



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

MARCH/APRIL

2010-2

Thank You to Cheryl Straw

Cheryl Straw joined the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club five years ago as a way to meet people and learn about the terrain, flowers and mountains of the Tucson area. When Sandra Sowell retired as Social Chairperson she invited Cheryl to take the position. Cheryl took the job as a way to meet more members of the hiking club and to contribute to the club.

Cheryl has seen her role as a catalyst to bring club members together for the spring and fall picnics. The members have responded generously by preparing delicious food, helping to set up the picnic and maintaining a clean picnic site.

A special highlight for Cheryl was meeting some of the original club officers at the 10th Anniversary Picnic at Oracle State Park. Cheryl expects club members "attitude of helpfulness" will be appreciated by the new social chairpersons, Beaver Simpson, Pam Wakefield and Marge Wong. Thank you, Cheryl, for being our "sociable" social chairperson for the past 3 ½ years.



Wednesday, March 17th Emergency Preparedness & Map Reading, MV West Ballroom, 3:00 P.M.

Dan Davis, a retired National Park Ranger, will bring his career experience specializing in back country search and rescue – including scuba rescues – and then in park management as he focuses on Hiking Emergency Preparedness and Map Reading Skills to our SaddleBrooke audience. This program should appeal to hiking guides as well as aspiring newcomers to hiking, Dan worked for the Park Service at Mammoth Cave, Rocky Mountain, and Grand Canyon National Parks and at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Retiring to Tucson, Dan has worked with Summit Hut, which supplies many of us with our hiking, backpacking, and camping needs, while developing his skills as a photographer and continuing to explore and enjoy the outdoors. A social will follow at 4.00 p.m. in the Palo Verde Lounge.

Hiking Club Picnic

The hiking club spring picnic will take place on Wednesday, March 24th at Catalina State Park in the group picnic area. Entrance fee for the park is \$7 per car or a State Park Pass. The annual meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. before the picnic lunch. You will have an opportunity to elect the club's president and secretary.

Food will be potluck-plus chicken lunch at noon. The club will provide the chicken, all paper goods and eating utensils. You will need to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Please bring your own beverage.

Please call Beaver Simpson (818-7839) by March 20 to let him know that you are attending and what you will bring to share.

Hikes will be offered before the picnic. Orders for SBHC shirts will be taken. Plan on attending the hiking club picnic to enjoy meeting and sharing hiking experiences with fellow SBHC members.

Guided Tours for SBHC Members

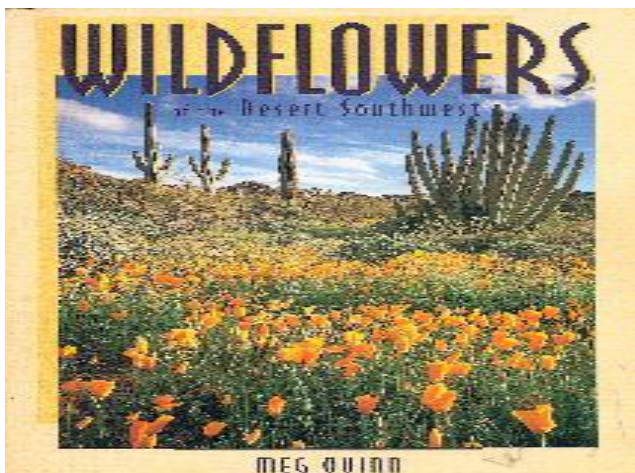
Upper Cliff Dwellings – Tonto National Monument, Friday, March 26th. Limited to 12 See “Hikes Offered” for details.

Observatories on Mt. Hopkins, Santa Rita Mountains. Watch for e-mail announcement regarding date and reservations.

Atascosa Lookout with Sky Island Alliance Tuesday, April 13

A representative of the Sky Island Alliance will accompany hikers to Atascosa Lookout. He will explain the importance of preserving the Tumacacori Highlands, one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States. Jaguars have been photographed in this area. The Sky Island Alliance is a Tucson-based organization dedicated to the protection of wildlife and habitats in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. Reservations: Call Dick Krueger 818-2671. Limit: 16. See hike description under “Hikes Offered.”

Desert Wildflowers Program Wednesday, April 21, 3:00 P.M. MountainView - West Ballroom



Springtime in the desert is a time to enjoy the beauty, color and richness of wildflowers. Given sufficient

rainfall, a succession of blooms begins in late winter and continues through spring. Learn to identify native annual and perennial wildflowers with botanist and educator Meg Quinn. Meg is the author of the popular book Wildflowers of the Desert Southwest. Through a PowerPoint presentation Meg will share her photos and knowledge of the wildflowers we hope to identify this Spring. A social will follow at 4:00 p.m. in the Palo Verde Lounge.

Hiking News

Roy Carter and Frank Brier

By now, most of you are aware the State has closed or is closing several state parks to respond to the current fiscal year budget crisis. Of those noteworthy to SaddleBrooke hikers, Oracle SP has closed (including the American Avenue entrance), and Tonto Natural Bridge, Picacho Peak, and Lost Dutchman SPs are scheduled for closing June 3rd. Presumably access to these parks by hikers will also be disallowed. Catalina and Karchner Caverns SPs are among the nine that will remain open. Note also that daily use and annual fees are going up March 1st. Day passes to Catalina go to \$7.00, and standard annual passes go from \$50 to \$75 (\$125 to \$200 for premium). Go to <http://www.azstateparks.com> for more details.

