



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2006-6

COME JOIN THE FUN

The Hiking Club will be holding a work day on December 20th at 8:00 a.m. 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.

We help develop, maintain, and report conditions of the trails for which our Club is responsible. Generally, the work is light, involving some clipping, brushing, hoeing, raking, and pruning, and for some, lifting and carrying of tools. On rare occasions we may rebuild water runoffs, add erosion control devices, and other trail work. Wear long pants and bring along gloves, hat, and hand clippers. Any other tools needed, will be provided.

We work on trails in the Oracle State Park and a section of the Arizona Trail called, "Black Hills/south," which is just north of the Park, across Hwy 77. The sessions usually last about 4 hours, so bring water and snacks. We will have the option of stopping for lunch in Oracle after we are done. **If you can not attend, how about offering to provide a "treat" for the workers. I know they would love to have a delicious cookie on their break.**

Contact Jim Strickler (825-8735) for more

information.

GPS CLASS

A series of GPS classes will be offered in November at Oracle State Park. The classes will be mainly focused on learning how to use the system for Back Country Trekking, and will include the basics for general handheld usage for other purposes. The class is free and will be taught by John Rendall who has



conducted similar classes for hiking clubs in Utah and Arizona.

We will begin with the basics - the components of the entire system, and how they work together along with

a few augmentation features that are currently available or in development. We will discuss hand held receivers in depth, along with various features, functions, settings, limitations and how to select a unit that fits your needs.

We will learn how to use USGS Topographic maps along with a thorough understanding of scale, contour, datum, elevation, slope, and shape in map preparation and grid drawings; all of which are used in conjunction with GPS back country navigation. For the coordinate system, we will cover both the Angular (Lat-Lon) and Rectangular (UTM) systems with our main emphasis on Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM); the more preferred backcountry navigation system.

After having a good understanding of the basics we will work outside utilizing the skills learned and hopefully finish with a short trek so as to gain experience in tracking, marking waypoints, and backtracking.

The last day is optional and is provided for those who want to use the computer in creating trails as well as saving existing tracks utilizing National Geographic TOPO 4.0- During this session we will upload and download tracks, routes, waypoints, elevation profiles, add notes and pictures to the topographic maps. Also, assuming we have internet access we will download maps from various web sites onto TOPO or All-TOPO V7 software.

It is not necessary to have a GPS receiver for the first class as we will be covering terminology, features, and functions of receivers in general. For the field experience sessions it will be necessary to have a unit or work along with another person.

The class is limited to 12 people on a first call basis. To register call Oracle State Park at 520-896-2425. For questions on the class call John Rendall at 520-896-9223 or 520-820-2691.

The times and dates follow:

Monday Nov. 6 th	6:00 to 7:30 PM
Monday Nov. 13 th	6:00 to 7:30 PM
Saturday Nov. 18 th	8:30 to 11:30 AM

Monday Nov. 20th (Optional) 6:00 to 7:30 PM

MEMBERSHIP DUES

This is just a reminder that it is time to renew your membership, as your 2006 Hiking Club membership will expire on December 31st. The yearly membership will remain at \$5.00. You may send your renewals to Bob Perez at 65187 E. Desert Sands Ct. SaddleBrooke, AZ 85739. Please note: If you are a new member or renewing in October, November, or December of 2006, the membership is good until the end of 2007.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Social Hour	Nov. 15th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Dec. 6th	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	Dec. 6th	4:00p.m.
Social Hour	Dec. 20th	4:00 p.m.

Note: Social Hours held at the MV Clubhouse in the bar area.

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.

OFFICERS

President: Susan Robertshaw - 818-6727
jsrobertshaw@wbhsi.net
Vice-President: Larry Dawson - 825-3480
madmaryann2@aol.com
Secretary: Kathy Gish - 818-0918
robkathy@msn.com

Treasurer: Jan Springer - 825-1451

Janet65673@msn.com

Chief Hiking Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler - 818-1547

elisarick@wbhsi.com

VOLUNTEERS

Chief Guide Asst.: Cheryl Werstler - 825-9057

dbwerst@wbhsi.net

Editor: Carole Rossof - 877-9262

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Membership Roster: Bob Perez - 818-2111

azsun65@wbhsi.net

Merchandise: Sally Sample - 825-0985

Newsletter Copies: Martha Hackworth – 818-2573

Publicity: John Robertshaw - 818-6727

Statistics & Awards: Melody Branstrom - 825-5562

Social: Cheryl Straw - 818-3631

Social Assistant: Cyndee Jordan - 825-4640

AWARDS JAN. 1ST – SEPT. 30TH

(10 Hikes Completed)

