



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2009-1

HIKING AND BACKPACKING IN THE GRAND CANYON

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club is presenting a program, Hiking and Backpacking in the Grand Canyon, Friday, February 20 at 3 p.m. in the West Ballroom, MountainView Clubhouse. All residents of SaddleBrooke are invited to attend.

The presenter is Dan Davis who managed all of the Wilderness and Backcountry Ranger operations below the rim of Grand Canyon National Park, the Search and Rescue program, Colorado River patrol operations and the North Rim for 10 years. Dan Davis also spent 12 years at Rocky Mountain National Park as a backcountry, rescue and winter mountaineering ranger and 2 years at Lake Mead National Recreation Area as a boating and scuba diving ranger. Dan has retired from the National Park Service and now works part time at the Summit Hut and has a fine art and nature photography business.

Dan's power point presentation will cover the trails of the Grand Canyon, equipment needs, itineraries, safety – all the information that is needed to plan hiking and backpacking trips in the Grand Canyon.

Dan will also bring along some essential hiking equipment and go over it. He will personalize his presentation to the interests of the attendees. You may submit questions in advance to Elisabeth

Wheeler: 818-1547. Dan will answer all questions based on his years of experience as a Grand Canyon Park ranger.

ORIENTATION FOR NEWCOMERS TO DESERT HIKING

Wednesday, January 21, 3 p.m. (before the 4 p.m. social hour)

Sonoran Room, MountainView Clubhouse

If you are new to hiking in Arizona you may want to learn about our trails, guided hikes, and recommendations for hiking in this climate and terrain. Our volunteer guides will share informative materials and helpful hiking tips based on their experiences. You will meet guides of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club and learn about hikes for newcomers. For further information call Jim Strickler, 825-7838.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

It's time to renew your SBHC membership for 2009. The Renewal Form is on the last page of the newsletter. If you have joined or renewed since September, that counts for 2009. You may renew your membership at the hiking club social at the MountainView Clubhouse on January 21st. Remember to make your check out to the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club.

Welcome to New Hiking Guides

Volunteer guides are essential to the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club and its 400+ members. Our new guides are Laura Ruxer, Walt Shields, Bob Simpson and Tom Barnwell. We appreciate their contribution to our club.

OFFICERS

President: Michael Reale – 825-8286

mjreale@msn.com

Vice-President: Dave Hydeman – 825-7816

kuquilter@wbhsi.net

Secretary: Marjorie Herrmann – 818-9515

Mherrmann@wbhsi.com

Treasurer: Elisabeth Tancock – 825-7838

etancock@wbhsi.net

Chief Hiking Guide: Jim Strickler – 825-8735

sherabjim@wbhsi.net

VOLUNTEERS

Communications - Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547

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Newsletter Copies - Martha Hackworth

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Merchandise - Sandy Businger,

825-9294, usbusinger@wbhsi.net

Socials - Cheryl Straw

818-3631, cstraw@wbhsi.net

Work Days - Jim Strickler

825-8735, sherabjim@wbhsi.net

Catalina Hills Cleanup - Bill Leightenheimer

818-1465, whlaz@wbhsi.net

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Special Program	Jan. 21st	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	Jan. 21 st	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Feb.4th	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	Feb. 4th	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour	Feb. 18th	4:00p.m.

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at the MountainView Clubhouse and the SaddleBrooke Fitness Center. They are also available on our web page at

www.saddlebrooke.org.

Hiking Club Awards

750 Hikes	Howie Fagan
250 Hikes	Jan Wilson
100 Hikes	Elaine Kline
	Elizabeth Tancock
50 Hikes	John Strada
25 Hikes	Kathy Gedemer
	Lou Powers
	Ann Taylor
	Litch Litchfield

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 hike 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 at the end of the hike descriptions. Most include the entry and/or parking fees where required, however some hikes may require additional fees. Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView.

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

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

Assumption of Risk: When you joined the club, you were asked

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

Guest Policy: Normally a SaddleBrooke resident, whether year-round or part-time, must be a club member in order to join a hike. They may however, come on one hike as a guest in order to see if they are interested in joining the club. Members must accompany their guest(s), and all guests will be required to sign a Release Form prior to hiking (if under age 18, must be signed by parent or legal guardian). If the guest is younger than 16 years old, you must notify the guide who has sole discretion whether or not to allow minors on the hike.

