SaddleBrooke proper -- Balance Rock, Titanic Rock, Stone House Ruins, Rancheria Spring and Golder Dam Remnants. Trailhead is located at the south end of S. Desert Sky Lane in the Preserve. Carpooling from the usual meeting spot at Mountain View is necessary due to limited parking at trailhead. Please do not drive to the Trailhead location. This is an out and back hike with three loops 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 as well as descending a raven with loose gravel. The trail begins by following the route past Balance Rock 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. Just above the bluff at the CDO, the trail then branches north towards Golder Dam going through the spillway before reaching the top of the dam. Remnants of the valve station are visible. Descending the upstream side of the dam is relatively steep where poles are recommended for stability. At the base of the dam, the outlet culvert can be seen as well as an ancient dam built 100+ years ago. The hike then returns to the trailhead at Desert Sky Lane. 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. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3285 feet; net elevation change 693 feet; accumulated gain 827 feet. RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Terry McCarthy t.mccarthy410@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024, Fifty-Year Trail Area Loop – Long Version. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [185, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the Upper Corral. We take social trails to the Middle Gate, then head east on the Middle Gate trail to 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, January 23, 2024, Canyon Loop and Birding Trail. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW [135, 09:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** From the main trailhead in Catalina State Park, hikers will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; follow the Canyon Loop Trail, and then come back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. Following this portion of the hike, we will hike the Birding Trail. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 433 feet; accumulated gain 499 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024, Brown Mountain. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [124, 08:00 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: Bruce J Olson 920-205-6963 brucej0506@gmail.com]

**Thursday, January 25, 2024, Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [253, 07:00 AM, \$13].** This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. It starts from the Procter parking area and ascends 3.5 miles up the canyon to the Roundup Picnic Area (el. 5400 feet). Along the way, hikers enjoy the shade of Apache pines, Douglas firs, Emory oaks, Mexican blue oaks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. The return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 956 feet; accumulated gain 1004 feet; RTD 130 miles. There is a fee for parking unless you have a National Park Pass that must be displayed. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, January 25, 2024, Fifty-Year Trail Area. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [183, 08:00 AM, \$2].** The hike begins at the Upper Corral and follows social trails to a ridgeline trail that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. We head south on that trail and then jog west to visit the gravesite of Grace Murray. We will pause to share the touching story of this spot before returning on other social trails to the Upper Corral. Hike 3.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet;



accumulated gain 234 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. [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Thursday, January 25, 2024, Walking Tour of University of Arizona Campus. Rating: D, Pace: Moderate [NEW, 9:00 AM, \$5].** The University of Arizona walking tour will begin at "Main Gate". During our walk we will enjoy the history and architecture of the original buildings with special attention to Old Main, the 2nd oldest public building in the State of Arizona. Walking through campus we will visit the arboretum gardens with over 8,000 trees and shrubs. The Joseph Woof Krutch Gardens reflect the original desert landscape where this University is built. These gardens are a 120 year testimony to native plant survival. We will also see stunning trees from around the world that have adapted with water conservation to campus life. Along the way we will visit the University's famous sports and educational facilities. We will then stop in to visit the new Center of Photography and enjoy a quick look at these inspirational works of art. Motivated by hunger and a desire to mix with the students and feel their energy, we will then walk over to Gentle Ben's at 865 University Boulevard, a local favorite restaurant and brewery for lunch. Walking distance is 4.0 miles and flat. RTD 50 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

**Friday, January 26, 2024, Baby Jesus/Sutherland Trail Key Exchange. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [494, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike links two very beautiful and popular trails with a one way key exchange. One group will start at the Lower Corral and follow the Baby Jesus Trail to the Madonna and Child rock formation. The other group will begin at Catalina State Park and follow the Sutherland Trail past Cargodero Canyon to meet the other group at the rock formation where the exchange will take place. Hike 7.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet (Catalina State Park), 3400 feet (50 Year Car Park); net elevation change 1123 feet; accumulated gain 1545 feet; RTD 24 miles 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 (<https://land.az.gov/applications-permits>). [Guide: Randy Park and Susan Hollis, rparktucson@gmail.com.]