A big shoutout to Larry Linderman for initiating a club effort to arrange hikes that will allow members to hike all or part of the Arizona Trail. A couple dozen people met on January 27th to discuss and plan the effort. This magnificent 772-mile trail traverses Arizona south to north, beginning at Montezuma Pass in the Huachuca Mountains and ending at the Utah border north of Jacobs Lake. It passes through some of Arizona’s most scenic and isolated terrain, and incorporates (at least) 43 easy to strenuous segments. Larry is offering, assisted by several experienced club hikers who have already accomplished the feat, four hikes in the March – April schedule to get you started. Email Larry at linderman@q.com for more information, or better yet, just sign up for one or more of the upcoming hikes.

There is again a diverse hike offering during March and April, with 7 As, 24 Bs, 21 Cs, and 9 Ds. Thanks to our guides for a creative and fun slate of hikes. We only need you out there hiking to make it a success.

News You Can Us

Special Program	March 17	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	March 17	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	April 7	3:00 p.m.
Guide Meeting	April 7	4:00 p.m.
Special Program	April 21	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	April 21	4:00 p.m.

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at both SaddleBrooke and DesertView Fitness Centers. They are also available on our web page at www.saddlebrooke.org.

Officers

President: Michael Reale, 825-8286; mjreale@msn.com
Vice-President: Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
Secretary: Marjorie Herrmann, 8189515; marjorie.herrmann@gmail.com
Treasurer: Elizabeth Tancock, 825-7838; etancock@wbhsi.net
Chief Hiking Guides: Frank Brier, 818-0493; FrankBrier@aol.com
Roy Carter, 818-3137; rvcarter@aol.com

Volunteers

Catalina Hills Cleanup: Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
Communications & Programs: Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547; elisarick@wbhsi.com
Membership Roster: Bob Perez, 861-0967; azsun65@wbhsi.net
Merchandise: Sandy Businger, 825-9294; usbusinger@wbhsi.net
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Socials: BeaverSimpson, 818-7839; wbsortho@aol.com
Socials: Pam Wakefield, 825-0309; pambw@live.com
Socials: Marge Wong, 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
Statistics and Awards: Susan Hollis, 825-6819; shollis@yahoo.com
Work Days: Jim Strickler, 825-8735; sherabjim@wbhsi.net

Awards

50 Hikes Marjorie Herrman, Greg Lindahl
Carol Lindahl & Susan Moran

100 Hikes Sandy Businger, Kathy Davis &
Pete Knoll

250 Hikes Virginia Brier

1000 Hikes Martha Hackworth

Congratulations!

General Hiking Information

Reservations: Call the guide to make a reservation for a hike. Let the guide know if you would be available to drive and whether or not you have a 'park entry pass' for the area. If you are unable to go on the hike after making a reservation, call the guide to cancel. The guide will call if a hike is canceled.

Arrival Time and Departure Area: The time listed for the hike is the departure time. It is important to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time. All hikes leave from the left front parking lot of the MountainView Clubhouse (just east of the tennis courts) unless otherwise noted.

Medical Conditions: Prior to starting the hike, inform the guide of any special medical conditions or medications you may need.

Voluntary Driver Donations: Voluntary driver donations are shown in the table of Hikes Offered. If there are two entries under driver donation, for example \$7 + \$2, the first is for the driver and the second for any required entry and/or parking fee. If a state park pass is used for entry, the second amount should be given to the pass holder (whether he/she is the driver or not). Note, however, that some hikes may require additional fees.

Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated. Since a driver may not have change, we would ask that, if you see two entries for the driver donation, you try to have the amounts for each. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView.

Items to Bring: Every hiker should carry identification and any medical alerts in a waterproof container. Always bring ample water (this can vary from a pint on a winter fitness walk to 3 or 4 quarts on a summer hike). On strenuous hikes or in very hot weather you may need to replace electrolytes (eat salty snacks, add electrolyte mix to water, or use sport drinks). A wide brim hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hiking stick or trekking poles are recommended in Arizona. Other suggested items include comfortable hiking boots, whistle, map, compass, tweezers, first-aid kit, and moleskin. Layered clothing works well due to possible changes in weather conditions. In addition, you should bring a snack or lunch depending upon the hike. High complex carbohydrates (nuts, trail mix, and etc.) are good.

Choosing Hikes: Hikes are more difficult than a walk in SaddleBrooke due to elevation change and our Arizona terrain. It is not unusual to encounter rocks, unsteady ground, and steep inclines. It is your responsibility to choose an appropriate hike that matches your physical abilities. The hike description is a great tool. Look closely at the length, elevation change, and comments in the description to determine if a hike is within your physical ability. If you aren't feeling "up to snuff" on the day of the hike, don't hesitate to cancel until a better day.

Assumption of Risk: When you joined the club, you were asked to sign a "Release of Liability". **We want to reinforce the fact that by signing the release you acknowledge that participation in the club's activities involves an inherent risk of physical injury and that you assume all such risks. Accidents can happen.** Learn about the risks and how to avoid them. Take an active part in protecting yourself and fellow hikers. We are an organization of volunteers who share their skills and love for the wilderness with one another.

Hike Elevation, Ratings & Pace

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

- **Net Elevation Change** is the change in elevation obtained by subtracting the starting elevation from the elevation of the destination, 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.