HIKE RATINGS, PACE, AND SYMBOLS

Rating:

- A Hikes >14 miles or >3000 foot climb
- B Hikes >8 to 14 miles or >1500 to 3000 foot climb
- C Hikes >4 to 8 miles or >500 to 1500 foot climb
- D Hikes 4 miles or less and 500 foot climb or less

Pace:

Refers to the speed you walk/hike, or to the average speed of a hike. When we denote the pace of a hike, we are referring to the average speed. This means that from start to finish (excluding lunch) you can expect to be traveling at an average speed of () MPH. The average speed or pace of a hike is affected by speed and length of stride, number of rest stops, incline, type of terrain, and trail conditions. We use the following four categories to describe our hikes. Unless otherwise specified, hikes will be done at a moderate pace.

- Leisurely Pace:** Average speed of hike < 1.5 MPH
- Slow Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥ 1.5 to < 2.0 MPH
- Moderate Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥ 2.0 to < 2.5 MPH
- Fast Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥ 2.5 MPH

Elevation: Three indicators are used, where available, in the hike descriptions to convey hike difficulty. **Elevation Change** is the net change in elevation obtained from subtracting the starting elevation from the highest point reached, in feet, obtained usually from USGS maps. **Elevation Gain** (gps) is the sum of all upward stretches of the hike as recorded by a global positioning system. This parameter is generally a more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation. **Elevation Loss** (gps), another measure of hike difficulty, useful for some hikes, is the sum of all downward stretches of the hike.

Symbols:

"+" and "-" after a rating. The plus and minus signs are used to show that a hike is harder or easier than the average hike in that rating category. It may have a plus sign added due to a loose rocky area or perhaps due to an unusually steep area. A minus sign might be added to a hike due to it having a very easy,

smooth trail surface.

"" by a hike.** Hikes marked by a double asterisk are new additions to our club database or a new 'one time' hike.

"++" by a hike. Hikes marked by a double plus are Orientation Hikes. Orientation hikes are encouraged for all "beginner" hikers and are intended for sharing information and for personal assessment of current physical fitness.

FITNESS WALKS - FIVE DAYS A WEEK

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

Monday, Wednesday and Friday the fitness walks will start at **7:00 a.m.** from the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. Tuesdays and Thursdays the walks will also start at **7:00 a.m.**, but we will leave from Mountain View Clubhouse parking lot. If you have any questions please contact Michael at 825-8286 or Dean at 818-0299.

Judy's Tuesday, Thursday fitness walks start at **7:00 a.m.** promptly. On Tuesday we meet at the Mountain View Clubhouse parking lot. Thursday we meet at the SaddleBrooke Tennis Center's parking lot. We walk for an hour and cover 3 - 4 miles. Our walks are around SaddleBrooke unless otherwise discussed and advance notice is always given. Walkers of all levels are welcomed.

Happy Walking!

Judy Barenkopf: mbarenkopf@msn.com or 825-7077

HIKES OFFERED

Jan. 4 - Sun. Golden Gate Trail. Rating C. Ever wonder why there's a big parking lot just west of Gates Pass? Well, so did your guide who will lead a hike below Golden Gate mountain used as the backdrop in many Hollywood horse operas. In Tucson Mountain Park, we will hike ½ mile along the David Yetman Trail and then take the Golden Gate Loop. This is a hike with some rocky stretches and moderate elevation gain. Some bushwhacking back to the parking lot. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 70 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

****Jan. 6 - Tues. Mendoza Canyon Exploratory. Rating B (?)**. Mendoza Canyon in the Coyote Mountains is surrounded by the Tohono O'odham Reservation and private land, and may be the least visited BLM wilderness area in the state. Public access is allowed through the King's Anvil Ranch only during the months of Sept. through Feb. After reaching our starting destination, we will begin our hike on a primitive road through jumbled granite boulders. In an area of varnished boulders, we will search for stone metates and pictographs. After about 2 miles, the road ends abruptly at a dam that we must walk across or around. From here we will follow the scenic and adventurous off-trail route used by rock climbers to reach the start of their climbs up Table Dome or Elephant Dome, the largest granite massifs in the Coyote Mountains. We will follow cairns, rock hopping and occasionally bushwhacking uphill deeper into the canyon until we reach the rock climbers' junction to the two

domes. We will take the right route, ending our hike out by angling up a rock slab toward the south side of the Elephant, then return the way we came. Although the distance and elevation gain on this hike are not great, backcountry rock hopping and above average hiking skills are required. Dress defensively. Hike 6 miles; elevation gain 550 feet (both approximate); starting elevation 3,130 feet; leave at **6:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 120 miles; driver donation \$9.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler; 825-9057.