**Friday, January 26, 2024, Colossal Cave Tour and AZT hike: Rating: C, Pace: Moderate, [NEW, 08:00, \$11].** This is a day out to explore another part of southeastern Arizona! We will take a guided tour in Colossal Cave (\$23 to be purchased online after signing up), followed by a hike along Section 8 of the Arizona Trail. The trail follows Cienega Creek through Colossal Cave Mountain Park, home to one of southern Arizona's most impressive cave formations. This desert park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features camping, snacks, and guided cave tours. We will have a picnic lunch at the Park before returning to SaddleBrooke. This hike is limited to 8 hikers. Hike 4-6 miles; accumulated elevation change 300-500 ft; RTD 108 mi. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Saturday, January 27, 2024, 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 carololson3855@gmail.com]

**Monday, January 29, 2024, Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Phoneline Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [539, 08:00 AM, \$6].** 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 Phonline 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 a snack. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2450 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 780 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024, Tortolita Mountains: Wild Burro Canyon with Key Exchange. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [467, 08:00 AM, \$5].** This hike is the opposite direction of the C version of this hike described above or below. We start at the Ritz Carlton trailhead and finish at the north side of the Tortolitas. Hike 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet at the north end, 3000 feet at the Wild Burro Trailhead; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 1590 feet; RTD 20 miles (dirt). [Guide: Randy Park, rparktucson@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024, Tortolita Mountains: Wild Burro Canyon with Key Exchange. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [467, 08:00 AM, \$5].** The trailhead is reached via the Rail-X Marble Mine Road off Oracle Hwy at the county line, then another 2.5 miles on another jeep road. We hike into Wild Burro Canyon from the north side of the Tortolitas on an old road past an old stone wall (that once was a goat corral), past a windmill, and down the new North-End section of the Wild Burro Trail. From there we continue along the southern section of the Wild Burro Trail to some old stone house ruins, water cistern, and swimming pool. We continue 2 more miles along a flat sandy arroyo, some on compacted soil, to the trailhead near the Ritz Carlton at the end of Dove Mountain Blvd. The group hiking north from the Ritz Carlton trailhead, for the key exchange, will do the reverse. 4WD vehicles will be needed to reach the northern starting point. Hike 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet at the north end, 3000 feet at the Wild Burro Trailhead; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 400 feet; RTD 20 miles (dirt). [Guide: Susan Hollis, slhollis@yahoo.com]

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024, Honey Bee North Trail, back to the Southern Trail Loop. Rating: D. Pace: SLOW. [NEW, 08:00 AM, \$3].** DOG FRIENDLY! 🐕 Woof! The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. Hike begins on the out and back Northern Petroglyphs Trail, seeking out the Hohokam petroglyphs and grinding holes, then connecting to the Southern Loop Trail. Hike 4.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2903 feet; accumulated gain 278 feet; net elevation gain 278 feet. RTD 26 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com.]

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 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: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024, Canyon Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Slow [134, 09:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** From the main trailhead at the end of the road in Catalina State Park, the hike begins with the Romero Canyon Trail, turns onto the Canyon Loop Trail, and then comes back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. The hike may be done in reverse direction. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 2.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 170 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale, 520 271-3337, mjreale@msn.com.]