- **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 generally 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

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.

<u>Hike Rating</u>	<u>Distance (Mi.)</u>	<u>Accumulated Gain in Elevation (Ft.)</u>
A	>14	>3000
B	8 to 14	1500 to 3000
C	4 to 8	500 to 1500
D	<4	< 500

Pace: Pace is described in terms of average speed in miles per hour (MPH) over the course of a hike from start to finish (excluding lunch). Average speed is affected by speed and length of stride, number of rest stops, incline, type of terrain, and trail conditions. The following four categories are used to describe pace in the hike descriptions:

<u>Pace</u>	<u>Average Speed (MPH)</u>
Leisurely	<1.5
Slow	1.5 to 2.0
Moderate	2.0 to 2.5
Fast	>2.5

Fitness Walks - Five Days A Week

Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. Enjoy the company of other hikers while perusing SaddleBrooke. The sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. No advanced signup is required to participate in these walks.

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at **7:00 a.m.** until March 15th from the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. After the 15th, the walks will begin at **6:30 a.m.** If you have any questions please contact Michael at: 825-8286 or Martha at: 818-2573.

Judy's Tuesday and Thursday walking group will start the Fitness Walk at **7:00 a.m.** We start our walk on Tuesday at the Mountain View Parking lot.

On Thursday we begin our walks at the SaddleBrooke Tennis parking lot. We walk for an hour and complete about 3 or 4 miles according to where we walk. Most of our walks are touring SaddleBrooke and the few times we leave the premises it is discussed amongst the walkers. We leave exactly at 6:30 a.m., and wait for no one. For more information call Judy at 825-7077 or e-mail at: mbarenkopf@msn.com.

Hikes Offered

The hikes for the next two months are listed in the table on the following pages. Any symbols are explained immediately below the table, and trail descriptions follow the table.

Please remember to call a few days ahead of time to ensure the guide has time to plan hike logistics.

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating ^a	Pace ^b	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
3/1	Mon	Arizona Trail: American Flag to Tiger Mine	B		8:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	\$3
3/2	Tues	Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle	B		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
3/2	Tues	Phone Line Trail - Round -Trip	B		7:45	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$4
3/3	Wed	Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground	B		8:00	Howie & Elaine Fagan	818-9555	\$6
3/3	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C+/B	Fast	7:00	Martha Hackworth	818-2573	\$0
3/4	Thurs	Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon (with Tram)	B		7:45	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$5 + Tram
3/5	Fri	** Goldfields: Arches, Sky Island, Golden Dome ^c	A+		6:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$14
3/6	Sat	Sutherland Trail to Cargodero Canyon	C		8:00	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$2+2
3/7	Sun	Rillito River Hike #2	D		1:00 PM	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$3
3/8	Mon	++ Tortolita Trail ^d	D		8:30	Margaret Valair	818-1035	\$4
3/8	Mon	Bridal Wreath Falls	C+		8:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$6
3/9	Tues	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$4
3/10	Wed	Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook	C		8:00	Howie & Elaine Fagan	818-9555	\$4
3/11	Thurs	Brown Canyon Nature Tour	C		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$15 +\$3
3/11	Thurs	Hidden Canyon Loop	C+		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286 Call after 3/7	\$2

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating ^a	Pace ^b	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
3/12	Fri	++ Finger Rock Trail to Spring ^g	D+		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
3/12	Fri	Superstitions: Weaver's Crosscut	B		7:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$11
3/13	Sat	Pima Canyon to Pima Spring	B		7:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$3
3/14	Sun	Superstitions: Lost Dutchman State Park	D+		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$13
3/15	Mon	Aspen Draw / Mint Spring Trail	C+		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286 Call after 3/7	\$10
3/15	Mon	Superstitions: Indian Paint Mine	B		7:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$14
3/16	Tues	Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail	C-		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2 + \$2
3/16	Tues	Finger Rock Guard	A		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
3/17	Wed	Arizona Trail: Rincon Valley	B		8:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	\$9
3/17	Wed	SBHC Program: Emergency Preparedness & Map Reading Skills for Hikers, MV Ballroom			3:00 PM			
3/17	Wed	SBHC Social Hour, MV Club House			4:00 PM			
3/18	Thurs	** Hidden Canyon to Unit 21 ^c	B		7:30	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
3/19	Fri	Pontatoc Ridge	C+		8:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$4
3/22	Mon	** Picketpost Mountain ^c	B+		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$11
3/22	Mon	Seven Falls	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286 Call after 3/7	\$4
3/23	Tues	Charouleau Peak	B+		8:00	Dick Krueger	818-2671	\$1
3/23	Tues	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		7:30	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$2
3/24	Wed	SBHC Picnic and Annual Board Meeting						
3/25	Thurs	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
3/25	Thurs	Hutch's Pool	C+		7:45	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$4 + tram
3/25	Thurs	Tortolita Mts. Wild Burro Canyon (short)	D		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
3/26	Fri	Superstitions: Weavers Needle Loop (via Cave Trail)	B+		6:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$11
3/26	Fri	Tonto National Monument	C-		6:45	Sandra Sowell	818-0995	\$17+ Entry Fee
3/27	Sat	Seven Falls with Tram	C	Slow	7:45	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$4+ Tram
3/28	Sun	++ Picacho Peak Easy Trails ^d	D		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$7+\$2
3/29	Mon	Esperero Trail	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating ^a	Pace ^b	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
3/30	Tues	Pusch Ridge to 1 st Overlook	C+		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
3/31	Mon	Charouleau Gap Road	C+		8:00	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$1
4/2	Fri	Wasson Peak via Hugh Norris Trail	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$6
4/6	Tues	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		7:30	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$2
4/7	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C+/B	Fast	6:30	Sandra Sowell	818-0995	0
4/7	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting			3:00 PM			
4/7	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting			4:00 PM			
4/8	Thurs	Arizona Trail: Black Hills, Bloodsucker Wash to Freeman Rd.	B		7:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	\$13
4/9	Fri	Seven Falls	B		7:45	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$4
4/9	Fri	Superstitions: Mountain Ridgeline	A+		6:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$12
4/12	Mon	Blackett's Ridge	B		8:00	Margaret Valair	818-1035	\$4
4/12	Mon	Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk	D	Slow	6:30	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	0
4/13	Tues	Atascosa Lookout	B-		7:00	Dick Krueger	818-2671	\$18
4/13	Tues	Pusch Peak	A		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
4/14	Wed	Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy & Super Trail	A		6:30	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$10
4/16	Fri	++ Linda Vista Loop ^d	D+		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
4/17	Sat	Mt. Ian	A		6:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10
4/18	Sun	Saguaro National Park-West: Ramble	D		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$6
4/19	Mon	Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: Booger Canyon	B		7:00	Larry Dukatz	825-7097	\$10 + \$5
4/20	Tues	Chivo Falls	C		7:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$9
4/20	Tues	Phone Line Trail - Round Trip	B		7:00	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$4
4/21	Wed	Arizona Trail: Work Session	C		7:30	Jim Strickler	825-8735	0
4/21	Wed	SBHC Program: Desert Wildflower Slideshow MV Ballroom			3:00 PM			
4/21	Wed	SBHC Social Hour, MV Club House			4:00 PM			
4/23	Fri	Arizona Trail: Redington Pass Road to Molino Basin Campground	B		7:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	\$9
4/24	Sat	King Canyon Loop	C		7:30	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$6