Jan. 7 – Wed. Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C+/B. This walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes in or around SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 – 10 miles; elevation change 500-600 ft; leave at **7:00 a.m.** (duration 2.5-3.0 hours; Optional: Breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted). Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Jan. 8 – Thurs. Peralta Trail. Rating C+. (SLOW PACE) Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle viewing Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains. This may be the area's most beautiful canyon. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver's Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge, thought-provoking boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. It's a steep, rocky trail most of the way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1360 feet; starting elevation 2500 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 154 miles (dirt); driver donation \$11.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

Jan. 9 – Fri. Catalina State Park - Exploring the Trails - Rating C. (FAST PACE) We will explore various trails within the park. This state park is a great example of the Sonoran Desert with its native plants and wildlife. Come enjoy the beautiful views of the Santa Catalina Mountains as we hike different trails through the park. Hike 4 to 8 miles; elevation change 400 to 1000 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

Jan 9 – Fri. Pima Canyon. Rating C. The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We will pass the first dam as we enter the beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. We will hike to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near Indian grinding holes and then return to the trailhead. Hike 6.2 miles; elevation change 977 feet (gps); starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 42 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Kathy & Phillip Cotton, 825-2243.

Jan. 10 – Sat. Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C. This hike is a gradual hike through a mesquite bosque with 100+ year old saguaros, Arizona Poppies/Morning Glories in season, on the way to 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 search for the petroglyphs. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12

miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

Jan. 12 – Mon. Pima Canyon – 3rd Dam. Rating B. The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the first dam as we enter the beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again into the open. We will hike past a rocky open area in the canyon beyond the second dam near ancient grinding holes and continue on to the third dam. We return to the trailhead via the same route. Hike 8.1 miles; elevation change 2210 feet (gps); starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 42 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Frank Brier, 818-0493.

Jan 12 – Mon. Rice Peak. Rating A. Hike up Peppersauce Canyon from the campground to the Oracle Ridge then follow part of the Arizona Trail to Rice Peak. Interesting "peppersauce conglomerate" in Peppersauce Canyon, great views along Oracle Ridge and interesting conglomerate rock on the peak. Superb views from the peak to the San Pedro River and the Galiuro Mountains beyond. Hike 10.0 miles; elevation change 3000 feet; starting elevation 4600 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 53 miles (dirt); driver donation \$5.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804.

Jan. 13 – Tues. Hutch's Pool. Rating C+. We will take the Sabino Canyon tram to the trailhead. After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon the trail is mostly level. This lovely hike will take us to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees. Bring \$7.50 for the tram. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3300 feet; leave at **7:45 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Jan. 14 – Wed. OSP West Loop. Rating C. This hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. We hike the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection we turn west and hike toward Highway 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Trail that takes us back to the cars. The first third of the hike is fairly level, the second third is a series of up and down hills on rocky trail and the last third has gentle hills. Hike 6.8 miles, elevation change 1001 feet (gps); starting elevation 4350 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 40 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Jan. 15 – Thurs. Maiden Pools. Rating C. We'll start at the public parking lot past the employees' parking lot at Ventana Canyon and use the new Forest Service trail into the canyon. The trail is rocky in places with some steep climbing. Hopefully, we will be rewarded for our efforts with spectacular views of the East Side of Tucson. Lunch at the pools and return. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 54 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Walt Shields, 818-3439.

Jan. 17 – Sat. Finger Rock/Finger Rock Guard. Rating A. This hike starts with the first 2.5 miles of Finger Rock Canyon Trail and descends a steep 200 feet into the bottom of Finger Rock Canyon. There we continue up a faint path and bushwack into the saddle between Mount Kimball and Finger Rock. From

there it is somewhat tricky to climb 200 feet out of the saddle to the base of Finger Rock. The final 50 feet to the top of Finger Rock requires a technical rock climb so we will stop at the base. Finger Rock is a well-known landmark that can be seen from many places in Tucson. In addition, we will hike to the top of Finger Rock Guard, the large rock mass to the east of Finger Rock. Rock scrambling and climbing required. Call to discuss the hike with the Hiking Guide. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 3500 feet; starting elevation 3100; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Jan. 18 – Sun. Brown Mountain. Rating C. Brown Mountain Trail is a trek along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts in a picnic area near the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Along this "ridge ramble" are excellent views of the mountains, valleys and desert vegetation. The route has many up and downs. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 73 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

Jan. 19 – Mon. Phoneline Trail with Tram Ride. Rating C. This requires purchase of a tram ticket at \$8.00. Start at the Visitor's Center, ride tram to Stop Number 9, hike up to the Phone Line trail and then back to the Center. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road. It offers outstanding views of the canyon - an easy downhill with photo opportunities. This hike can also be done in the reverse. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Laura Ruxer, 825-1829.

