



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2011-6

Galapagos -- A Living Biology Laboratory 3 p.m. Wednesday, November 16 SaddleBrooke Activity Center 4 p.m. Social Hour at SaddleBrooke Clubhouse

Larry Linderman was a biologist and teacher for 32 years. Larry often lectured about the importance of the Galapagos Islands and their influence on the way we see the natural world today. When Larry traveled to the Galapagos Islands in 2008 he closed a circle that began when he read **Origin of Species** by Charles Darwin in college.

Using a slide show Larry will discuss the flora and fauna of the islands, their biology and their meaning to the scientists of his day. Larry will also touch on the geography, geologic formation, climate and other factors that make the Galapagos a living biology laboratory.

Come and see the beauty and creatures of the Galapagos during Larry's 45 minute presentation. Questions and answers will follow as well as the Social Hour. For more information about this program contact Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547. For information about the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club contact Bill Leightenheimer 825-5756.



May 2012 Sedona/Flagstaff Hiking Trip

Similar to last year's trip to the Grand Canyon, the Hiking Club is planning a multi-day event for May 2012 in the Sedona/Flagstaff areas. **Please Mark Your Calendars!** We will be driving to those areas on Monday, May 14, hike four days and return to SaddleBrooke on May 18. Once again participants will be responsible for making their own transportation, lodging and meal arrangements. Attendees would also decide individually to hike one or more days of the four that are planned. Each day will consist of B, C, and D hikes and the first and third day will also offer an A hike.

Tentative hikes include Humphrey's Peak and Weatherford Trail (both A hikes), Brin's Mesa Loop, Kachina Trail, Kendrick Mountain, Wilson Mountain, and Mund's Wagon Trail, (all B hikes), Fisher Point via Sandy's Canyon, Bell Rock/Courthouse Butte Loop, Huckaby/Marg's Draw Trails, Boynton Canyon, and Sterling Pass (all C hikes), Observatory Mesa, Fatman's Loop, and Sandy Seep Trail (all D hikes). In addition, yet to be determined passages of the Arizona Trail will also be offered.

The logistics for the trip are still in the early stage of planning. Currently under development is an informational packet that will contain hike descriptions with trailhead locations, lodging, RV and tent camping alternatives, area restaurants, and information concerning available tours and attractions. When this packet is complete, hiking club members will receive an email from the Club. At that time, anyone interested in participating can email **Bob Kolenda** at rlkslt4@gmail.com to request a copy.

Signups for the hikes must occur ten days prior to the trip to allow the guides ample time to finalize logistics. Participants will sign up for these hikes as they do for any other hike - that is they will place a call to the guide indicating their interest. A complete schedule of the offered hikes will be available one

week in advance of our departure date. This schedule will include a departure time, rallying point, guides name, and a list of those signed up for each hike. As mentioned above, every attempt will be made to offer hikes of various levels of difficulty each day. However, hikes with too few participants will be folded into other hikes that same day or be cancelled. At this time, six guides have indicated their interest in participating.

2011 Hike Database Now Available

By Roy Carter & Frank Brier

The SBHC Hike Database has been updated and posted on the website for all members to use. The updated version includes about 66 new hikes, reflects GPS data that has been collected over the previous year by members and guides, and revises/corrects several other parts of the document. The biggest addition is that stand alone hike descriptions have been included for each of the 43 passages of the Arizona Trail. The Arizona Trail content has been reorganized to improve the understanding of that trail and to assist guides/hikers in planning the completion of all or part of the Trail. Additional information has been included in the “General Information” and “Hike Ratings, Pace, and Elevation Change” sections.

As always, the document is a work in progress, and your input on trail conditions and hike descriptions, along with measurements of distance and accumulated gains, are critical to the accuracy and currency of the document. Hikers with GPSs are encouraged to continue submitting round-trip distance and round-trip accumulated gain measurements to the guide for recording on the Signup Sheet. Please submit all the individual measurements; don't try to devise a “group average”. These measurements are needed for many of the hikes in the Database. If you see a need for changing a hike description or its rating, please drop me (royvcarter@gmail.com) an email with your logic and supporting information. Member input is always welcome, even if it's only to correct an error.

Guides may obtain hard copies of the Database from Cheryl Werstler. This is the last official duty of Frank Brier and I as outgoing Chief Guides. We hope you will continue supporting Larry and Cheryl during the remainder of their terms as Senior and Associate Chief Guides, respectively. Thanks for your help.