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating ^a	Pace ^b	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
4/26	Mon	Tanque Verde Ridge Trail	C+		7:00	Howie & Elaine Fagan	818-9555	\$6
4/28	Wed	++ Honey Bee Canyon North ^d	D		9:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
4/27-4/29	Tues, Wed, Thurs	** Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness - 2 night Backpack	A		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$10 + \$5 per day
4/30	Fri	Hutch's Pool	C+		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4 + tram

a – A “+” or “-“ after a rating means that a hike is harder or easier than the average hike in that rating category because of special trail conditions. A “+” may be added due to a loose rocky or uneven trail, an unusually steep area, or exposure to heights. A “-“ may be added to a hike due to a smooth trail or other special conditions that make it easier than the category implies.

b – Pace is moderate unless otherwise described.

c – A "***" before a hike means it is an exploratory hike, and a candidate for inclusion in the Hike Database.

d – A "++" before a hike means that it is an orientation hike and encouraged for beginning hikers.

e - A representative of the Sky Island Alliance will accompany hikers to Atascosa Lookout. Limited to 16 hikers.

Hike Descriptions

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: Booger Canyon.

Rating B. The hike will take us halfway through the beautiful Aravaipa Canyon, then north up through Booger Canyon. While exploring Booger Canyon, hikers will be in ankle to knee-deep water for the first five miles and then scramble for another mile or two over large boulders. The sights from the top of the canyon are gorgeous and colors are outstanding in the fall. Depending upon how quiet we are, hikers may see golden eagles, coati, Gila monsters, or big horn sheep. Two pairs of shoes are recommended - one for water; one for canyoneering. Limited to 8 people. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up 2 weeks prior to the hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt)

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West to East.

Rating (Revised)A. This is a three-day, two-night wilderness hike, by permit only in a primitive preserve, following the perennial Aravaipa Creek through the Galiuro Mountains. We will be hiking (round trip from the nearby west trailhead) through the entire length of the canyon in ankle-to-knee deep water half the time and camping overnight (tents) on the east end at Turkey Creek Campground or in the canyon, depending upon the weather conditions. Hikers will also explore several 400-600 foot side canyons (Painted Cave; Horse Camp and Booger Canyon) depending on time. Bring binoculars and

camera. The scenery is beautiful, and we should see plenty of wildlife (hopefully golden eagle--big horn sheep--mountain lion). Appropriate over-night camping/hiking equipment is required; water can be purified or carried/cached. 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. Two cars are needed – left at trailhead overnight. Hike 28 miles over three days; trailhead elevation __ feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt).

Arizona Trail: Redington Pass Road to Molino Basin Campground. Rating B.

The trail is rolling with moderate up-and-down elevation changes. Starting east of the Catalinas at the trailhead on Redington Pass Road, hikers first complete the 4-mile segment of the recently repositioned Arizona Trail where it links with the Italian Trap segment out of the Rincon Mountains and connects with the lake southeast of Bellota Ranch. From here, we hike to West Spring, cross Molino Creek, and end at Molino Basin Campground on Catalina Hwy Drivers will be needed to shuttle hikers to the trailhead. Hike 11 miles; trailhead elevation 4360 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1665 feet; RTD 100 miles (dirt).