**Thursday, February 1, 2024, Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [323, 07:00 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: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Thursday, February 1, 2024, Sweetwater Preserve/Desperado Loop. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [432, 09:00 AM, \$5].** 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. Our hike within the park is the eastern loop which traverses the Desperado Trail. A map of the area may be found on the website ([www.sdmb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html](http://www.sdmb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html)). Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2465 feet; net elevation change 140 feet; accumulated gain 300 feet; RTD 50 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg askus3@centurylink.net]

**Thursday, February 1, 2024, Tortolita Mountains: Upper Javelina and Wild Mustang Trails to Lookout. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [462, 09:00 AM, \$4].** The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton Hotel parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, up the Upper Javelina Trail, and connect with the Wild Mustang Trail. The hike continues to a rocky ridge with views of Dove Mountain development, Tucson and Marana. At that point we will stop for lunch/snacks and return to the trailhead. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 795 feet; accumulated gain 950 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, [kathryn.madore@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.madore@gmail.com).]

**Friday, February 2, 2024, Double Crested/Dome Trail with Flag. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [510, 08:00 AM, \$0].** This hike is on a trail to Big Dome Rock that passes a rare double crested saguaro. We will add in a side trail to the flag that overlooks SaddleBrooke. Many SaddleBrooke residents have a view from their homes of Dome Rock - the large dome formation to the east that is bald in the middle with patchy vegetation on both sides, and located about a third of the way up to Charouveau Gap. The hike leaves from the end of Arroyo Way in Unit 21 (after carpooling from the usual meeting spot at Mountain View). We cross Canada del Oro Wash, and then follow the newly developed route east through a small wash, and along several ridgelines to our destination. \*\*\* There are areas of steep hills with some loose rock on this hike - hiking poles are advised. We will pass through interesting granite formations, with many saguaros and ocotillo forests. One of the highlights along the way is Double Beauty, a rare double crested saguaro registered with the Crested Saguaro Society. On top of the dome there are great 360 degree views of Saddlebrooke and Catalina. We will return by the same route. Hike 3.75 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Jeff Love, [seppylov@gmail.com](mailto:seppylov@gmail.com).]

**Sunday, February 4, 2024, Arizona Trail: Redington Pass - La Milagrosa Ridge Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [62, 08:00 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 downhill 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](mailto:jsolon3680@aol.com)]

**Monday, February 5, 2024, Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version). Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [19, 08:00 AM, \$14 + \$6].** Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful and pristine canyon and a favorite for all who have been there. \*\*\*Hikers should expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Wear shorts, socks and shoes (that can get wet) with good traction (for wet rocks). Bring dry shoes/shorts/shirt for drive home, if desired (and a plastic bag for wet items). Aravaipa Canyon is a wilderness area with no trails, signs, or facilities. Hiking stick is recommended. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 368 feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, [dave@daveandpam.com](mailto:dave@daveandpam.com)]

**Monday, February 5, 2024, 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 Hughes, 301-471-8568, Terryhiker03@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Esperero Canyon/Bluff Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [427, 09:00 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 snack. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2705 feet; net elevation change 240 feet; accumulated gain 367 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Orientation to Desert Hiking, 2:00 – 4:00pm,** Desert View Performing Arts Center

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024, SBHC BOD Mtg,** 2:00pm to 3:30pm, HOA#1 Coyote Room North

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024, SBHC Guides Mtg,** 3:30pm to 5:00pm, HOA#1 Coyote Room North

**Thursday, February 8, 2024, Wasson Peak via King Canyon Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [479, 08:00 AM, \$7].** The hike begins at the trailhead across from the Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum and goes up the King Canyon Trail. We pass the Mam-A-Gah picnic area and continue to the Sweetwater Saddle, the junction with the Sweetwater Trail. For the next mile or so, it's a steep climb to the junction with the Hugh Norris Trail and a short uphill climb to the summit. The 360-degree views from the top include Tucson to the east, Green Valley to the south, Picacho Peak to the north and Sells to the west. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 1807 feet; accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Cathy Meyer cathymeyer115@gmail.com]

**Thursday, February 8, 2024, Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 07:00 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: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]