Who is this intrepid member of the Saddlebrooke Hiking Club? What is he doing on a sheer cliff on the way to the top of Long's Peak (14255 feet) near Estes Park, Colorado? This picture was taken shortly after climbing Mt. Elbert (14433 feet), the highest point in Colorado (and 2nd highest in the lower 48), AND Mt. Humphries (12637 feet), the highest point in Arizona (twice in two weeks). The guy has a serious disorder called “hike-i-vitis”, which means he can't get enough of the wonderful sport of hiking. These hints will help: he also did the Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim hike with two friends in May, is a mean tennis player, is a beginning bridge player, has a ready smile for everyone, and finally (this should give it away), is a former Chief Guide of the SBHC. Congratulations on quite a summer Frank.



We are initiating an effort to show a few special and or unique pictures submitted by our members on hikes. We would prefer pictures showing members of the club on actual hikes but shots of nature or landscapes (think **Arizona Highways Magazine** like) taken while on hikes would be considered. We have a lot of club members doing unique, adventurous, and interesting hikes. Please share

these with the rest of the club. Please send your recent pictures (nothing before May 2011) and suggested caption to Dave Sorenson at least two weeks before the bi-monthly newsletter comes out (the 1st of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec.

By Roy Carter

New Hiking Shirts

The new hiking shirts with embroidered club logo are available. Please use the order form which is posted on the club website, and send it with your check to our Merchandise Coordinator, Pam Corrigan. Contact her at [608-279-0316](tel:608-279-0316) or email her at pam@daveandpam.com if you have any questions.

News You Can Use

Special Program	Nov. 16th	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	Nov. 16th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Dec. 7th	2:45 p.m.
Guide Meeting	Dec. 7th	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour	Dec. 21st	4:00 p.m..

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at the SaddleBrooke and DesertView Fitness Centers. You may print copies from our web page at www.saddlebrooke.org.

Board Members

President	Bill Leightenheimer - 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
Vice-President	Bob Kolenda 825-9972; rlkslt4@gmail.com
Secretary	Ken Wong; 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
Treasurer	Virginia Brier 818-0493; virginiabrier@gmail.com
Chief Hiking Guides	Larry Linderman 303-6564; LLinderman13@gmail.com Cheryl Werstler-825-9057; dbwerst@wbhsi.net

Volunteers

Catalina Hills Cleanup	Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
Communications	Ken Wong 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
Programs	Elisabeth Wheeler;818-1547 elisarick@wbhsi.net
Membership Roster	Karen Cusano , 468-2501 kdjcnp@yahoo.com
Merchandise	Pam Corrigan pam@davandpam.com
Newsletter Copies	Martha Hackworth, 818-2573 marthahackworth@gmail.com
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Socials	Beaver Simpson,818-7839; wbsortho@aol.com Marge Wong 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
Statistics and Awards	Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com
Work Days	Jim Strickler, 825-8735; sherabjim@wbhsi.net

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). Other persons in the vehicle who also hold park passes would not be responsible for the second amount. Note, 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 walks in SaddleBrooke because of the 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 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).
- **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. Please view the chart below for the start times for all the walking groups led by Bill

Leighenheimer, Martha Hackworth, Judy Barenkopf and Dean Wilson.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
April 1st	6:30 a.m.
June 1st	6:00 a.m.
September 1st	6:30 a.m.
November 1 st	7:00 a.m.

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. If you have any questions please contact Martha at: 818-2573, or Bill at: 825-5756.

Judy's Tuesday walking group will start the Fitness Walk at the Mountain View Parking lot. On Thursday the walk begins 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 the time designated and wait for no one. For more information call Judy at 825-7077 or email at: mbarenkopf@msn.com

Slower walks around SaddleBrooke two days a week (days are negotiable) are led by Dean Wilson. If interested in participating in these walks, please call Dean at 818-0299.

Hikes Offered

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Name of Hike</u>	<u>Hike Rating</u>	<u>Pace</u>	<u>Leave Time A.M.</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Driver Donation</u>
11/1	Tues	Butterfly Trail	B		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$9
11/1	Tues	Hutch's Pool	B!		7:45	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$4+Tram
11/2	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast	7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$0