****Arizona Trail: Rincon Valley. Rating B.** From a trailhead at the northern end of Camino Loma Alta Road, the Hope Camp Trail takes hikers 2.8 miles to Hope Camp. Remnants of Hope Camp include an old windmill frame and old shack. From Hope Camp there is a short bushwack to the Arizona Trail at the Saguaro National Park – East boundary. The Arizona Trail continues across Rincon Creek past a very large crested barrel cactus, then crosses X9 Ranch Road and Pistol Hill Road through desert terrain. From here the Arizona Trail traverses the east side of Colossal Cave to Cienega Creek/3 bridges. This is a very scenic section through limestone outcroppings, lush vegetation, uplifted fossilized coral, with magnificent mountain views ending with railroad bridges over Cienega Creek. Often trains are seen here. This will be a key exchange or shuttle hike. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation __feet; net elevation gain __ feet; accumulated gain __feet; RTD 130 miles (Cienega Creek/3 bridges, dirt).

Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating C. This is one of the Hiking Club work days. Come join the fun - it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain and report conditions for the section of the Arizona Trail called, "Black Hills/South," for which our club is responsible. This 6-mile section starts on Tiger Mine Road, off Hwy # 77, just north of the Oracle State Park. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, and pruning, and for some, repairing cairns, adding erosion control devices and other trail work (depending on rains). Bring along gloves, hat, and hand clippers. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The session usually lasts about 4 hours, so bring water and snacks. Hike 3 to 6 miles; RTD 50 miles (dirt). The club will pay drivers' expenses.

Aspen Draw / Mint Spring Trail. Rating C+. The hike begins on Turkey Run Road in Summerhaven across from the Visitor Center. After about a mile, we take the Aspen Draw Trail to Radio Ridge. From there we descend the Aspen Trail to Marshall Saddle, where we pick up the Mint Spring Trail to Carter Canyon Road, where we will walk a short 0.75 miles to return to the trailhead. Hikers may choose to have lunch in Summerhaven before returning. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 8000 feet; net elevation change 1400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Atascosa Lookout (Revised). Rating B. We hike to the fire lookout station in the Tumacacori Highlands, near Rio Rico. The trail starts off Hwy # 289, 7

miles east of Pena Blanca Lake, and is very scenic, offering views over 75 miles in all directions. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change 1600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 190 miles (dirt).

Blackett's Ridge. Rating B. 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 Blackett's 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 2700 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 1620 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Bridal Wreath Falls. Rating C+. The Douglas Spring Trailhead is located at the east end of Speedway Blvd. The hike involves some steep climbing up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles, before turning off on the 0.3 miles spur leading to the falls. The trail is well used and easy to follow. Bring sun protection. Water may be flowing over the falls if there has been sufficient rainfall. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1120 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 80 miles.

Brown Canyon Nature Tour - Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Rating C. This is a beautiful canyon with birding and wild animal spotting possibilities. The hike is in Brown Canyon off Hwy # 286 and will be led by staff of the U.S. Fish and Game Dept. An excellent place for lunch is at a natural bridge along the way. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 4000 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 211 miles.

Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating D. Volunteers will meet in the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke Fitness Center. Bring gloves and a bottle of water. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided by the Pinal County Transportation Dept. The cleanup walk will last approximately an hour and a half.

Charouleau Gap Road. Rating C+. Starting from the 4WD parking area off Lago del Oro Blvd. just outside of SaddleBrooke, hikers proceed up Charouleau Gap Road, a rocky jeep road, to a

picturesque table rock with great views of SaddleBrooke. The area is filled with huge granite boulders and outcroppings. The return uses the same route. Charouleau Gap Road has loose, slippery rocks in some areas. Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 850 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 2 miles.

Charouleau Peak. Rating B+. Starting from Unit 21, hikers proceed south along the CDO Wash to Charouleau Gap Road, a rocky jeep road. The trail proceeds east past a picturesque table rock and through desert area filled with huge granite boulders and outcroppings. There is a steep climb with switchbacks on the final stretch to the gap, followed by a strenuous bushwhack to the peak (can start the bushwhack before the steep climb and loop over to the gap). The return uses the same route. Charouleau Gap Road has loose, slippery rocks in some areas. Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 12 miles; starting elevation 3270 feet; net elevation change 2900 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 5 miles.

Chivo Falls. Rating C. Chivo Falls is one of the tallest desert falls in the Rincon Mountains or the Tucson area. The hike starts off Redington Road on jeep trails. If there has been sufficient rain or spring snowmelt, the falls are very impressive. We'll lunch in a rock amphitheater below the falls. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 4000 feet; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 96 miles (dirt).

Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating B. Hikers drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the Douglas Spring Trailhead. The hike involves 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 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 2684 feet; RTD 80 miles.

Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C-. 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 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 460 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Esperero Trail. Rating B. The hike reaches a saddle overlooking Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot 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 7.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1898 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C+/B. The walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes in and around SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 to 10 miles; elevation change 500 to 600 feet. Hike duration is 2.5 to 3 hours. Optional breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted).

