



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

MARCH/APRIL 2006

2006-2

THE BATTLE OF PICACHO PEAK

Every year in March, Picacho Peak State Park sponsors a Re-enactment of the Battle of Picacho Pass. The clothing, camp lifestyle, food, and stories told by the soldiers in the southwest during the 1860s make this event even more intriguing. More than 150 re-enactors from the Southwestern area camp at Picacho Peak State Park. Spectators are welcome to tour the recreated military camps which will include demonstrations such as laundering, candlemaking, sewing, cooking and the fashions of the era. This year's event will be held March 11th and 12th. For more information you may call them at 520-466-3183.

SPRING PICNIC – MARCH 31ST

This year our spring picnic will be another easy, "do-it-yourselfer" potluck-plus-chicken affair. We once again have the group picnic site reserved at the Catalina State Park. The club will provide the chicken,

plates, utensils, ice and cups. You will need to bring a side dish/salad, or a desert, to share, and your own beverages, plus \$2.00 per person if you plan to have the chicken. We will have several different hikes, at different levels, starting at 8:00 a.m. for those interested, and will start eating at noon. Sign-ups for the hikes will be that morning at the group picnic site. Please call Sandra Sowell at: **818-0995** before Monday, March 27th to indicate if you are coming, what you are planning to bring, and whether you

would like the chicken, so we can get a count on how much to order.

APRIL 2nd – A FUN DAY

Registration is underway for the 3.1-mile walk to support breast cancer research. Join "Team SaddleBrooke" and be part of the **Susan G. Komen's Walk /Race for the Cure**. Thousands will be meeting at Reid Park (near the El Con Mall) to walk around the park to raise money to help fund research for a disease that in some way has touched us all.

Team SaddleBrooke will meet at the park (carpooling will be arranged if needed), and at the designated time the walk begins (the race segment will begin ten minutes before the walk). After completing the walk, the finish line area will have numerous free snack stands, drawings and give-a-ways. We will then regroup, and those who want can go out for breakfast at Beyond Bread or your favorite breakfast spot. This is a wonderful and emotional event that you will not forget.

Registration is easy, on your Internet browser, type in www.KomenSAZ.org. Follow the directions and where it indicates "join a team" check that and a drop down box will give you choices. Highlight "SaddleBrooke" and finish the application. You should check either the 5km walk or the 5km race option. Please register early. The deadline is March 3rd. We will pick-up the materials for you and let you

know where and when to pick them up.

Please join us for an important day. Any questions, please contact Ed Melnick at ed1@wbhsi.com or 818-2454.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Social Hour	March 15th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	April 5 th	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	April 5 th	4:00p.m.
Social Hour	April 19 th	4:00 p.m.

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

Membership is \$5.00 a year. Send your completed application or renewal to Bob Perez at 65187 E. Desert Sands Court. **Make checks payable to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club.** (Blank applications are placed behind the Newsletters in the clubhouses or are available online at our web page).

NEWS WE CAN USE

New e-mail address: If you change your e-mail address please notify Bob Perez at azsun65@wbhsi.net so you can continue to receive the newsletter and other communications.

Becoming a hiking guide: If you have gained experience hiking and would be interested in becoming a hiking guide, contact the Chief Hiking Guide. It is a great way to help the Club and contribute to our great community.

OFFICERS

President: Jim Strickler 825-8735
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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: A SaddleBrooke resident, whether year-round or part-time, must be a club member in order to join a hike. On hikes with limited participants, members have priority over guests. 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 length of 2 steps, 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 three categories to describe our hikes.

Slow Pace – Average speed of hike < 1.5 MPH

Moderate Pace – Average speed of hike 1.5 to 2.5 MPH

Fast Pace – Average speed of hike > 2.5 MPH

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

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club offers morning fitness walks five days a week. These sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. They are a great way to start the day and a great way to meet other SaddleBrooke residents as you enjoy the fantastic views.

Bill Leightenheimer offers fitness walks Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at **7:00 a.m.** Meet at the parking lot of the fitness center of **SaddleBrooke Clubhouse**. You may contact Bill at **818-1953** or whlaz@robsoncom.net.