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
11/4	Fri	Romero Pools-Coffee and Cookie with optional lunch**	C		8:00	Virginia Brier	818-0493	\$2+\$2
11/4	Fri	Hidden Canyon- Star Pass	D		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$5
11/7-9	Mon-Wed	Pinaleno-Santa Teresa-Galiuro Mix & Match Sampler (Car camp)	B		TBA	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	TBA
11/7	Mon	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$2
11/8	Tues	Canyon Loop Birding & Nature Trails	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2+\$2
11/9	Wed	Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop	C!		7:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$5
11/9-12	Wed-Sat	**AZT: Passages 25, 26, 27	A	Fast	6:00	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA
11/10	Thurs	Brown Mountain	C		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$6
11/10	Thurs	Full Moon Hike in Catalina Park	D		3 :00 pm	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$2+\$2
11/11	Fri	Mt. Hopkins	A		7:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$10
11/14	Mon	Agua Caliente Hill	C		7:45	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$6
11/15	Tues	Baby Jesus	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
11/15	Tues	Boyce Thompson Arboretum	D		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$12
11/16	Wed	SBHC Program: Galapagos; HOA1 Activities Center			3:00 p.m.	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	
11/16	Wed	SBHC Social Hour HOA1 Activities Center			4:00 p.m.			
11/16	Wed	Bridal Wreath Falls	C		7:30	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$6
11/17	Thurs	King Canyon Loop	C	Slow	8:00.	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$6
11/17	Thurs	AZT: White Canyon	A	Fast	6:00	Larry Linderman	303-6564	\$11
11/18	Fri	Elephant Head	A		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$11
11/21	Mon	Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail	B		7:30	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$5
11/22	Tues	Wild Burro Canyon/Alamo Springs	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$4
11/22	Tues	Aravaipa Canyon West	B!	Slow	7:30	Dave Sorenson	777 1994	\$10+\$5
11/25	Fri	Pusch Peak	B!		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
11/26	Sat	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:30	Kathy Cotton	825-2243	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
11/26	Sat	Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina-Upper Javelina	C		9:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
11/29	Tues	Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon	A		6:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
11/29	Tues	Finger Rock to Spring	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
11/29	Tues	Rams Creek	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
11/30	Wed	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$2
12/1	Thurs	Tortolita Mountains: Cochie Springs and Beyond	B		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
12/1	Thurs	Tortolita Trail	C		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4
12/2	Fri	Pima Canyon to Pima Springs	A		7:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$3
12/5	Mon	Douglas Springs to Campground	B		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$6
12/6	Tues	Sycamore Dam	C		8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$7
12/7	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting SB Coyote Room N.			2:45 p.m.	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	
12/7	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			4:00 p.m.	Larry Linderman	303-6564	
12/7	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast	7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$0
12/8	Thurs	Window Rock Loop	A		6:30.	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
12/9	Fri	Picacho Peak via Hunter Trail	B!		7:30	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$7+\$2
12/9	Fri	Phoneline Tr. With Tram up	C		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4+tram
12/10	Sat	Brown Mountain	C	Slow	8:00.	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$6
12/11	Sun	Charouleau Gap Rd to Hidden Canyon	B		8:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$1
12/12	Mon	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$2
12/13	Tues	Tanque Verde Ridge	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$6
12/14	Wed	Prison Camp to Sabino Canyon	C		8:00	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$7+tram
12/14	Weds	Linda Vista Loop	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
12/15	Thurs	Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Spring/Wild Mustang	B		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
12/16	Fri	Honey Bee Canyon	D		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
12/19	Mon	Phone Line Trail with Tram Ride Up	C		8:00	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$4+tram
12/19	Mon	Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails	B		8:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$6
12/20	Tues	Picacho Peak to Saddle	C		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$7+\$2
12/20	Tues	Wasson Peak Loop	B		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$6
12/21	Wed	SBHC Social Hour MV Club House			4:00 p.m.			
12/21	Wed	Panther Peak	C!		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$5
12/22	Thurs	Linda Vista Loop	D		8:45	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
12/23	Fri	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:30	Dave Sorenson	777 1994	\$4
12/24	Sat	Fifty-Year Trail / Sutherland Trail / Bridle Trail	B	Fast	8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$2+\$2
12/26	Mon	Tortolita Mountains:Cochie Spring Trail	B		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
12/28	Wed	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$2

a– New hikes not yet included in the Hike Database are indicated with “***”.

b – Hike ratings are based on round trip distance and accumulated elevation gain, where available. Ratings flagged with a “!” indicate special trail conditions that might be of concern to some hikers. Please read the hike descriptions before deciding whether to sign up.

Ratings flagged with a “☺” indicate an easier, smoother trail than normal at that rating.

c – Pace is moderate unless otherwise stated.

****Virginia will provide the coffee and cookies at the Pools. Optional lunch at In-N-Out Burger after the hike.on 11/4 Limit 8**

****Note: Laura’s 11/14 hike will be going beyond the 4 miles listed, 5-7 miles likely.**

Hike Descriptions

Agua Caliente Hill. Rating C. The hike has great panoramic views of Tucson, and the Rincons and Santa Catalinas. The trail starts climbing immediately from the Camino Remuda Trailhead. The trail continues up and down for approximately two miles to a water hole. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 75 miles.5

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West. Rating B!. Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful, pristine canyon, a favorite for all who have been there. 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 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt).