Mary Bubla	Jack Morter
Dale Nichols	Ruby Okada
Jack Ottersen	Bob Simpson
Elizabeth Tancock	Alan Cooley
Chris Costello	Phil Dahlbert
Carol & Greg Lindahl	Rom Markin
Pat Maltz	Sue & Phil Moran

(25 Hikes Completed)

John Chabot	Larry Dawson
Ruth & Paul DeBruine	Betty Kunnen
Larry Linderman	Lynda Sawchuck
Dee Zellinger	

(50 Hikes Completed)

Carolyn Badger	Frank Brier
Linda & Larry Dukatz	Doug Tullar
Kathy Martin	Ron Noton
Jean Reale	

(100 Hikes Completed)

Kathy & Phil Cotton	Doris & Mike Hoffman
Mary & Ken Hopping	Dave Hydeman
Bill Katz	Mike Reale

(250 Hikes Completed)

Susan & John Robertshaw	Sue Berman
Martha Hackworth	Sue Ayers

(500 Completed Hikes)

Howie Fagan	Dean Wilson
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(750 Completed Hikes)

Bill Leightenhiemer

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: 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.

Fitness Walks will continue Monday, Wednesday and Friday at **7:00 a.m.** from the parking lot just west of **SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center**. Bill Leightenheimer is taking a well-deserved break as a leader. Volunteers will take turns leading these walks and will be coordinated by Dean Wilson.

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@msn.com.

HIKES OFFERED

Nov. 1 – Wed. Rams Creek Basin. Rating C. We hike up the wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are some great views of Rancho Vistoso, Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere. We then continue on to a water fall where we will have lunch. Return via same route. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation 2600 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

****Nov. 1-3 –Wed.-Fri. AZT: Manning Camp-Hope Camp connection. Rating A.** The description of this hike is tentative until more can be learned about road access to Madrona Ranger Station which is by permission through private property. If we can drive to Madrona Ranger Station we will complete the 15-mile round trip section from Madrona Ranger Station to Manning Camp Thurs., Nov. 2 as a day-hike. We would complete the 15-mile round trip from the Hope Camp Trailhead to Madrona Ranger Station and back on Fri., Nov. 3. If we have to hike in from the Hope Camp Trailhead to Manning Camp, the resulting 28-mile round trip would be difficult to hike in one day. It would then be necessary to do a combination backpack, day-hike. We would park at the end of Camino Loma Alta Road off of S. Old Spanish Trail. This links to the 3-mile trail to Hope Camp. We would backpack this trail and 4 additional miles across the Rincon Valley through a section of the Saguaro National Monument into the Coronado National Forest. This 7 miles has very little elevation change, starting at 3,150 feet. Depending on camping regulations, we may camp near Madrona Ranger Station at about 3,400 feet elevation. The next day we would hike with day packs the 15-mile round trip to Manning Camp. The cumulative gain is 5,050 feet in 7½ miles. Depending on the group, we would either camp another night or backpack out that same day. Leave at **12:00 p.m.** Wed.; driver donation \$5.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Nov. 4 – Sat. Peppersauce Canyon Short Hike. Rating D+. We will park opposite the Peppersauce Canyon campground and hike up Peppersauce Canyon approximately 1.5 miles. Good mixture of vegetation to study. Some views, depending on how far we go. Bring lunch. Hike 3 miles; elevation change 450 feet; starting elevation 4600 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 5 - Sun. Brown Mountain – Sunset/Moonlight. 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 **4:00 p.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 7 – Tues. 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 1500 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Larry Dawson, 825-3480.

Nov. 8 – Wed. Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C-. We follow the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign then turn off at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks laid out in a row on the right (east) side of trail. The hike then veers to the right and follows a small canyon where there is a beautiful waterfall (depending on recent rains). Much of this part of the trail is sandy with several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