Dean Wilson and Michael Reale offer fitness walks Tuesday and Thursday at **7:00 a.m.** Meet at the parking lot of the **MountainView Clubhouse**. You may contact Dean at **818-0299** or Michael at **825-8286**.

Judy Barenkopf offers fitness walks every Tuesday and Thursday at **7:00 a.m.** Meet at the parking lot of at the **MountainView Clubhouse** on Tuesday and at

the parking lot of the **SaddleBrooke Tennis Center** on Thursdays. You may contact Judy at **825-7077** or Mbarenkopf@aol.com.

NAME TAGS

A suggestion has been made that any person attending a hike might want to wear a nametag. We have so many new members; it would be a great way for the hiking leader and hikers to get to know the people in their group and to speak to them by name. Often we are introduced to people and quickly forget their names. If you choose to wear a nametag, you can pin it either to your shirt, hat or pack. Once again, this is not mandatory, only a suggestion.

March 2 – Thurs. Esperero Trail to Bridal Veil Falls. Rating B. We begin on the asphalt road at Sabino Canyon, cross the Cactus Picnic area and a heavily used trail. We then cross Rattlesnake canyon and gain elevation fairly quickly as we proceed to Bird Canyon and cross a section of private land. The trail is well maintained and there are some steep climbs interspersed with short switchbacks which take us to the ridge nicknamed "Cardiac Gap." The trail then drops to the north side heading towards Cathedral Peak, circles the basin which leads to Geronimo Meadow. The last half mile to the Falls is steep and overgrown, but is well worth it if there has been adequate rainfall. Hike 11 miles; elevation change 2450; starting elevation 2700; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

March 2 – Thurs. American Flag Trail. Rating C. This hike begins on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. We take the American Flag Trail to Oracle Ridge where we have interesting views to the west. We then hike south to a saddle below Apache Peak where we will have lunch and then return. Hike 8 miles; we will hike through an area effected by the Aspen fire; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

March 3 - Fri. Sausalito Canyon to Honey Bee Canyon (upper)--Rating D. This is a nice, nearby canyon hike with options to extend the hike within Honey Bee Canyon. The hike is approx. 4 mi. with minimal altitude change. 4WD vehicles are desirable and required near the end. We begin by driving 4.1 miles down Rail X Ranch Rd. and turning left on Sausalito Rd. for another 2 miles, taking the first spur to the left; the next spur to the right; and then left at the next spur. We are now heading east, parallel with a fence which eventually turns south for a short distance to the end of the road and near a windmill and concrete dam. Bring water, lunch, snack, camera(optional), sun protection. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

March 5 - Sun. Seven Falls. Rating C+. 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. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2800

feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

March 6 – Mon. Wasson Peak/King Canyon. Rating B. 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.**; driver donation \$4.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

March 9 – Thurs. Josephine Saddle/Old Baldy/Vault Mine Trail. Rating B. We start in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and go up Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. We then take the Agua Caliente Trail across and return via Vault Mine Trail. The Vault Mine trail going down will be very steep. This hike can be done in reverse. Hike 6.7 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

**** Mar. 9-11 – Thurs. – Sat. AZT—Four Peaks & Pine Mountain/Boulder Creek segments. Ratings B-, A-, and A.** The Four Peaks passage has striking aspects, including great views of Roosevelt Lake and the dam that created it as well as Apache Lake, close-up views of the magnificent Four Peaks, and the startling effects of the massive Lone Pine forest fire. The Pine Mountain/Boulder Creek passage is a link between the Four Peaks Wilderness and the Mazatzal Wilderness. Several miles of this passage are on forest service roads, however, the singletrack trails in the Boulder Creek drainage offer beautiful views. Overnight options are at a campground or a motel. Leave at **7:00 a.m.** Thurs.; driver donation TBD. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

Thurs., Mar. 9—Four Peaks segment from Mills Ridge Trailhead to Roosevelt Lake. Rating B-. This mostly downhill hike starts on a ridge with astounding views in all directions. The trail descends with rolling ups and downs to another ridge with stunning views of Apache Lake. As we continue down, we will take a short spur to a bird's-eye view of Roosevelt Dam. We will then descend sharply to the suspension bridge where we will end our hike on the other side. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1,520 feet; starting elevation 3,720 feet.