Arizona Trail (Passages 25, 26 & 27)

- ****Arizona Trail: Whiterock Mesa (Passage 25). Rating B.** Starting on the north side of the East Verde River the trail follows the Rock Creek drainage up to Polk Spring and then climbs up on Polles Mesa. It reaches Red Saddle Tank and a gate, another gate, turns to the east and comes to Whiterock Spring. There is a steep climb back to the west and then the trail begins working its way across Whiterock Mesa. After crossing a drainage the trail climbs again along Saddle Ridge. There is another gate and the trail continues mostly north to the wilderness boundary and another gate. The trail passes through Saddle Ridge Pasture, another gate, and then reaches FR 194. Hike 11.4 miles; trailhead elevations 3278 feet south and 5851 feet north; net elevation change 2573 feet; accumulated gains 2709 feet northward and 136 feet southward.

- ****Arizona Trail: Hardscrabble Mesa (Passage 26). Rating B.** This passage begins on FR 194 near Twin Buttes. The route follows FR 194 and then turns right onto a two-track that follows some power lines. The route follows this rocky road in a southeast direction, then turns to the right onto FR 251 and veers away from the power lines and then back near them. The route turns to the south and descends down to a gate, turns east and passes East Tank and another gate. There is a contour around the upper end of Pine Tank Gulch and then the road reaches the Walnut Trail (#251). This trail descends past Ridge Tank and around to Oak Spring and a trail junction (#16). From here the trail climbs out of Oak Spring Canyon, descends past Bradshaw Tank and then reaches Pine Creek. A short ways downstream the trail heads east again and loops around to Highway 87. After crossing the highway, it runs up to the Pine Trailhead. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevations 5851 feet south and 5393 feet north; net elevation change 1080 feet; accumulated gains 1399 feet northward and 1854 feet southward
- ****Arizona Trail: Highline (Passage 27). Rating A.** (See hike 26 for associated trail information.) From the Pine Trailhead, the trail works its way east along the Highline Trail (#31). It skirts the southern edge of Milk Ranch Point, passes by Red Rock Spring and reaches Geronimo Trailhead and Webber Creek. Continuing east, the trail passes Bray Creek and then comes to the Washington Park Trailhead. Here the trail turns north on the Colonel Devin Trail. It follows along the west bank of the East Verde River, crosses it and does a steep climb to the top of the Mogollon Rim. The passage terminates on the south side of FR 300 near the Battle of Big Dry Wash historical marker. Hike 19 miles; trailhead elevations 5393 feet south and 7279 feet north; net elevation change 1900 feet; accumulated gains 4793 feet northward and 2910 feet southward;

Arizona Trail: White Canyon. Rating A. The White Canyon segment is one of the last passages still in active trail building, with 6.6 miles of new trail along the Gila River completed. We place a car

at the junction of Ripsey Wash off Florence Kelvin Highway (about 6 miles north of Kearney) then return to Hwy # 177 going north. We drive about 6.5 miles to Battle Axe Rd., then proceed 1.7 miles to the corral to begin our hike. We then proceed west about 2 miles to the confluence of White and Walnut Canyons and hike south down Walnut Canyon 1.5 miles through a passage of stunning narrows. We then retrace our steps north in the canyon 0.75 miles to an intersection with a 2-track road and head southeast for 2 miles. We stay on the 2-track which gains elevation in some lovely terrain for 2 miles, then join up with a wash which continues south for 1.7 miles to the Gila River. We then head east along the river for 0.3 miles before joining with the newly constructed trail which parallels the Gila. After crossing the Gila, we follow the train tracks 0.6 miles to the northern junction of Ripsey Wash then follow the wash 0.2 mile to our shuttle. Hike 15.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2510 feet; net elevation change 795 feet; accumulated gain/loss 1665/2370 feet; RTD 150 miles.

Baby Jesus. Rating C. The hike starts in the Fifty-Year Trail area near the east end of Golder Ranch Road and follows a jeep road that connects to the beginning of the Baby Jesus Trail across the Sutherland Wash. Hikers follow the trail on the east side of Baby Jesus Ridge to a rock grouping that looks in profile like the Madonna and Child, (for which the ridge is named) seeing a "window," beautiful saguaros, and rock formations along the way. The return is via the same route. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 12 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 2720 feet; net elevation change 1689 feet; accumulated gain >1735 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Boyce-Thompson Arboretum. Rating D□. The arboretum (fee required) features 35 acres of nature paths, towering trees, cacti, mountain cliffs, a streamside forest, a desert lake, and panoramic views. It is located about 100 miles north of SaddleBrooke off U.S. 60 between Florence Junction and Superior. The park is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring lunch, camera, hiking stick optional. Hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes are recommended, although the paved trail is relatively level. Call the hike guide for more details. Hike is under 4 miles; trailhead elevation ___ feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 164 miles.