**Thursday, February 8, 2024, 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]

**Thursday, February 8, 2024, Walking Tour of University of Arizona Campus. Rating: D, Pace: Moderate [NEW. 9:00 AM, \$5].** The University of Arizona walking tour will begin at "Main Gate". During

our walk we will enjoy the history and architecture of the original buildings with special attention to Old Main, the 2nd oldest public building in the State of Arizona. Walking through campus we will visit the arboretum gardens with over 8,000 trees and shrubs. The Joseph Woof Krutch Gardens reflect the original desert landscape where this University is built. These gardens are a 120 year testimony to native plant survival. We will also see stunning trees from around the world that have adapted with water conservation to campus life. Along the way we will visit the University's famous sports and educational facilities. We will then stop in to visit the new Center of Photography and enjoy a quick look at these inspirational works of art. Motivated by hunger and a desire to mix with the students and feel their energy, we will then walk over to Gentle Ben's at 865 University Boulevard, a local favorite restaurant and brewery for lunch. Walking distance is 4.0 miles and flat. RTD 50 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com]

**Sunday, February 11, 2024, Let's Take a Shantz/Wildhorse Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 07:15 AM, \$8].** The Shantz/Wildhorse trailhead is at the east end of Speedway Boulevard. This hike is a big loop in the Cactus Forest area of the Saguaro National Park East. Highlights include the Desert Ecology Loop, Garwood Dam and Little Wildhorse Tank. We will be traversing the Shantz, Mesquite & Wildhorse Trails in entirety among other trails to complete the loop. Considering the distance of this hike, the elevation gain is minimal for this lengthy hike. Hike 13.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2725 feet; net elevation change 512 feet; accumulated gain 800 feet; RTD 77 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg askus3@centurylink.net]

**Monday, February 12, 2024, Esperero Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [178, 08:00 AM, \$6].** The hike reaches a saddle known locally as Cardiac Gap, which overlooks Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot, through the Cactus Picnic Area and over a few small foothills to The Gulch. The hiking is initially steep.... then it gets much steeper. We'll have lunch at the saddle (el. 4400 feet) while viewing the falls below, and return to the Visitor Center. Depending on season, there may be water in the falls. Extra drinking water is recommended. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1940 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Margaret Valair: mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

**Monday, February 12, 2024, Two Cresteds and a Bushwhack. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [543, 08:00 AM, \$4].** From the Upper Corral parking area the hike proceeds along the diagonal trail to the Middle Gate. After passing the gate we will follow cow paths for a bit before climbing up a rudimentary/bushwhack trail to a beautiful crested saguaro. \*\*\*The climb involves steep areas with some loose rock - hiking poles recommended. After leaving the saguaro we will continue east on a very faint trail until we intersect the Middlegate Trail, then turn north following that trail back to the Middle Gate. Along that trail we will see another iconic crested saguaro. After passing through the gate we retrace our steps to the parking area. 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 5.7 miles: trailhead elevation 3240; net elevation change 300 feet; accumulated gain 650 feet; RTD 10 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Romero Pools. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [370, 08:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost 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. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. \*\*\*The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1400 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Terry Hughes, 301-471-8568, Terryhiker03@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024, OSP Granite Overlook. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [309, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$2].** This 1.8-mile loop begins at the 1st parking lot in Oracle State Park and winds uphill in and around beautiful boulders, desert grassland, oak trees, and manzanita stands. The hike offers great views of the former Kannally Ranch which originally extended all the way to the San Pedro River. The trail was constructed by volunteers from The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. The hike may be done in either direction, but the counter-clockwise direction has a much more gradual climb. Also, this is an easy trail to link with

several other trails if you're looking for a longer hike within the park. Hike 2 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 40 miles. [Guide: Bruce J Olson 920-205-6963 brucej0506@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Tucson Mtns. David Yetman Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [165, 08:00AM, \$8].** The hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. The trail has two trailheads; one at Camino de Oeste and one near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. Cars will be left at one end and hikers will drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, easy down a wash, but steep upward for a short distance along the climb back up to the ridge. Hikers pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that serves a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 643 feet; accumulated gain 730 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Jim Solon, jsolon3680@aol.com.]