****Nov. 10-11 -- Fri. & Sat. Arizona Trail - Red Hills. Rating A.** Currently the Arizona Trail Association is recommending that hikers bypass this segment due to parts of the trail being eroded/obliterated from damage caused by the 2004 Willow Fire. (However, members of the Club have successfully hiked this segment.) We will drive up to Payson on Fri., possibly visiting the Zane Grey Museum, spend the night, start the hike early Sat., then return home Sat. evening. The Red Hills segment is the AZT's longest stretch entirely within designated wilderness areas. It is 5 miles from the nearest parking area to the beginning of this passage and 4 miles to the nearest parking at the end. This loop hike starts at 3,450 feet at the City Creek Trailhead and climbs steadily up the City Creek (Mazatzal Divide) Trail, gaining 2,500 feet over the first 5 miles, then joins with the AZT: Red Hills segment. We will hike about 10 miles of the Red Hill segment, ending near the LP Ranch, then walk 4+ miles on a restricted forest service road back to City Creek Trailhead. We lose 300 then gain 500 feet on the first 2 miles of the Red Hills segment, reaching a high-point of 6,075 feet. We then slowly lose elevation (2,600 feet) over the last 12 miles as we complete our loop at City Creek Trailhead. The total hike is about 19.5 miles and the cumulative elevation gain and loss are identical at 4,910 feet. Leave Fri. at **10:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$16.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Nov. 10 – Fri. 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 miles; elevation change 2200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Nov. 11 – Sat. 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

Nov. 13 – Mon. Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating B. We'll drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the trailhead and do some steep hiking to campground. Hiking back we'll possibly bushwhack over to Bridal Wreath Falls then follow trail back to the cars. Some variations in the trail. Mostly open, so bring minimum of two quarts of water, sun protection and lunch. Hike 12 miles; elevation change 2050 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Mary Croft, 825-3804 (**Call after Oct. 15th**).

Nov. 13 - Mon. 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 **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

****Nov. 14 – Tues. Tortolita Mountains/Wild Burro Canyon with key exchange. Rating C.** We will take the Rail-X Marble Mine road off Oracle Highway for 5 miles to the county line, then another 2 1/2 miles on another jeep road. We hike on an old road past an old stone wall that was a goat corral, and past a windmill. Then we hike down the wash to a drop-off point or water fall. From there we continue on a trail down past the water fall, continue on another 1 mile, descending to an old stone ruins of a house, water cistern, and "swimming pool". We exchange car keys part way through. Hike is approx. 5 miles one way. We will have two groups, one hiking from the north end, and one from the south end. The group from the south will be going up hill. For this hike we will need 4 wheel drive vehicles. Elevation change is approx. 700 ft. Starting elevation is 3,000 ft. Leave at: **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$ 2.00. Jan & Dean Wilson 818-0299.

Nov. 15 – Wed. Arizona Trail in Oracle State Park. Rating C. We will hike down part of the Arizona Trail through Oracle State Park. The trail heads northeast on rolling hills, with wide open views and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. This route is fairly level with little elevation change. Hike 5 to 7 miles; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Nov. 15 – Wed. Hiking Club Social Hour, 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 15 Wed. Orientation for Potential Hiking Guides, 5:00 p.m. Dean Werstler

++Nov. 16 – Thurs. Cactus Forest Area. Rating D. We will explore some of the trails in the Cactus Forest Area of the Saguaro National Park East and enjoy the scenic 8 mile Cactus Forest Loop Drive. We will stop at the Desert Ecology Trail, the 1920's Freeman Homestead Ruins, and the National Park Visitor Center. Pack a lunch. Hike 4 miles, elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 2750; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; round trip

drive 82 miles; driver donation \$5.00. Susan Roberstshaw 818-6727.

Nov. 16 - Thurs. David Yetman Trail. Rating C. This hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. This trail has two trailheads – one at Camino de Oeste and one near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. We can leave cars at one end and drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, then down a wash with a short but steep climb back up to the ridge. Later we have a mile of walking in a creek bed. Then the trail leaves the creek and emerges into open area. We follow along an old jeep road. Then, the trail narrows, and has some loose rocks and again climbs to a ridge. We pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that is a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick, if you wish. Hike 5.4 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Larry Dawson, 825-3480.