Bridal Wreath Falls. Rating C. 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 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 Mountain. Rating C. 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 400 feet; accumulated gain 1100 feet; RTD 73 miles.

Butterfly Trail. Rating B. From the trailhead near Soldier Camp on Catalina Hwy, we hike down Butterfly Trail # 16 to the Novio Spring area in Alder Canyon, and lunch in the vicinity of a 1957 F-86 plane crash. The entire steady climb is on the way out. Hikers will be in the shade of very tall Douglas firs and ponderosa pines up to a saddle and to the exit at Palisade Ranger Station. A car will need to be left here to shuttle back to the upper trailhead. Along the way are views of San Manuel to the east. Butterfly Peak is to the north. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 7700 feet; net elevation change 1730 feet; accumulated gain 2230 feet; RTD 125 miles.

Canyon Loop, Birding and Nature Trails. Rating C. Starting at the main trailhead in Catalina State Park, this hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We first hike the Nature Trail which has panoramic views, and then continue onto the Canyon Loop Trail. We will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail prior to returning. If the group is really ambitious, we will swing through the Canyon Loop Trail the opposite way we came for a total of 6.7 miles. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 370 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Charouleau Gap Road to Hidden Canyon. Rating B. This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of Sutherland Wash with beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. It starts from the 4WD parking area off Lago del Oro Blvd, or from Unit 21. The hike proceeds up Charouleau Gap Road, a rocky jeep road, and continues right on FR # 4432. After reaching a pond (usually dry), we follow the trail to Hidden Canyon. The return uses the same route. Charouleau Gap Road has loose, slippery rocks in some areas. Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 11.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain 1975 feet; RTD 2 miles.

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 moderately some steep hiking on a well-used trail to the campground. Coming back we may take the spur out and back to Bridal Wreath Falls, and follow Douglas Spring Trail back to the trailhead. The trails are mostly open, so bring sun protection. Bring lunch. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 2684 feet; RTD 80 miles.

Elephant Head. Rating A. Elephant Head is the craggy massive rock on the west side of the Santa Ritas which looks like an elephant's head when viewed from I-19. The hike starts from the Aqua Caliente Trailhead (see driving directions), follows a trail to the Quantrell Mine Road, and then turns eastward on the abandoned mining road which winds around Chino Basin to Chino Canyon. Around the corner into Chino Canyon is the first unobstructed view of Elephant Head. A hundred yards east into Chino Canyon the trail descends very steeply 500 feet into the canyon to a stream crossing with pools

of water. This is a pleasant place for a rest break before climbing 800 feet to the ridgeline to the north. At the ridgeline, we turn to the west and follow a rocky trail with many steps-up and narrow passages along the final ascent. A few places are steep and exposed but not too difficult. Besides the magnificent 360-degree view from the top there is a whimsical display of miniature elephants which are fun to view and arrange. Return via the same trails. After climbing out of Chino Canyon, there is an optional side trip to the Quantrell Mine, which would involve returning westward along the mining road back into Chino Basin, watching for the old mining mill and the trail which exits the mining road back to the Aqua Caliente Trailhead. Hiking poles and gloves are recommended. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 4589 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain 3030 feet; RTD 154 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).

Fifty-Year Trail / Sutherland Trail / Bridle Trail. Rating B. The hike begins from the easternmost trailhead in Catalina State Park. We take the Canyon Loop Trail to the Sutherland Trail. After reaching the rocky road, we turn west on the Trail Link for about two miles until we come to the Fifty-Year Trail. We take the Fifty-Year Trail south, then the Bridle Trail back to the beginning. Hike 8.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 24 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.

Full Moon Hike, Catalina State Park. Rating D.

We will hike in Catalina State Park on one of the easy trails, then return to one of the park's group sites to enjoy S'mores and a campfire. Bring flashlight, hot drink, and warm clothes including gloves. There is a \$3.00 fee for food and site rental. Hike < 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 24 miles.

Galiuro-Santa Teresa-Pinaleno Sampler. Rating B/A.