****Jan. 20 -- Tues. Superstitions: Robbers Roost-Geronimo Cave Loop Exploratory. Rating B.** This route goes up to the top of a seldom traveled 4,000 foot Dacite Mesa with good views in all directions, then winds its way through hoodoo rock formations. We begin the hike from the Lost Goldmine Trailhead, starting out cross country and making our way over to West Boulder Trail. We climb steeply to West Boulder Saddle, gaining 1,650 feet in less than 2 miles. At the Saddle we leave the trail and continue bushwhacking east up Dacite Mesa through a myriad of hoodoos, spires, and boulders to the "Chiminaya." We then head southeast down a drainage in our search for the "Robbers Roost" cave. From the Cave we wind northwest along the Mesa slope until we are directly above and west of Fremont Saddle. From there we descend down to the Saddle. We finish our loop on the Cave Trail which makes its way along cliffs and boulders and across weather worn rock, passing Geronimo Cave. (There are a couple of somewhat tricky, but fun, downclimbs on this trail.) We come to a junction with Bluff Spring Trail which leads to Peralta Trailhead then take the newer Don's Camp Trail back to our starting point. Hike 7 miles; elevation gain 2,060 feet; starting elevation 2,300 feet; leave at **6:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 154 miles; driver donation \$11.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Jan. 20 – Tues. Deer Camp/Samaniego Roost Loop. Rating C. We will start in the 50-Year Trail area and hike up to Deer Camp then go southwest on a trail that connects to the Samaniego Roast Trail. We take the left fork and enjoy a fantastic view at the second "pull out". We return via the

Samaniego Trail down slick rock to a grove of ocotillo, past two chollas that are so big they look like trees, through a dry creek bed, and to a grove of 100 + year saguaros. Hike 6.48 miles; elevation change 1288 feet (gps); starting elevation 3200; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Fred Kennedy, 825-5310.

Jan 21 – Wed. Orientation For Newcomers to Desert Hiking, 3:00 p.m., Sonoran Room, MountainView Clubhouse

Jan. 21 – Wed. Social Hour, 4:00 p.m. MountainView Clubhouse

Jan. 22 – Thurs. Seven Falls With Tram. Rating C. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center we will take the Tram to lower Bear Canyon. Bring \$3.00 for Tram Ride. We will hike the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls and return. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 6.4 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **7:45 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

++Jan. 23 – Fri. Linda Vista Loop Trails. Rating C (SLOW PACE). Drive to trailhead, 15 minutes from the MountainView parking lot. We will hike the trails in this area that skirt the base of Pusch Ridge. There are great views out onto Oracle Road and environs. Hiking stick recommended as trail is rocky in places. Hike 4 to 6 miles; elevation change 400 to 500 feet; starting elevation 2680 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 28 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Jan. 23 – Fri. Panther Peak. Rating B. The hike begins near Saguaro West National Park, 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. Enjoy outstanding views from the top, all the way to Picacho Peak. We will return by the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike 5.7 miles; elevation change 1135 feet; starting elevation 2300 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 60 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

Jan. 26 – Mon. Hidden Canyon. Rating C. This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. Hike begins past the Golder Ranch Gate in the Fifty Year Trail area. Hike 7.8 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Bob Simpson, 818-2610.

Jan. 27 – Tues. Wasson Peak/Sweetwater Trail. Rating B. We start from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the East side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike up through some of the prettiest Saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue on up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Little shade. Hike 9.43 miles; elevation change 2424 feet (gps); starting elevation 2900

feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 60 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Jan. 28 – Wed. Sutherland Trail. Rating C. This is a great wildflower hike after abundant winter rains. Along the way, we will observe many beautiful Saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are many photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the water falls are flowing. The route begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. We return using same route. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Jan. 29 – Thurs. World's Largest Cactus Hike. Rating B. This is a beautiful hike in the south central part of the Superstition Mts. Along the way we will hike through beautiful Bluff Springs Canyon where we will have great views of Weavers Needle. After passing Bluff Springs we will come upon the largest Saguaro Cactus in the world. This cactus is spectacular to behold and has an estimated sixty arms. We will try to determine its precise height. Bring along cameras and binoculars. Hike 10.2 miles; elevation gain 2000 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 154 miles (dirt); driver donation \$11.00. Walt shields, 818-3439.