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Alamo Canyon Up/Back or Loop. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 09:00 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.]

**Thursday, February 15, 2024, 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, February 15, 2024, Picket Post Loop Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [530, 07:00 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> After the hike, we will have lunch at a BBQ restaurant (Silver King) in the town of Superior. Hike 9.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation change 482 feet; accumulated gain 787 feet; RTD 146 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com.]

**Thursday, February 15, 2024, The Preserve/Dome Trail. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [533, 08:00 AM, \$0].** The latest addition to the SaddleBrooke Backyard Trails, this route begins in the foothills east of The Preserve and peregrinates to the Dome. We will first meet at Mountain View and carpool to the trailhead. Please do not drive yourself to the Trailhead. The hike begins at the south end of S. Desert Sky Lane. After crossing the Canada del Oro wash, the trail continues into the foothill through beautiful granite formations and native desert flora. It first passes Balance Rock, continues along the ridgeline below Titanic Rock, and then past Helmet Rock until it intersects the Dome Extension Trail. It then continues to Dome Rock, with an option to visit Flag Hill. Along the entire way are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina, and

the Samaniego Ridge. The special condition designation\*\*\* is that there are several sections that are steeper than on an average park constructed trail. Watch video, <https://www.relive.cc/view/vDqg7xwQoVq>  
Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3350 feet; elevation change 580 feet; accumulated gain 970 feet; RTD 0 miles. [Guide: Tom Stafford, tominpoint@gmail.com]

**Friday, February 16, 2024, Tortolita Mountains: Cochie Spring Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [456, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins in the hikers parking area of the Ritz Carlton and proceeds up a connecting spur behind the hotel to join the Upper Javelina trail. The Upper Javelina Trail provides views of the Tucson Mtns and Boboquiveri Peak to the south. After a short hike on the Wild Mustang Trail, hikers join the Cochie Spring Trail and continue several miles to the remains of a dam past a windmill. Hikers will experience a quiet mountain wilderness. The return is by the same route. Hike 9.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain 1799 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Terry Hughes, 301-471-8568, Terryhiker03@gmail.com]

**Friday, February 16, 2024, Fifty-Year Trail Area. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [183, 08:00 AM, \$2].** THIS IS A DOG FRIENDLY HIKE. 🐕 Woof! All members are welcome with or without a dog. The hike begins at the Golder Ranch parking area. The trail starts on the Fifty-Year Trail and follows social trails toward the Sutherland Wash. The trail then loops back on a ridge that has great views, beautiful saguaros, and interesting rock formations. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 234 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. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Saturday, February 17, 2024, Tortolita Mountains: Upper Javelina and Wild Mustang Trails to Lookout. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [462, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton Hotel parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, up the Upper Javelina Trail, and connect with the Wild Mustang Trail. The hike continues to a rocky ridge with views of Dove Mountain development, Tucson and Marana. At that point we will stop for lunch/snacks and return to the trailhead. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 795 feet; accumulated gain 950 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor; donald\_r\_taylor@yahoo.com.]

**Monday, February 19, 2024, 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, February 20, 2024, Sutherland Wash Petroglyph short version. Rating: D\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [501, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the CSP North Gate trail head. 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. This is an in and out hike with many petroglyph panels clustered at a single site. \*\*\*The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail and uneven footing at times. This hike is for hikers that have successfully completed several D level hikes. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest on rocks near one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; total ascent: 459 ft, net elevation change: 313 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: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 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: Lori Anderson, msalaa19@gmail.com, or Ray Peale, ray.peale@gmail.com]

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024, SBHC Program** @4pm HOA#1 Activity Center. Occurs on 3rd Wednesday of October, November, January, February, March & April.