Fri., Mar. 10—Southern part of Pine Mountain/Boulder Creek segment & rest of Four Peaks segment. Rating A-. We will drive on El Oso Rd. to FR 422 which is the AZT, driving north for 2 or 3 miles before beginning our hike. Some of the Pine Mountain/Boulder Creek part of today's hike travels on Forest Service roads, but it still has a remote feel. The trail climbs steeply as it leaves the road to approach Buckhorn Mountain, gaining 800 feet in a mile. The views descending the mountain and into Granite Springs drainage are awesome. We lose almost 3,000 feet over the last four miles. Just before reaching the Four Peaks segment, the trail reaches a high north-facing slope offering great 180-degree views. The last part of our hike as we approach Mills Ridge Trailhead is though an area of erosion damage due to being ravaged by fire. Hike 15 miles; elevation change 2,950 feet; starting elevation 5,800 feet.

Sat., Mar. 11—Northern part of Pine

Mountain/Boulder Creek segment. Rating A. The hike starts near Sycamore Creek paralleling the valley formed by the creek and then, after about 3 miles, begins a gradual ascent. After crossing a saddle, we will reach Boulder Creek and then climb steeply up out of the valley floor, gaining 1,600 feet in 3.5 miles. The trail follows the valley through dense manzanita and other vegetation and then joins with FS 422 for about 5 miles ending where our car is parked from the previous day. Hike 15.5 miles; elevation change 2,590 feet; starting elevation 3,440.

March 13 - Mon. Linda Vista Loop Trails. Rating C. 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 **9:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

March 13 – Mon. Wasson Peak/King Canyon. Rating B. 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 **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

March 14 - Tues. Picacho Peak - Sunset Vista Trail (short). Rating C. From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the trail to the area that starts the steep climb to Picacho Peak. We will return by the same route. Hike 5-6 miles; elevation change 500 ft.; starting elevation 1500 feet; leave at **8:00a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

March 14 – Tues. Pusch Peak. Rating A. The first mile of the trail is mostly level then a steep, difficult climb begins. In a few places you may want to use your hands to climb the trail. Bring gloves. Hiking stick desirable. One and one-half miles more and we reach the top. The views of Oro Valley and Tucson are fantastic. This is a very strenuous hike. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 2700 feet; starting elevation 2650 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

March 15 - Wed. Social 4:00 p.m.

March 15 – Wed. Tortolita Trail. Rating D. Come explore part of the 12-mile multipurpose Tortolita Trail. The trail is near the Tortolita Preserve below Dove Mountain. It took outdoorsman and amateur trail designer Chuck Boyer, age 66, more than two years to carve out this 12 mile recreational trail using only hand tools. There are two different trailheads we may choose from. Hike <4 miles; elevation change <500 feet; starting elevation 3600 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

March 16 – Thurs. Canyon Loop Trail and the Birding Trail. Rating D. We will start up the Romero Trail in Catalina State Park; follow the Canyon Loop Trail and come back on the

Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. Following this we will hike the Birding Trail. Hike 3.5 miles; elevation change 450 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

****March 16 – Thurs. Arizona Trail - Redington Pass Road Exploratory. Rating C.** We drive out Redington Pass road to a staging area near the Italian Spring Trail (AZ. Trail) and FR 37 (Italian Trap Rd.) We will hike a loop of Italian Spring Trail about 2 miles, then back on the Italian Trap Rd.- FR 37. Then we will cross Redington Pass Rd. and hike the other direction for a ways along the AZ. Trail. It is about 1:45 hours drive out there. We need high clearance vehicles for the drive. Hike 4-5 miles; starting elevation 4000 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$5.00 Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

March 17 – Fri. Sutherland Trail from Catalina State Park. Rating C. A nice trail ending in a very scenic, flat, rocky area, with views. We start at the Catalina State Park trailhead. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804.