Finger Rock Guard. Rating A. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Finger "Rock Guard" is the large rock formation to the east of Finger Rock, a well-known landmark that can be seen from many places in Tucson (and from Saddlebrooke). The hike begins with the first 2.5 miles and 2200 feet accumulated gain of the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads eventually to Mt. Kimball. At the point where the trail turns northeast toward the Linda Vista Saddle, the trail descends a steep 200 feet into Finger Rock Canyon. The trail continues up a faint, steep and, in some places, slippery path to the saddle between Mt. Kimball and Finger Rock. From there, the trail turns southwest toward the rock guard. Rock scrambling and rock climbing are required to reach the summit 450 feet above the saddle. Bring extra water. Call to discuss with the hiking guide. This is a difficult hike but the fantastic views from the summit make it a "must do" for dedicated hikers. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 3375 feet; accumulated gain 4000 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook. Rating C. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike begins on level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs up the canyon. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up and coming down. From the overlook, hikers will enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, Finger Rock, and the steep Finger Rock Canyon, then return. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles.

++Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating D+. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Taking the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads to Mt. Kimball, we will only go as far as Finger Rock Spring. The trail passes some beautiful rock formations and native desert plant life along the way. The trail is relatively level but there are some ups and downs along the way. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles.

Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle. Rating B. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike starts on level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs 2500 feet. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up, and coming down is just as difficult. From the Saddle, hikers will enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, the Santa Ritas, and the city of Tucson as it spreads out below and into the distance. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 2500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles.

****Goldfields: Arches-Sky Island-Golden Dome-Rhyodacite Canyon Loop—Exploratory. Rating A+.** Across from the Superstitions is a little noticed range called the Goldfields, bordered by the Apache Trail Highway on the south and Saguaro Lake and the Salt River on the north. This hike is 60-90% off trail (dress accordingly). We will start from the Water Users Trailhead and cross the Salt River. From the river we climb steeply on a horse trail 0.5 mile to Sunrise Arch, and then head southwest, bushwhacking and climbing to a high point covered with golden slickrock with outstanding views over Gateway Canyon. A half mile from the Arch is Sky Island which we will loop around going southeast and then north to the top where we will visit various overlooks. We will then head south, left around the first of 3 hills spotting Precarious Arch, a great boulder suspended precariously above a gap in the

rocks, on the top. After climbing the third hill, we are standing on the north rim of Gateway Canyon with views of Rhyodacite Canyon, Pass Mountain, and other peaks. We continue our hike on the north rim of the Goldfields to a series of spectacular overviews of canyons and the Salt River and to the Delicate Arch. Depending on time and inclination, we may at this point include various exploratory side trips on the way back to the trailhead. Hike 9.5-12.5 miles; trailhead elevation 1400 feet; net elevation change approx. 1000-1600 feet; accumulated gain approx. 2800-3000 feet; RTD approx 208 miles.

**** Hidden Canyon to Unit 21. Rating B.** The hike begins at the 50 year trail parking area off Golder Ranch Road. From there we proceed along the traditional route to Hidden Canyon where we will have lunch. We then proceed north to pick up FR # 4432 to its intersection with Charouleau Gap road . We will hike down Charouleau Gap Road back to Unit 21. This hike requires a car shuttle. Hiking sticks recommended. Hike approx. 9 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Hidden Canyon Loop. Rating C+. This is a beautiful hike, practically in our "back yard", to a secluded canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti, along the way and a rock ledge with a great view down the valley. The ledge is a great place for lunch. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area past Golder Ranch Road gate. After lunch we will continue out of the canyon, circle around Hidden Canyon Peak back to the "North Gate", and return to the trailhead via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 975 feet; accumulated gain 1285 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

++Honey Bee Canyon North. Rating D. The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes and end for snacks/lunch at a broken dam. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time, this is a real eye opener. Hike 2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 200 feet; RTD 26 miles.

Hutch's Pool. Rating C+. Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon (fee required). 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. This lovely hike will take us to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees, which is great place for a snack or lunch. The return is via the same route to the trailhead to catch the tram. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 56 miles.

King Canyon Loop. Rating C. The hike begins from a parking area across from the Desert Museum and proceeds up the Kings Canyon Trail to the Sweetwater Saddle. The return is either down the trail to the Mam-a Gah picnic area or down an old mining road to the wash, then along the dry wash where petroglyphs can be viewed. The wash is interesting and wildlife can sometimes be seen. Bring a camera, lunch, water & hiking stick if you have one. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 1398 feet; RTD 73 miles.

Linda Vista Loop. Rating D+. The Linda Vista Trailhead and parking lot is one block east of Oracle Road on Linda Vista Blvd. The hike proceeds into the foothills of Pusch Ridge and is an excellent introduction to desert hiking. The trail gradually ascends to provide excellent views of Oro Valley. Poles may be helpful for rocky step-ups and step-downs. The trail passes through a riparian area and ascends to a rocky outcropping which is a good place for a snack break. There are magnificent saguaros throughout the drainage from Pusch Ridge. Hike 3 miles (mileage may be extended by doing an extra loop); trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 28 miles.

Mt. Ian. Rating A. The hike begins at the Madera Canyon Trailhead, proceeds up the Old Baldy Trail to the Baldy Saddle below Mt. Wrightson. Hikers follow the Crest Trail for about one mile toward Florida Saddle and turn off a short distance to Mount Ian (el. 9186 feet). Mt. Ian is the second highest peak in the Santa Rita Mountains (267 feet lower than Mt. Wrightson). The return is via either the Super Trail or Old Baldy. Hike 10 to 12 miles; trailhead elevation 5400 feet; net elevation change 4000 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy & Super Trail. Rating A. The hike begins in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains.) and follows Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle where we take the Super Trail to Mt. Wrightson. At the top are outstanding 360 degree views which include Tucson and mountain

ranges in the area. There is a good amount of shade along the way. The return is via the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 12.3 miles; trailhead elevation 5400 feet; net elevation change 4029 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating B. 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 10.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 56 miles.