Jan. 29 –Thurs. Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating D+. Santa Catalina Mountains. Taking the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads to the top of Mt. Kimball, we will only go as far as Finger Rock Spring. Hike 3 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 44 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Jan. 31 – Sat. King Canyon Loop. Rating C. (SLOW PACE) Starting from a parking area near the Desert Museum we will hike up the Kings Canyon Trail to the Sweetwater Saddle. Our return will be down the trail to Mam-a Gah picnic area. Then down the dry wash where petroglyphs can be viewed. This is an interesting wash where wildlife can sometimes be seen. Make sure you bring a camera, lunch, water & hiking stick if you have one. Hike 5.8 miles; elevation change 1398 feet (gps); starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 73 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Feb. 2 – Mon. Romero Springs. Rating B. Starting in Catalina State Park, we will follow the Romero Canyon trail. Along the way we will pass by the Montrose and Romero pools. The spring is located about 2 miles past the Romero pools. It is a very scenic section of the canyon. It has been known to have quite a bit of wildlife. Hike 10.36 miles; elevation change 2720 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

****Feb. 3 – Tues. Superstitions: Fraser-Randolph Canyons Loop Exploratory. Rating B.** This largely boulder hopping hike begins from the Woodbury Trailhead after a scenic drive on dirt Hewitt Station Rd. We will use FS Rd. 172 B to connect to Coffee Flat Trail, crossing the wash to view the remains of JF Ranch (still a working cattle ranch) and blacksmith shop. Proceeding in Fraser Canyon as it narrows and enters an area of jagged cliffs, we will pass an old freight road where it cuts

through a cliff wall. Look for the lost Polka Mine in the northern cliffs as we approach the junction with Randolph Canyon. After 4.25 miles, we will reach Dripping Spring which seeps from the ledges above the canyon floor. Optionally, we will explore Dutchman's cave north across the canyon from the spring. We then retrace briefly to the junction of the Red Tanks Trail where the trek into Randolph Canyon begins with smooth rock canyon floor. We will proceed in the Canyon for 4 miles, making use of the creek bed and old cow trails, passing the cement dam at Randolph Spring. We will come to the junction of JF Trail and turn southeast toward the Woodbury windmill, passing the junction with Woodbury Trail, and arriving back at the parking lot at the trailhead. Hike 10 miles; elevation gain 1,200 feet; starting elevation 3,530 feet; leave at **6:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 166 miles; driver donation \$12.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Feb. 4 – Wed. Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C+/B. This walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes in or around SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 – 10 miles; elevation change 500-600 ft; leave at **7:00 a.m.** (duration 2.5-3.0 hours; Optional: Breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted). Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Feb. 4 – Wed. Hiking Club Board Meeting, 3:00 p.m. Michael Reale, 825-8286

Feb. 4 – Wed. Hiking Guides Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Jim Strickler, 825-8735

++Feb. 5 – Thurs. Fifty-Year Loop. Rating C. (SLOW PACE) We will start in the Fifty-Year Trail Area and go east to the Upper Loop Trail then hike north to a rock with a bench for viewing. We then will hike back on the Fifty-Year Trail. There are beautiful saguaros and rock formations in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. This hike can be done in reverse. Hike 6.11 miles; elevation change 878 feet (gps); starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Feb. 5 - Thurs. 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, for lunch. The hike begins in the Fifty Year Trail area past Golder Ranch Road gate. After lunch we will continue on out of the canyon, and circle around Hidden Canyon Peak, back to the "North Gate" and return to our trailhead via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 975 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Walt Shields, 818-3439.