The Galiuro, Santa Teresa, and Pinaleno Mountains are some of the most remote and least accessible areas of the Coronado National Forest. Because the driving distance is 3-4 hours, a series of hikes is being offered with overnight stays. However, one may choose to do just the Bassett Peak hike (about 1 hr. drive from Willcox) and not the others that involve car camping. Our camp for the other hikes will be at Fourmile Campground near Klondyke. It has a lighted restroom with flush toilets, drinking water, picnic tables, and grills. Campfires are allowed. Elevation is 3,500 feet

- **Mon., Nov. 7. Blue Jay Ridge Loop. Rating B.**

Blue Jay Ridge Trail was originally the major access to the lookout on West Peak, the westernmost major summit in the Pinalenos. Whereas most trails in the Pinalenos are accessed from the Swift Trail Highway originating south of Safford, Blue Jay is accessed from the north on remote forest roads. The Ridge offers unobstructed views east and south to the Gila Mountains and Valley and the grasslands of Sulphur Springs Valley. Great views of Mt. Graham can be seen as the trail becomes an old 4X4 road. At the trail's highest point on the southwest point of West Peak is a short side road to the 45-foot fire tower with 360 degree views. The hike ends with a steep descent down FS 286 back to the trailhead. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 7,660 feet; net elevation change 1,070 feet; accumulated gain/loss 1,870 feet.

- **Tues., Nov. 8. Holdout Canyon. Rating A-Exploratory.**

Part of the Grand Enchantment Trail that runs through the Santa Teresas, Holdout Canyon is a wonderland of oddly shaped pinnacles, fins, and domes. It is known among the rock climbing community for such features as Holdout Tower, Zorro, Great Wide Face and the Shmoo. Legend has it that old west

outlaws once eluded justice among the maze of boulders here. Our goal is to reach Holdout Creek where the amazing rock formations, along with views of Pinnacle Ridge, stretch for miles. The access road has eroded badly which adds about 5.5 miles of road-walk one-way to the hike. The distance from the actual trailhead to the creek is about two miles. Hike 14-15 miles; trailhead elevation 3,670 feet; net elevation change 1,670 feet; accumulated gain 2,060 feet.

Note: Hikers may decide to do an alternate hike in the Santa Teresas due to excessive road-walking. Another option is Cottonwood Mountain (from which Holdout Canyon is visible in the distance), about 10 miles and 2,080 feet elevation gain; or a scenic 4X4 road that gives views of the entire area including Aravaipa Canyon, up to 10 miles and 1,200 feet elevation gain.

- **Wed., Nov. 9. Bassett Peak. Rating B.** The trail to Bassett Peak, the highpoint of the Galiuros, is known for fantastic fall colors. One can choose to do only about 2.5 miles of the trail with very little elevation gain and experience a brilliant display of color. Continuing beyond the 2.5 mile point the trail gets steeper and the aspens are left behind. Upon reaching the ridgeline, there are outstanding views of the Pinalenos, the Catalinas, and the Rincons. As you approach the switchbacks, a few hundred feet from the trail is the remains of a B-24 bomber that crashed in 1943. The trail stops 200 yards from the top, but the peak can be accessed by a moderate bushwhack. Views go as far west as Baboquivari Peak and east into the mountains of New Mexico. Dress in layers and bring gloves and hats. Hike 12-14 miles (2-wheel drive vehicles require additional 2 mile walk); trailhead elevation 5,040 feet; net elevation change 2,600 feet; accumulated gain 2,700 feet.

Hidden Canyon - Starr Pass. Rating D. This is a loop hike on good trail with some gain in elevation. There are lots of saguaros and jojoba bushes plus views of the city along the way. After 0.25 miles you are out of sight of "civilization" and have views to the northeast. Taking the loop trail counterclockwise, the trail descends to a junction marked by a cairn. After turning right through a small wash, winding around cacti and mesquite trees, the trail joins a major wash

on the left. Following the wash leads to a brown wooden sign for the "Yetman" trail. We follow the arrow to a stone house built in the early 1930's by Mr. Sherry Bowen, a type setter and editor for the Arizona Daily Star. He and his wife, Ruby, lived in the house on 2000 acres. In 1983, this land became part of the Tucson Mountain Park. Hike 2-4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 71 miles.

Honey Bee Canyon South. Rating D. The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. We will explore the canyon, identify some of the vegetation, look for petroglyphs, find a large hole in a rock, and look for animals and animal tracks. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, hat, camera (optional). Hike <4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 100 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 26 miles.

Hutch's Pool. Rating C! Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram (fee required) 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. During periods of heavy rain or significant snow melt, the crossings can be difficult. Ask the guide about current stream flow conditions. This lovely hike will take the group to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees, which is 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, and 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 steps-up and steps-down. 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 – ask the guide); trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 28 miles.