****Nov. 17 – Fri. AZT: Huachucas segment, Northern part. Rating A.** The road to Montezuma pass, the southern end of the Huachucas segment is closed at this time and the Crest Trail (AZT trail) south of Miller Peak to Montezuma Pass is eroded and has land slides. Therefore, we will hike the northern part of this segment as a key exchange. One group will start at the Carr Peak trailhead (7,180 feet) on the east side of the range and climb 1,700 feet in 2½ miles. After another mile, we will reach the junction with Crest Trail. The first mile on Crest Trail we lose 700 feet of elevation, then regain 500 feet of it in the next 1¼ mile. We then lose 2,600 feet over the next 4 miles and lose only 500 more feet over the final 5 miles before reaching the end of the segment near Parker Canyon Lake at 5,680 feet. The total hike is somewhat over 15 miles and the east to west cumulative gain is 3,026 feet and loss is 4,529 feet. Of course the group starting at Parker Canyon Lake will experience just the opposite gain/loss making this direction of the hike more difficult. Leave at **6:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$12. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Nov. 18 - Sat. 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.**; driver donation \$1.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Nov. 18 – Sat. Esperanza/Hugh Norris Trail. Rating C+. We will take the Esperanza trail to the Hugh Norris trail and follow it to the Base of Amole Peak. The Esperanza trail is gradual at the beginning then has switchbacks. The Hugh Norris section is primarily a ridge trail. Spectacular views of Tucson/Santa Catalinas to the East, Green Valley/Santa Ritas to the South, Sells to the West and Picacho to the North. We will lunch at the top. Hike 6.2 miles; elevation change 1275 feet; starting elevation 2980 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00.

Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

Nov. 21 – Tues. 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.**; driver donation \$1.00. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

Nov. 21 – Tues. Pusch Peak. Rating A. The first mile of the trail is mostly level then a steep, difficult climb begins. The trail has loose rock that requires caution. 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 **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 22 – Wed. Oracle State Park/AZ Trail West. Rating C. Starting from OSP Nature Trail, we go north on the Wildlife Corridor Trail to the AZ Trail and travel west for 2 miles toward Highway 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Loop Trail that takes us back to the park. 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 miles, elevation change 500-600 feet. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossosof, 877-9262.

Nov. 24 – Fri. Peralta Trail. Rating C+. 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.**; driver donation \$8.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Nov. 25 – Sat. Charouleau Gap Road/ Big Rock Dome Loop. Rating B-. Starting from Spotted Horse Ranch, below Unit 9, we will hike south, along the Canada Del Oro Wash to the Charouleau Gap Road and then climb this 4-wheel drive road. We will then bushwack over to the big rock dome where we will have lunch with 360 degree views. Afterward, we will come back down past our double-crested saguaro to the CDO Wash and our vehicles. Hike 7 to 8 miles; elevation change 900 feet, starting elevation 3090 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Nov. 27 – Mon. Mt. Lemmon to Sabino Canyon via Romero Pass. Rating A. We will hike from the top of Mt. Lemmon down to Romero Pass and from there, eastwards down the west fork of the Sabino Canyon Trail to Sabino Canyon. This is a beautiful hike with many great views. Hike 20 miles; elevation

change 6700 feet; starting elevation 9157 feet; leave at **5:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Nov. 28 – Tues. Canyon Loop to Montrose Pool. Rating D. This hike goes through a nice Sonoran Desert area in Catalina State Park up to the Montrose Pools, then returns. We will fork onto the Birding Loop at the end. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike <4 miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

Nov. 29 - Wed. Canyon Loop, Birding and Nature Trails. Rating C. Start at main trailhead in Catalina State Park. First hike the Nature Trail, then the Canyon Loop Trail and then the Birding Trail. This is a 4mile hike with about 200 feet elevation change. If we are real ambitious we will swing through the Canyon Loop Trail the opposite way we came for a total of 6+ miles. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

++Nov. 30 – Thurs. Alamo Canyon. Rating D. We will begin the hike at the Romero Ruins trailhead. Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is gradual. This is a lovely hike up to the Alamo Canyon Falls. There may be water if we have had recent rains. We will stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

****Dec.1 – Fri. Tanque Verde Falls. Rating D.** We will drive out Redington Road to the parking area. We will hike 1 mile to Tanque Verde Creek and explore the falls and stream. We might even play in the water. Hike 2+ miles. Elevation change 500 feet. Leave at: **8:00 a.m.**; driver Donation:\$5.00. Jan Wilson 818-0299.

****Dec. 1 – Fri. Arizona Trail - Temporal Gulch/Santa Rita portion. Rating A.** After placing a car at Gardner Canyon Rd., we will drive from Patagonia on FS 72 the first 7 miles of the Temporal Gulch segment to a parking area beyond which only 4X4 vehicles can travel. We will begin our hike at this point, following the rocky road 5 more miles as it continues north into the Mount Wrightson Wilderness. At Walker Basin Trailhead a singletrack trail begins as we switchback along the lower reaches of Josephine Peak. About a mile later we reach a fork at a saddle which is the high point of this passage at 6,570 feet. The views are stunning: into Mexico to the south, to the Huachucas to the southeast, and to Mt. Wrightson to the northwest. We will pass interpretive signs describing the elaborate hydraulic mining system that existed in the area in the early 1900's. We will continue about 3/4 mile into the Santa Ritas segment, ending at Gardner Canyon Road. Starting at 4,400 feet, the trail climbs gently 1,300 feet in the first 6 miles then steeply, 900 feet in one mile, to the saddle high-point at 6,570 feet. 750 feet are lost over the next 2 miles, the trail remains at a fairly constant elevation for the next 3 miles, then it descends 500 feet over the last 3 miles to an ending elevation of 5,360 feet. The total hike is somewhat over 15 miles with a cumulative gain of 3,300 feet and loss of 2,380 feet. Leave at **6 a.m.**; driver donation \$9.00. Dean and Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Dec. 4 – Mon. 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.