++Picacho Peak Easy Trails. Rating D. The hike involves several trails in and around the base of Picacho Peak, including the Calloway, Nature and Cave Trails. All three trails are relatively smooth and involve little elevation gain. Wildflowers should be blooming during March if there has been adequate rainfall. We will also stop by the new Visitor Center. Hike 1.4 miles; trailhead elevation __ feet, net elevation gain __ feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 90 miles.

****Picketpost Mountain. Rating B+.** The daunting angular shape of Picketpost Mountain intrigues all who drive along US 60 between Phoenix and Superior. This is a short, steep hike to the summit of Picketpost Mountain. From the Arizona Trail parking lot south of Highway 60 and west of the Bryce Thompson Arboretum, the group will hike south on the Arizona Trail to a prominent drainage. Look for a cairned path which branches up the foothills of the mountain. The Picketpost Trail splits into two routes which eventually meet before the last cleft. Both routes have steep rocky sections which require sure-footedness. Once the rim is reached the route continues SE to the summit with mailbox and register. 360 degree views are spectacular. Hike 4.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 165 miles.

Pima Canyon to Pima Spring. Rating B. The trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail crosses open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. It then enters a beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging

again in the open. We hike past a three small dams before reaching the perennial Pima Spring, which has a concrete trough for holding water for wildlife. The spring is an excellent place for lunch. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change 2789 feet; accumulated gain 2875 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C+. The hike starts at the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," the trail goes up the northwest side of Pontatoc Ridge to just below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area from a saddle along the way. The hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. There are short stretches of exposed trail near the old mines. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 3100 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Pusch Peak. Rating A. From the trailhead at the east end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds up the northwest side of Pusch Ridge to the top of Pusch Peak, which provides fantastic 360 degree views of Tucson, Oro Valley, and points north. The first 1.5 miles of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 1.5 miles is difficult and strenuous with stretches of slippery footing, rock scrambling, and exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. Along the final 1.5 miles, the trail passes four man-made dams and numerous excellent overlooks with views north, west, and south. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2650 feet; net elevation change 2700 feet; accumulated gain 2700 feet; round trip 28 miles.

Pusch Ridge to 1st Overlook. Rating C+. From the trailhead at the east end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds part way up Pusch Ridge to a great overlook. The first mile of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 0.5 miles is difficult with stretches of slippery footing, rock scrambling, and exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. The trail passes four man-made dams. The overlook provides excellent views north and west. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 2650 feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain 1100 feet; round trip 28 miles.

Rillito River Hike # 2. Rating D. The hike begins from Children's Memorial Park on the north side of the Rillito River just west of Oracle Road. We walk down river (west) on an asphalt walking/bicycle path to the bridge at La Cholla Blvd. After crossing the river south on the La Cholla bridge, we walk east on

a dirt path. If the river is dry, we cross back over the river opposite Children's Park. If water conditions preclude crossing there, we continue on the south side trail to the Oracle Road bridge, cross over and return to the park on the asphalt trail. Hike 4.2 to 4.8 miles (depending on crossing location); trailhead elevation ___ feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 40 miles.

Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon (with Sabino Tram). Rating B. We take the Sabino Canyon tram to stop 9 and follow the Sabino Canyon, the East Fork, and finally the Bear Canyon Trail to the Bear Canyon Trailhead. From there, it's 1.6 miles to the Visitor Center. Tram fee required. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3320 feet; net elevation change 1800 feet; accumulated gain/loss 2620/3220 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Saguaro National Park – West: Ramble. Rating D. There are several short trails of interest in Saguaro National Park - West. One trail takes us to an area of petroglyphs which were made by Hohokam Indians about 1200 AD. We stop at the Visitor Center for an informative video before beginning the hike. Each of the short trails are off Kinney Road. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and hat. Hike 2 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 50 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 73 miles.

Seven Falls. Rating B. 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. There are seven stream crossings in each direction. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 720 feet; accumulated gain 1550 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Seven Falls with Tram. Rating C. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center with the tram to lower Bear Canyon. From the last tram stop we continue up Bear Canyon to Seven Falls and return via the same route back to the Center. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. Tram fee required. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 640 feet; accumulated gain 900 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Superstitions: Indian Paint Mine. Rating B.

Indian Paint Mine is the primary destination for this hike. The hike starts at Canyon Lake in the Superstitions and along the way on the Boulder Trail hikers encounter magnificent vistas at almost every turn, including Weaver's Needle. Hike 7.1 Miles; trailhead elevation 3500 feet; net elevation change 590 feet; accumulated gain 1710 feet; RTD 190 miles.

Superstitions: Lost Dutchman State Park. Rating D+.

The hike explores the Lost Dutchman State Park in the Superstition Mtns. The park is named after the fabled lost gold mine and offers a variety of hiking trails and nature trails. The hike will take place on the Treasure Loop Trail, and include Prospector's View, Jacob's Cross Cut, and the Discovery Interpretive Trail. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation __ feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 175 miles.

Superstitions: Mountain Ridgeline. Rating A+.