Mt. Hopkins. Rating A. Mount Hopkins in the Santa Ritas is the home of the Whipple Observatory. The hike starts from the Madera Canyon Trail parking area (upper). The hike goes up numerous steep switchbacks via the Vault Mine Trail to the Aqua Caliente Saddle, and then continues up a faint "lung bursting" route through pine forest that hugs the ridgeline to the top. The views include mountain ranges in all directions. We will lunch at the top then hike part way down the road, drop down a steep decent to Josephine Saddle and finally down Old Baldy Trail. This is a tough hike due to route conditions and steepness. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 5400 feet; net elevation change 3185 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Panther Peak. Rating C!. The hike begins near Saguaro National Park – West off Picture Rocks Road, with the first mile on old mining roads. Then, a steep, difficult climb begins and you may need to use your hands to climb the trail. The use of gloves, long pants, and a hiking stick is recommended. There are outstanding views from the top; Picacho Peak is visible to the north. The return is via the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2280 feet; net elevation change 1160 feet; accumulated gain 1250 feet; RTD 60 miles.

Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C! The hike begins at the Peppersauce Campground on the northeast side of the Catalinas. The trail follows old Mt. Lemmon (Oracle Control) Road up to the Nugget Canyon turnoff. We will stop to see Peppersauce Cave. Bring a flashlight. We then travel up the canyon, follow jeep roads, view an old mine, then come down Peppersauce Canyon. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills, but there are numerous stream crossings involving boulder hopping during periods following significant precipitation. This is a

strenuous hike for this level due to a steep incline in one area and loose rocks in another. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 53 miles (dirt).

Phone Line Trail with Tram Ride Up. Rating C.

The hike begins from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After the ride up Sabino Canyon to tram stop # 9, we hike up to the Phone Line Trail and then back down the trail to the Center. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road and provides outstanding views and photo opportunities of the canyon. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change minus 1035 feet; accumulated loss minus ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

Picacho Peak to Saddle. Rating C.

The hike follows the Hunter Trail from the Barret Loop up to the saddle and returns via the same route. There are terrific views of the surrounding area at the saddle. There are a few sections of loose rock, and permanently installed guide cables at some points to assist hikers along the relatively steep trail. Park entrance fee required. Hike <3 miles; trailhead elevation 2000 feet; net elevation change 960 feet; accumulated gain 960 feet; RTD 90 miles.

Picacho Peak via Hunter Trail. Rating B!.

From Barret Loop, we hike the Hunter Trail to a saddle, then down to the Sunset Vista Trail and up to the top of Picacho Peak, which provides 360-degree views of the area. The trail descends about 350 feet after reaching the saddle before resuming the upward climb from the west side of the Peak. Permanently installed guide cables are used along several steep sections to reach the summit. Bring leather or rubber tipped gloves for holding on to cables. This is a short, strenuous hike and a favorite among hikers. The return to the trailhead is along the same route. There are several areas of climbing where the trail is slippery due to loose rock and/or where the trail is exposed to sharp drop-offs. Park entrance fee required. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2000 feet; net elevation change 1374 feet; accumulated gain 2152 feet; RTD 90 miles.

Pima Canyon to Pima Spring. Rating A.

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 2960 feet; net elevation change 2789 feet; accumulated gain 3200 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Prison Camp to Sabino Canyon. Rating C.

This is a beautiful mostly downhill hike from the old prison camp off the Catalina Hwy to Sabino Canyon where we will catch the tram down to the Visitor Center. Fee required for the tram. Hike 7.6 miles; trailhead elevation 4863 feet; net elevation change minus 1550 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 94 miles.

Pusch Peak. Rating B!.

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 2620 feet; net elevation change 2641 feet; accumulated gain >2700 feet; RTD 28 miles.

Rams Creek Basin. Rating C.

From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision, we hike up a wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are great views of Rancho Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere along the way. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 780 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles.

Romero Pools. Rating C.

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 1500 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Sabino Canyon - Bear Canyon Loop (no Trams).

Rating A. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, hikers follow the Phone Line and Sabino Canyon Trails to the East Fork intersection, the East Fork to the Bear/Sycamore intersection and then the Bear Canyon Trail past Seven Falls, back to the Visitor Center. We may have to revise the route if the stream is high in Bear Canyon. This is a very scenic hike on good trails. Hike 17.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 2110 feet; accumulated gain 4155 feet; RTD 56 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, but nothing very difficult. 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).

Sycamore Dam. Rating C.

The hike begins off Catalina Hwy at the old Prison Camp (Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Area) in the Santa Catalina Mountains. The trail follows a road to a saddle and down to a large dam and now filled-in reservoir which provided water for the camp. The return is via the same route. Along the way are ruins of an old Japanese internment camp constructed during W.W. II. Near the camp's entrance are an interesting series of panels which tell about its history. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 4800 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 94 miles.

Tanque Verde Ridge Trail - Part Way. Rating C.