Dec. 5 – 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 **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Chris Costello, 818-0368.

Dec. 6 – 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 4-5 miles; elevation change 300-400 feet. Leave at **9:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

++Dec. 7 – Thurs. Pima Canyon – 1st Dam. Rating D+. The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon up to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. The trail is rocky. Hike 2.7 miles; elevation change 470 feet; starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

****Dec. 8 – Fri. Arizona Trail - Las Cienegas. Rating A.** This segment makes its way from the end of the Santa Rita Passage at Oak Tree Canyon, parallels SR 83, than ends near the Davis Canyon Bridge on I-10. The official trail through this passage has not yet been established and the route consists of old roads and scratchy bushwhacking. The going will be slow and defensive clothing should be worn. The elevation change is a very gradual descent of 1,350 feet over 15-16 mi. Leave at **6:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Dean and Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Dec. 8 – Fri. 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. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 9 – Sat. 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. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Dec. 12 – Tues. Josephine Saddle. Rating B. A "B" HIKE FOR "C" HIKERS. 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. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 13 – Wed. 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. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

Dec. 14 – Thurs. 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 **9:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Dec. 14 – Thurs. Sabino Canyon Exploratory. Rating D. We will explore the many lower trails at Sabino Canyon including the Bajada Loop Nature Trail that identifies some of the desert plants seen throughout the canyon. We will also stop in the Visitor Center. Hike <4 miles; elevation change <400 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Susan Robertshaw, 818-6727.

****Dec. 15 – Fri. Arizona Trail - Rincon Valley section. Rating A.** This 12-mile section which extends from I-10 near Davidson Canyon through Colossal Cave Mountain Park to Hope Camp in Saguaro National Park has two sections of trail completed, one 3 miles long and one 7 miles long. The remaining 2 miles can be connected using Park roads. We will access the AZT via a pipeline road off of Marsh Station Road, go north on the Rincon Valley section to Hope Camp and exit via Hope Camp Trail to our waiting vehicle on S. Camino Loma Alta Road off of S. Old Spanish Trail. The total hike distance is about 16 miles with a cumulative elevation gain of 1,300 feet. Leave at **6:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

Dec. 15 – Fri, 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 miles; elevation change 2200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Michael Reale, 825-8286.

Dec. 16 – Sat. 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 1700 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

****Dec. 18 – Mon. Arizona Trail - Tortilita Mountains segment 1. Rating B.** This segment of the AZT starts from Freeman Road and follows a series of old roads, dry washes and singletrack trail. Interesting boulders. We hike just beyond Tecolote Ranch. We will do a key exchange. Hike 8.5 miles. Elevation change 450 feet; starting elevation 4,015. Leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation: TBA. Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547

Dec. 19 – Tues. Chivo Falls. Rating C. This is a hike to one of the tallest desert falls in the Tucson area (Rincon Mountains). If we have some rain or spring snow melt the falls are very impressive. We'll lunch in a rock amphitheater below the falls. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 700 feet; starting elevation 4000 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$4.00. Jan & Dean Wilson, 818-0299.

Dec. 20 – 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.

Dec. 20 – Wed. Hiking Club Social Hour, 4:00 p.m.

Dec. 21 – Thurs. 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 **9:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

Dec. 22 – 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 miles; elevation change 977 feet; starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Larry Dawson, 825-3480.

Dec. 27 – Wed. Fifty Year Trail/Sutherland Trail Loop. Rating C. We will start at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park and hike north to a stream terrace that gives a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area and the Santa Catalina Mountains. We will then hike down to the Sutherland Wash, take the Sutherland Cutoff Trail to the Sutherland Trail and head back to Catalina State Park. Hike 7.6 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **9:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Marv Rosssof, 877-9262.

Dec. 28 – Thurs. 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Jan Wilson, 818-0299.

Happy Holidays!