This is a very demanding through hike that rewards energetic hikers, with incredible views, sometimes in both directions, from the crest of the Superstition Mountains. There is often no trail, but the hike on the rocky ridge line is very enjoyable and remote, and one is unlikely to encounter other hikers. We will drop a car at Lost Dutchman State Park and return to Carney Springs Trailhead to begin the hike. The hike climbs steeply up Boulder Canyon Trail, stays on the ridgeline, goes up to Superstition Peak, continues up to the Flatiron, goes down Siphon Draw, and ends at Lost Dutchman State Park. Have warm clothing in your pack and bring plenty of energy snacks and water in addition to lunch. Hike 12.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2200 feet; net elevation change 2750 feet; accumulated gain 4900 feet; RTD 155 miles.

Superstitions: Weavers Crosscut. Rating B.

Beginning at the Peralta Trailhead, the hike involves climbing the Bluff Spring Trail, which gains 500 feet elevation in the 0.5 mile, levels off, then gains 260 feet in 0.25 miles. After 3 miles we leave the trail for "Weaver Cross Cut" at Bluff Saddle. The hike continues near the base of Weavers Needle, a column of volcanic rock that rises a thousand feet to an elevation of 4553 feet and dominates the landscape for miles around. On Weavers Cross Cut Trail we go through fascinating rock formations, then descend to the Peralta Trail and return to the trailhead. Hike 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation change 1350 feet; accumulated gain 2025 feet; RTD 155 miles.

Superstitions: Weaver's Needle Loop. Rating B+.

The hike is beautiful, steep, and rocky and passes through areas of huge boulders in the Superstition Mountains. The hike begins at the Peralta Trailhead on the Bluff Spring Trail and proceeds via various connecting trails north and northwest to the east side of the very prominent Weaver's Needle, passing through Barks canyon and Terrapin pass along the way. The trail then loops around the north side and returns through Boulder Canyon to the west side of Weaver's Needle via the Peralta trail, continuing up and over Fremont Saddle to the Peralta Trailhead parking area on FR # 77. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 2600 feet; accumulated gain; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

Sutherland Trail to Cargodero Canyon. Rating C.

The hike begins at the main trailhead in Catalina State Park and goes on the Sutherland Trail to the Cargodero Canyon. From there, the hike continues another mile or so up the jeep road. We will lunch in this area. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 24 miles.

Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C.

The trail for this hike is gradual and passes through a mesquite thicket with 100+ year old saguaros, Arizona poppies/morning glories in season, and eventually reaches an area of many, many petroglyphs. Per the book *Paradise Found* by Kathy Alexander, there are over 1400 petroglyphs in the area. Some rock scrambling is necessary to reach most of the petroglyphs. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3240 feet; net elevation change minus 205 feet; accumulated gain 309 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating C+.

The hike begins at the Javalina picnic area in Saguaro National Park – East off the loop road, and is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. The hike is somewhat steep in parts as it proceeds up Tanque Verde Ridge. At three miles into the hike, we will view a crested saguaro, but continue on another mile to lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some great photo stops along the way. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1900 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 82 miles.

Tonto National Monument. Rating C-. The hike includes a park ranger guided tour hike of the Upper Cliff Dwellings, normally closed and allowed only by reservation. The tour follows an unpaved, moderate to steep trail with a gain of 600 feet. If time permits, we will also visit the lower cliff dwelling on our own. This is an educational experience regarding the life of the Salado Indians (People of the Salt River). Park entry fee required. The monument is 110 miles one way, on good roads (off Hwy # 188) and overlooks Roosevelt Lake. The hike is limited to 12 members, and you must sign up at least 3 days prior to the hike. Bring lunch, ample water, and a hat. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation ___ feet; net elevation gain 600 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 230 miles.

Tortolita Mountains - Wild Burro Canyon (short version). Rating D. The group takes 4WD vehicles along the Rail-X Marble Mine Road off Oracle Hwy and another jeep road for a total of 7.5 miles. The hike begins along an old road that leads past an old stone wall. We will continue into the Wild Burro Canyon area where there is a windmill and corral. Weather and hikers agreeing, we may go further along a wash to a canyon lookout. Hike <4 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change <500 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 20 miles. portion of 12-mile multipurpose Tortolita Trail. The trail is near the Tortolita Preserve below Dove Mountain. It took outdoorsman and amateur trail designer Chuck Boyer, age 66, more than two years to carve out the 12-mile recreational trail using only hand tools. There are two trailheads to choose from. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 44 miles.

++Tortolita Trail. Rating D. The hike involves a portion of 12-mile multipurpose Tortolita Trail. The trail is near the Tortolita Preserve below Dove Mountain. It took outdoorsman and amateur trail designer Chuck Boyer, age 66, more than two years to carve out the 12-mile recreational trail using only hand tools. There are two trailheads to choose from. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 44 miles.

Wasson Peak via Hugh Norris Trail. Rating B. From the trailhead near Hohokum Road (off N. Kinney Road past Red Hills Visitor Center), the hike follows the Hugh Norris Trail to and from Wasson Peak. Hugh Norris is the longest trail to Wasson Peak, but the climb is gradual along a ridge with spectacular views. There are excellent 360 degree views from the top. There is little shade; bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 2640 feet; net elevation change 2124 feet; accumulated gain 2400 feet; RTD 73 miles.