The hike begins at the Javalina picnic area in Saguaro National Park – East, and is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We hike east up to and along the Tanque Verde Ridge and turn around at about 3 miles (by a crested saguaro.) The hike is somewhat steep at some points, but there are great photo stops along the way. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 82 miles.

Tortolita Mountains - S. Wild Burro Canyon / Alamo Springs Trail Loop. Rating C.

The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. The hike proceeds up Wild Burro Canyon to the Alamo Springs Trail, which is followed in a counterclockwise loop back to the Wild Burro Trail further up the canyon.. The Ritz Carlton Hotel and new golf course are visible from many points along the trail. After about 3.5 miles, we reach the final "pass," then descend to the Spur Trail, which we follow into Wild Burro Canyon. Soon after reaching the canyon floor, there is an old stone house, and cistern on the right which belonged to goat herders in the early 1900's. There is also a large water catch basin, dubbed the "swimming pool". From this point, hikers walk back along the Wild Burro Trail to the trailhead. Hike 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain 1375 feet; (hike data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Trail (medium version). Rating C.

The trailhead is at the end of W. Moore Road about 1.5 miles off Dove Mountain Blvd. The hike involves a portion of the multipurpose Tortolita Trail located on the Tortolita Preserve. It took outdoorsman and amateur trail designer Chuck Boyer, age 66, more than two years to carve out the 9-mile recreational trail using only hand tools. Hike 6 to 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change <500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Mountains – Alamo Springs / Wild

Mustang Loop. Rating B.

This hike travels the outer rim of the area. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, to Lower Javalina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail. After ascending the first part, we take a short side trail to a high point overlooking the area to the west. We then continue on the Alamo Springs Trail to our lunch spot in Wild Burro Canyon. We then proceed on a short connector trail to the Wild Mustang Trail until we connect with the Upper Javelina Trail and return to the trailhead via the Wild Burro Wash. The hike offers remote hiking with great views of the Tortolita Mountains and passes several crested saguaros. Hike 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 2780 feet; (hike data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Mountains - Cochie Spring Trail.

Rating B. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, hikers go 1.5 miles on the flat Wild Burro Trail to 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 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; (data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina and Upper Javelina.

Rating C. The hike begins at the Ritz Carlton Hotel hiker parking lot. The group will hike up Wild Burro Canyon a short distance to Lower Javelina Trail which we follow for 2 miles, then cross Wild Burro Canyon again to connect to Upper Javelina Trail. We will proceed along the Upper Javelina Trail for 3 miles; the end of Upper Javelina Trail is close to the new golf course. The group will then hike an easy 1 mile path back to the parking lot. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 550 feet; accumulated elevation 910 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Window Rock Loop via Ventana and Esperero Trails.

Rating A. This is a classic, strenuous hike to the unique Window, a large opening through a rock face on the crest of the front range of the Catalinas. The trail is a very long loop, and takes one from saguaros to ponderosas and back again. The hike starts at the Ventana Canyon Trailhead, proceeds past the Maiden Pools to the ridge at the top of Ventana Canyon. At a junction near the saddle, the Esperero Trail goes eastward to the Window for a superb view of Tucson and surrounding mountains. The hike continues on the Esperero Trail past Window Peak (optional side trip) to Esperero Cyn, and descends past Bridal Veil Falls and Cardiac Gulch to Esperero Creek. The Esperero Trail crosses the ridges of Bird Cyn and Rattlesnake Canyon to the Cactus Picnic area and continues down the road to the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. A car shuttle will be required. Hike 15.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2850 feet; net elevation change 4450 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

Wasson Peak Loop. Rating B. The hike begins at the King Canyon Trailhead located across from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. We follow the King Canyon Trail, Sendero Esperanza Trail, and Hugh Norris Trail up to Wasson Peak, then back down to the Sweetwater Saddle and down a mining road to the King Canyon Wash, and then to the trailhead. There are stops for lots of different views and a variety of great scenery, and petroglyphs in the wash. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 1807 feet, accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 73 miles.

Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails.

Rating B. The hike begins at Sendero Esperanza Trailhead off Golden Gate Road. The route follows the Esperanza Trail (1.8 miles) to the Hugh Norris Trail and on to Wasson Peak (2.2 miles). The climb is gradual and the Hugh Norris section is primarily a ridge trail with spectacular views. The 360-degree views from Wasson Peak include Tucson and Santa Catalinas to the east, Green Valley/Santa Ritas to the south, Sells to the west, and Picacho to the north. We will lunch on top of the Peak and return the same way. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1727 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt).

Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail. Rating B.

The hike begins at the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro (the west extension of Ruthrauff 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 2424 feet; RTD 60 miles.

Happy Holidays!