**Thursday, February 22, 2024, Fifty-Year Trail Area Loop – Long Version. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [185, 08:00 AM, \$4].** The hike begins at the Upper Corral. We take social trails to the Middle Gate, then head east on the Middle Gate trail to 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]

**Thursday, February 22, 2024, Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Slow [253, 08:00 AM, \$13].** This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. It starts from the Procter parking area and ascends 3.5 miles up the canyon to the Roundup Picnic Area (el. 5400 feet). Along the way, hikers enjoy the shade of Apache pines, Douglas firs, Emory oaks, Mexican blue oaks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. The return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 956 feet; accumulated gain 1004 feet; RTD 130 miles. There is a fee for parking unless you have a National Park Pass that must be displayed. [Guide: Michael Reale, 520-271-3337, mjreale@msn.com.]

**Thursday, February 22, 2024, Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail (short version). Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [332, 09:00 AM, \$9 + \$2].** From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the trail to the point on the foot of the Peak that starts the steep climb to Picacho Peak. The return is via the same route. The southerly views from the turning point are excellent. Park entrance fee required. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 751 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 90 miles. [Guide: Kathryn Madore, kathryn.madore@gmail.com.]

**Friday, February 23, 2024, Peppersauce Canyon (short version). Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [321, 08:00 AM, \$7].** From the Peppersauce Canyon Campground, the hike proceeds up Peppersauce Canyon approximately 1.5 miles and returns. There is a good mixture of vegetation to study. Some views, depending on how far we go. Bring lunch. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated elevation \_\_\_ feet; RTD 53 miles (dirt). [Guide: Bruce J Olson 920-205-6963 brucej0506@gmail.com]

**Monday, February 26, 2024, Tortolita Mountains: Vision Seeker's Gorge. Rating: C\*\*\*. Pace: Moderate [500, 08:00 AM, \$4 + \$3].** The hike begins at the windmill/water tank approximately five miles down Edwin/Rail-X road west of Oracle Road where we park. Hike on trail south of the windmill past Tortolita Peak. \*\*\*Begin light bushwhacking and follow indistinct animal trails through a flat and over a



ridge into washes that end in the Gorge. Some light scrambling over smooth rock surfaces. Gloves may be helpful. We lunch at top of a large gorge w/ a seasonal waterfall. There are petroglyphs nearby. Return is via the same route. Note: Rail-X (Edwin) road is very rough and unimproved which requires high clearance vehicles (pick-up, jeep, SUV). Hike: 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3,600 feet; net elevation change minus -250 feet; accumulated gain 610 feet. RTD 14 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: Bruce J Olson 920-205-6963 brucej0506@gmail.com ]

**Monday, February 26, 2024, 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, kathrynminx@gmail.com.]

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 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 Ruthrouff 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: Margaret Valair mvalair140.6@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 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: Seth Basker, seth@basker.com.]

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Bluff Loop Trail Sabino Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [110, 08:00 AM, \$6].** From the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, the hike proceeds along the Bluff Trail overlooking Sabino Creek, and is a favorite during the fall due to color changes in the leaves of velvet ash, cottonwood, willow, and Arizona sycamore trees. Bring a camera and a minimum of one quart of water. Hike 3.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Ruth Caldwell, azcaldwell3@gmail.com]

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Fifty-Year Trail Loop via Ridgeline Trail. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [499, 09:00 AM, \$2 + \$2].** The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. After starting on the Fifty-Year Trail hikers will turn left onto an unmarked trail and hike along a rugged, scenic ridge line trail for about 2 miles. At the junction with the Fifty-Year Trail we return to the Equestrian Center via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike is 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 386 feet; total ascent 446 feet. RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Bruce Landeck, bflandeck@gmail.com.]

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024, Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Slow [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: Michael Reale, 520 271-3337, mjreale@msn.com.]

**Thursday, February 29, 2024, Esperero Canyon/Rattlesnake/Phoneline Loop Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [539, 07:00 AM, \$6].** 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 a snack. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2450 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 780 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Marc Humphrey and humphreymarc@gmail.com]