March 18 – Sat. Fifty Year Trail (North End). Rating C. We will start at the Equestrian Center, go north on the 50-Year Trail and then loop back. Beautiful saguaros and rock formations. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

****March 20 – Mon Professor Woodward's Dam. Rating B.** Start at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center; hike the tram road to the top, then climb to the site of the dam planned by Professor Sherman M. Woodward in 1901. Bring flashlights to explore a diversion tunnel, now over a century old. There is a short steep descent into the canyon and a short steep ascent out of the canyon. We will return via road or Phonline Trail. Hike 10.5 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

March 21 – Tues. 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 **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

March 22 - Wed. Picacho Peak for "C" Hikers. Rating B. THIS IS A SPECIAL HIKE FOR "C" HIKERS WANTING TO CONQUER THE PEAK. Pace will be modified to accommodate the group. From the Barret Loop trailhead we hike up to a saddle, down to Sunset Vista Trail, then to the top of Picacho Peak using permanently installed guide cables to reach the summit. BRING COTTON OR LEATHER GLOVES for holding onto the cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista Trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short strenuous hike and a favorite among hikers. Park entrance pass required. Hike 4.2 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 15feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

**** Mar. 22-25—Wed. - Sat. AZT—White Rock Mesa, Hard Scrabble Mesa, and Saddle Mountain sections. Ratings A-, B, & A.** These hikes will involve primitive car camping. Wed. leave time TBD; driver donation TBD. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

Wed., Mar. 22—Drive to Payson & Baby Doll Trailhead. Leave a car at Baby Doll; drive to Strawberry and Twin Buttes Trailhead; camp.

Thurs., Mar. 23—Hike White Rock Mesa section. Rating A-. This largely downhill hike starts out in very rocky terrain, and continues to be rocky as it descends to White Rock Mesa. We will hike through loose volcanic rock on Polles Mesa. The trail comes out near the bank of the East Verde River whose water level depends on the season. We will then retrieve our car at Baby Doll Trailhead, drive back to Twin Buttes Trailhead, and camp. Hike 14.8 miles; elevation change 2,550 feet; starting elevation 5,900 feet.

Fri., Mar. 24—Place a car at Pine Trailhead; drive back to Twin Buttes Trailhead; hike Hard Scrabble Mesa segment. Rating B. This hike links the Mazatzal Wilderness to the Pine Trailhead on easy to moderate trails. We will have a gradual, somewhat up and down, climb the first 5 miles until we come to a pleasant oak, juniper, and ponderosa forest. We will then descend moderately for 3 miles to Oak Spring. We then will ascend 450 feet in about a mile. The remaining 2-3 miles is generally downhill with some ups and downs and we end at Pine Trailhead. Although this segment is entirely outside of designated wilderness, portions of it feel quite remote. The brief passage through Oak Spring Canyon is beautiful and hikers will enjoy frequent views of the Mogollon Rim, the massive escarpment that rises above Pine Valley. We will retrieve our car at Twin Buttes Trailhead and drive to Sunflower where we will leave a car. We will then drive to Mt. Peeley Trailhead and camp. Hike 11.8 miles; elevation change 1,050 feet; starting elevation 5,850 feet.

Sat., Mar. 25—Hike Saddle Mountain passage. Rating A. This section begins the Mazatzal Wilderness and goes through some of the most beautiful terrain on the AZT. It offers a wide variety of landscapes over a relatively short distance. There are severely burned areas in this section due to the 2004 Willow Creek Fire and some of the trail is overgrown; protective clothing should be worn. The trail's general orientation is downward, but it has significant ups and downs for the first 6.5 miles. It then drops steadily for 2,000 feet over the last 9.5 miles. The trail begins at the Mt. Peely Trailhead at the intersection of the Mazatzal Divide Trail and ends south of Sunflower. We will then drive to retrieve our second car at Mt. Peeley Trailhead, then drive home. Hike 16.25 miles; elevation change 2,275 feet; beginning elevation 5,600 feet.