Feb. 7 – Sat. Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C. This hike is a gradual hike through a mesquite bosque with 100+ year old saguaros, Arizona Poppies/Morning Glories in season, on the way to 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 search for the petroglyphs. Bring a snack to enjoy while

searching. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

Feb. 10 – Tues. Picacho Peak to Saddle. Rating C. We will hike the Hunter Trail from the Barret Loop trailhead up to the saddle. Terrific views of surrounding area. Park entrance pass required. Hike <3 miles; elevation change 960 feet; starting elevation 2000 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 90 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

****Feb. 10 – Tues. Bug Springs Trail. Rating B (round-trip).** From the Lower Bug Spring trailhead (a quarter mile up the Catalina Highway from Hirabayashi Campground) the hike heads southeast along a narrow ribbon of trail carved into the granite hillside. After an uphill set of switchbacks the terrain mellows out with outstanding vistas and views of granite sculptures. The trail dives down the northside of the ridge into a heavily forested drainage. Upward to the highpoint of the trail you will see a few big madrone trees and views of the Sierrita Mountains, Baboquivari and the mighty Rincons. At the Upper Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile below General Hitchcock Campground) you may shuttle back to the Lower Trailhead or hike back to the Lower Trailhead. Hike 9.2 miles elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 5000 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 94 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Feb. 12 – Thurs. Deer Camp. Rating C. We will start in the 50-Year Trail area. We hike through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Mt. Samaniego. Hike 7 miles; elevation change 975 feet; starting elevation 3200; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 12 miles (dirt); driver donation \$2.00. Bob Simpson, 818-2610.

Feb. 13 – Fri. Seven Falls. Rating B. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center hike from the parking lot to lower Bear Canyon. Then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls and return. There are seven stream crossings in each direction. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 8.7 miles; elevation change 1550 feet (gps); starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Frank Brier, 818-0493.

Feb. 14 – Sat. Sweetwater Trail to the Saddle. Rating C+. (**SLOW PACE**) We start from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the East Side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike up through some of the prettiest Saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. We end at the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail. The King Canyon trail goes down to the Desert Museum or up to Wasson Peak. We will have lunch at the saddle before heading back to the trailhead. Hike 6.8 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 60 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Feb. 17 – Tues. Blackett's Ridge. Rating B. This hike takes you up to a ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. It has spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons. We hike through lower Sabino Canyon to the Phoneline Trail. After 0.4 miles we turn onto the Blackett's Ridge Trail where we begin the ascent.

This trail has several series of steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits at the top. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1620 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Dave Hydeman, 825-7816.

****Feb. 17 – Tues. Superstitions: Peters Trail and Mesa Exploratory. Rating A.** Weavers Needle, for many years, was the focus of the Lost Dutchman mine searches. However, the Tortilla area, a lesser-traveled region of the Superstition Wilderness, also saw considerable activity. West Horse Camp Basin is considered to be the site of a Mexican mining camp that was the source of cut timber for long lost mines. It was reasoned that the direction of the Mexican mines could be determined by tracing the route that the timber was carried, and speculated that parts of Peters Trail were used as this route. Peters Mesa has been prospected since the early 1900s; some believe it was mined in the mid 1800s. The Apaches reportedly covered the mines and restored the landscape to prevent further mining. There are stories about Apaches known as the Black Legion guarding a large cache of gold in the area. The hike will probably begin 24 miles east of Apache Junction where FS 213 leaves SR 88. Because of the roughness of this 4X4 road, we most likely will walk the 3.2 miles to the Tortilla Trailhead. Peters Trail begins by following Tortilla Creek, making many crossings and sometimes going down the center of the creek bed. This first section of the trail is quite scenic with steep cliffs to the east as it winds down a narrow canyon. The trail then leaves the creek and goes briefly across a soft dirt area before continuing across a wide valley. It then goes through a couple of passes, reaching a section that is steep and rocky and climbing the spine of a ridge with steep drop-offs on either side. The view into the valley below is magnificent. As we descend into Peters Canyon, the cliffs of Tortilla Mountain rise to the west. Once in the canyon we continue down canyon crossing the wash several times, finally going up a ravine to Peters Mesa. We will explore Peters Mesa as time allows and return the way we came. Hike 16 miles; elevation gain 3,050 feet; starting elevation 2,900 feet; leave at **5:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 212 miles; driver donation \$15.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825- 9057.