March 26 – Sun. Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating C+. This is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We park at the Saguaro National Park East Trail. The hike is somewhat steep in parts. We lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some photo stops along the way. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 1300 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

March 27 – Mon. Baby Jesus Trail/Petroglyphs Loop, Rating B. We will hike up either the Baby Jesus Trail or a trail on the hill above the Petroglyphs that connects to the Baby Jesus

Trail then on to the Sutherland Trail. We will then come down via the Petroglyphs. This hike has beautiful saguaros, rock formations (including a window), oak woodlands, and ancient petroglyphs. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 1200 feet, starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

March 28 – Tues. 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 7.5 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

March 29 – Wed. Bear Canyon to Sabino Canyon Loop. Rating A. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon parking lot. We hike up scenic Bear Canyon to Sycamore Canyon and turn left on the East Fork of Sabino Canyon to the Sabino Canyon Trail. We then turn left to the Phoneline Trail back to the parking lot. Hike 18 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:00a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

March 30 – Thurs. Bridal Wreath Falls. Rating C+. We'll drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the trailhead. Some steep hiking up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles then .03 miles to the falls. Mostly sunny, so bring sun protection. In the spring the falls should be flowing if the winter rains have cooperated. Hike 5.6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at 7:00 a.m.; driver donation \$4.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

March 30 – Thurs. Phoneline Trail - Round Trip. Rating B. 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 **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

March 31 – Fri. Spring Picnic

April 2 – Sun. Josephine Saddle. Rating B. We start in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and go up Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Rest there and return on the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 6.2 miles; elevation change 1700 feet; starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Karen Gray, 818-0337.

April 3 – Mon. Guthrie Mountain - Santa Catalina Mountains. Rating C+. The hike will start at the General Hitchcock Campground. We will go up the Green Mountain trail to the saddle at the head of Bear Canyon. Then on to Guthrie Mountain and return. The trail along the top from the saddle to Guthrie Mountain gives great views of the Catalinas and the San Pedro Valley. The last quarter mile to the trails end over the mountaintop requires some rock climbing. Some hikers may not

wish to do that portion of the hike. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 6000 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

****April 3-6 – Mon.-Thurs. Backpack to Rainbow Bridge .**

Rating A+. Monday we will drive approximately 435 miles to the North Rainbow Bridge Trailhead. We will backpack 6 miles through Cha Canyon, Bald Rock Canyon to N'asja Creek where we will camp. We will carry the water we will need for 30+ miles of hiking, 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts. Tuesday we will hike 16 miles round-trip to Rainbow Bridge going around the north side of Navajo Mountain through Oak Canyon and Bridge Canyon to Rainbow Bridge. Rainbow Bridge is one of the great natural wonders of the world and a sacred site to the Navajo. This giant sandstone formation rises 290 feet above and 275 feet across Bridge Canyon. Tuesday and Wednesday nights we again camp at N'asja Creek. Wednesday there would be time to explore massive N'asja Canyon, possibly all the way down to the Colorado River where we can filter additional water. Thursday morning we backpack 6 miles back to the trailhead and drive home. Starting elevation is 6,000 ft and Rainbow Bridge is 3800 ft. The 2200 ft. elevation change does not include the numerous side canyons which are traversed. The terrain is rugged throughout this backpack. Backpacking fees would be \$20 per person paid to the Navajo Nation. Limited to 10 hikers in 2, four-wheel drive vehicles. Driver donation TBA. Leave at **5 a.m.** Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547. .

April 5 – Wed. Board Meeting/Guide Meeting 3 & 4p.m.

****April 6 – Thurs. Tortolita Mountain Trails Exploratory.**

Rating C. This is a new hike near Dove Mt. in Wild Burro Canyon in the Tortolita Mountains. We drive to the end of Dove Mt. Blvd., then turn right onto Secret Springs Dr.. We drive over the cattle guard onto a dirt road. Watch for pink ribbon markers at a Y in the dirt road. Turn right, and drive 1.1 mile up the Wild Burro Canyon Wash. Here is where we park. There is an old concrete swimming pool, remains of a stone house, and water "tank". This is where settlers raised cattle and goats in the early 1900's. The trail is marked with pink ribbon markers on your left, up the wash, just past the swimming pool. The trail climbs approx. 200 feet up past the first waterfall, then continues up the wash. Then looking for pink markers on your right, you find the trail going up another approx. 200 ft. to the top of the second waterfall. Here we have excellent views back down Wild Burro Canyon and out over Avra Valley. This is the point where we hike to Wild Burro Canyon from the North. Thus we now have a hike that can be a through hike with a car shuttle; or two groups and exchange car keys at mid-point. Hike is 2 miles rd. trip if done from the swimming pool. It's 4 miles if done from the Y on the dirt road, walking 1.1 miles up the wash on the soft sand. Starting elevation is 3600 ft. Total elev. change is approx. 400 ft. Leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Bring camera, water, snack/lunch. 4 WD vehicles are desired. Jan Wilson 818-0299.