Feb. 18 – Wed. Arizona Trail Work Session. Rating C. This is one of our 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, involving some clipping, brushing, raking, and pruning, and for some, buiding up cairns, adding erosion control devices and other trail work (depending on the 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 3-6 miles. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**, round trip 50 miles (dirt.) The club will pay drivers' expenses. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Feb. 18 – Wed. Hiking Club Social, 4:00 p.m. MountainView Clubhouse

Feb. 19 – Thurs. Picacho Peak – 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. We use the permanently installed guide cables to get to the top. Bring cotton or leather gloves for holding on to cables. This is a short, strenuous hike and a favorite among hikers. We return to the trailhead along the same route. Park entrance pass required. Hike 4.2 miles; elevation change 1770 feet (cumulative); starting elevation 2000 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 90 miles; driver donation \$7.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Feb. 19 – Thurs. Oracle Ridge to Saddle. Rating C+. This hike begins in Oracle off the Cody Loop Road. It follows the Oracle Ridge Trail to the junction with the American Flag/Cody Trail where we have great views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas to the west. We follow the ridge south where we will lunch in a saddle at the top of Camp Bonita Canyon on the northwest side of Apache Peak. Return by the same route. Hike 7 miles; elevation gain 1000 feet; starting elevation 4700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 40 miles (dirt); driver donation \$3.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804.

Feb. 20 – Fri. Phoneline Trail - Round Trip. Rating B- (FAST PACE). The hike will begin in the Sabino Canyon parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phoneline Trail. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road. It offers outstanding views of the canyon. We will choose between three routes back, the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

Feb. 20 – Fri. Romero Pools. Rating C+. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. Trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down the canyon area where several pools are located. An option is a ¾ mile round-trip hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch there. Trail is rocky and rough in places. Hike 5.64 miles; elevation change 1500 feet (gps); starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Kathy & Phillip cotton, 825-2243.

Feb. 20 – Fri. Special Presentation, Hiking and Backpacking in the Grand Canyon by Dan Davis, 3:00 p.m. MountainView Clubhouse, West Ballroom. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Feb. 24 – Tues. Pusch Ridge to First 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 mile 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 fantastic views north and west. Hike 3 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation is 2650 feet; leave at **8:30 am**; round trip 28 miles; driver donation \$2.00. Roy Carter, 818-3137.

Feb. 24 - Tues. Window Rock. Rating A. The most direct route is up Ventana Canyon. This is a difficult and steep hike. We start at the parking lot past the employees' parking lot and

take the trail until it intersects with the Esperero Trail then follow that trail to the Window. Hike 13 miles; elevation change 4200 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **6:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 54 miles; driver donation \$4.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Feb. 25 – Wed. Alamo Canyon to the Water Tank. Rating C. This hike begins at the Romero Ruins trailhead. Elevation change is gradual. We will hike from the ruins through Alamo Canyon. There maybe water at the canyon. We will then go around, down and up and down again to a non-used large water tank. Trail is rocky in some areas. We can return one of three ways of equal distance. Hike 6.5 miles; elevation change 1050 feet (gps). Leave at **9:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 24 miles; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Feb. 27 – Fri. Wasson Peak/King Canyon. Rating B. (FAST PACE) We start at the trailhead near the Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum and go up the King Canyon Trail. We pass the Mam-A-Gah Picnic area and continue to the saddle where we meet the Sweetwater Trail. Then for the next mile or so it's a steep climb to the junction of the Hugh Norris Trail. From there is a short uphill climb to the summit. From the top you can see all of Tucson to the east, south through Green Valley, north to Picacho Peak and west to Sells. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1900 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 73 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

Feb. 27 – Fri. Hutch's Pool. Rating C+. We will take the Sabino Canyon tram to the trailhead. After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon the trail is mostly level. This lovely hike will take us to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees. Bring **\$8.00** for the tram. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3300 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip drive 56 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Laura Roxer, 825-1829.

New Members

To join the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club you need to fill out a Membership Application and Release Form available online at saddlebrooke.org or with the SBHC newsletters at Mountainview Clubhouse or the SaddleBrooke Fitness Center. To receive the Newcomer Packet (Patch, Information Sheet, Hiker's Log) please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your membership application and membership dues.

Renewing Members

To renew your membership in the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club for 2009 please fill out the attached renewal form and mail it with your membership dues to Bob Perez at the address below.

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2009

NAME (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** _____

Your name and phone number will be added to the membership list provided to the club officers and guides. Your email address will be used to send you the hiking club newsletter and notices of events.

\$5.00 Annual Dues must accompany this Renewal Form. Please make out check to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. Mail To: Bob Perez, 65187 E Desert Sand Court, Tucson, AZ 85739.