April 6 – Thurs. 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; starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

April 7 – Fri. Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating C. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. We start at 4500 foot elevation from the lower area and ascend 3.2 miles up the canyon to the 5400 foot Roundup Picnic Area. Along the way, we enjoy the shade of Apache Pines, Douglas Firs, Emory Oaks, Mexican Blue Oaks, Willows, Cottonwoods, and Sycamores. Our return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 4500 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

April 8 – Sat. Saguaro Park West Ramble. Rating D. There are several short trails of interest in the Saguaro West Park. One trail takes us to an area of petroglyphs which were made by Hohokam Indians about 1200 AD. We stop at the Visitors Center for a very informative video. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and hat. Hike 2 miles; elevation change 50 feet; starting elevation 2500 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

April 9 – Sun. 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. Park entrance pass required. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

April 10 – Mon. Elephant Head. Rating B+. A hike to climb the craggy massive rock on the west side of the Santa Ritas. The rock is mentioned in Apache legend of the area. The hike starts out along a gentle mountain road but after about 2 miles there is some tough bushwhacking across Chino canyon and then rock scrambling to get to the top. On the way back we must cross Chino canyon again! Dress defensively and bring gloves. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; starting elevation 4600 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$5.00. Ron Noton, 825-7374.

April 11 – 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.**; driver donation \$3.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

April 12 – Wed. Arizona Trail (AZT)-Oracle State Park (OSP) Work Session. Rating C. This is our Hiking Club committed work day in helping to develop, maintain and report condition of the trails for which we have responsibility. Generally the work is light in nature and may involve brushing, hoeing, raking, trimming, pruning and usually requires some bending and lifting/carrying tools. On rare occasion we must rebuild water bars, design and develop new trails, build small bridges, erosion control devices and other special projects. All

tools are supplied and kept at OSP. Gloves, hat and long pants are always recommended. For the most part it requires a 4-6 hour block of time, therefore you should bring snacks/lunch/water. We are responsible for all the trails in OSP and the 13.5 mile section of the AZT described as "Segment 14A - Black Hills/south". This segment is just north of OSP with the trailhead on Tiger Mine Road. Come join in the fun--it's nice to work side by side with other hiking members and it certainly gives you a feeling of pride and accomplishment along with a way of 'giving back' for all the trails we hike and take for granted so often. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$ 2.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

April 13 – Thurs. 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.**; driver donation \$4.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.

April 18 – Tues. Honey Bee Canyon North Plus. Rating C. We will walk Honey Bee Canyon at Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes, and pioneer adobe ruins. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time this is a real eye opener. Hike 4-5 miles; elevation change 300 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

April 19 – Wed. Social 4:00 p.m.

April 19 – Wed. Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C+. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," this trail goes up the north side of Pontatoc Ridge to j below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area. This hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. Hike starts at north end of Alvernon Way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1150 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804.

April 26 – Wed. Tohono Chul Park and Tea Room, "birders walk" and breakfast. Rating D. Join a Tohono Chul docent for a guided bird observation walk in beautiful Tohono Chul Park. We can continue strolling through the park at our leisure and end with breakfast at the Tohono Chul Tea Room. Bring binoculars. There is an admission fee of \$5.00. Hike 1.5 miles; elevation change 50 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at 7:45 a.m.; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

April 27 – Thurs. Apache Peak. Rating B. This hike starts in Oracle and follows the Oracle Ridge Trail south to the saddle on the southwest side of Apache Peak. From there it is a bushwack up a steep slope through the brush over unexpectedly loose rocks to the top. The return is down the north side of the peak over loose rocks again to intersect with the Oracle Ridge Trail and return to the trailhead. Suggest defensive clothing and gloves if desired. Hike 9 miles; elevation change 1800 feet; starting elevation 4750 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. John Robertshaw, 818-6727.