



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2009-6

Special Presentation

Hiking Club member Larry Linderman has wanted to see the Himalaya Range of mountains ever since he read about Edmund Hillary's successful summiting of Mt. Everest in 1954. No, Larry didn't follow Sir Edmund to the top of the world but he did get to Nepal with seven of his friends and trekked in the shadows of Mt. Everest and Annapurna last year. Most of the treks were on the approaches used by all of the great climbers and knowing that he walked the same trails and stayed in the same lodges as they did was a thrill in itself.

Larry spent three weeks trekking at high altitude and visiting ancient cities like Kathmandu, Pokara and Namche Bazaar. He also visited famous Hindu and Buddhist seminaries. "When I caught my first view of Everest I must admit my knees shook a little," he said. "And as much as I enjoyed the hiking and the views I also loved the people and the food. And our Sherpas were wonderful."

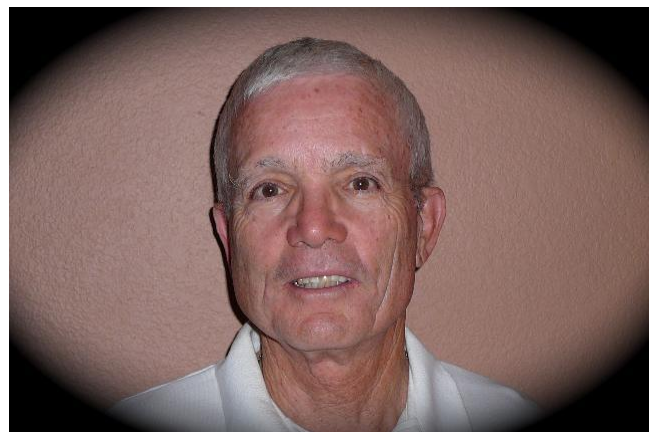


In the past two years Larry has presented travelogues of his adventures in New Zealand and on the Camino in Spain. His presentation on Nepal will be of interest to anyone with a love of adventure and travel. All Saddlebrooke residents are invited to the presentation to be held on Wednesday, November 18th at 3:00 p.m. in the Coyote Room at the Saddlebrooke HOA 1 Clubhouse.

Membership Roster of SaddleBrooke Hiking Club

The Membership Roster of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club listed 421 members at the beginning of October. Did you ever wonder who keeps track of all the club members? This volunteer job has quietly been done by Bob Perez for the past 6 years. When a SaddleBrooke resident joins the club or renews membership Bob makes sure the club has a signed Release of Liability filed and records the member's information into a database. The updated email database is sent monthly to Carole Rossof who sends out the SBHC newsletter and other announcements by email. The updated membership and phone list is sent monthly to hiking club guides to confirm membership for hikes. Bob records and gives all membership dues to the club treasurer.

Bob sends out a newcomer packet to each new member who sends him a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The newcomer packet includes a information sheet, sheet for recording hikes, order form for hiking club shirts and club patch. For those who do not send an envelope Bob hand delivers the information packet to residents. Bob certainly goes "the extra mile." New members are encouraged to send the self-addressed stamped envelope with their membership to make Bob's job easier.



Bob "gives back to the club" because he appreciates all the guided hikes he took in past years which helped him learn his favorite trails. Now he enjoys exploring our mountains on his own. Bob's other passions are running, tennis, pickle ball, traveling and his grandchildren. Bob will be running in the Tucson Marathon, playing in the National Tennis finals and the

National Pickleball tournament this fall. Bob hopes to help bring a national men's tennis trophy to SaddleBrooke for the first time.

To keep his mind active Bob works for Trico Electric handling their renewable energy program in the areas surrounding Tucson. Bob can tell you all about solar panels, the various rebates and tax credits that make solar energy a great investment by homeowners.

A reminder: All new memberships and renewals paid in October, November & December extend membership through 2010. At \$5 per year the SBHC membership remains the best bargain around! **A Membership Renewal Form is attached to this newsletter.**

2010 Grand Canyon Hike

The annual Grand Canyon hike for 2010 will be from May 25th to the 30th. We have reservations for 10 people (5 men and 5 women) at Phantom Ranch for two nights (May 27 and 28). Frank Brier will be the trip Hiking Guide. All club members are invited to submit e-mails of interest or call Frank (frankbrier@aol.com, 520-818-0493) to get on the list of interested club members. This is a strenuous hike, but is not limited to superman and superwoman. You will need to participate in training hikes and be prepared to hike in 100 degree weather, but people of all ages and above average conditioning complete it every day.

The club is considering two options for the hike: south rim descent to Phantom Ranch and back to the south rim, or north rim descent and ascent to the south rim. The south rim option would be down South Kaibab Trail (6.7 miles, 4860 feet descent) and up Bright Angel Trail (9.6 miles, 4460 feet ascent). The north rim option would be down North Kaibab Trail (14.5 miles, 5841 feet descent) and up Bright Angel Trail. The two options will be discussed at an organizational meeting in mid November and a route decision made shortly after that. The 10 person crew will be selected on November 30 based on the following priorities:

1. Date of e-mail or phone call expressing interest in this hike.
2. Active SB Hiking Club members who have never hiked the canyon with the Club. Active member is defined as those that have hiked a minimum of 8 club hikes between September 1, 2008 and August 31, 2009.
3. Active Hiking Club members who have not hiked the canyon with the club since May 1, 2006.
4. Hiking Club members who are new to Saddlebrooke or members who hike with the club infrequently (less than 8 hikes per year).
5. Guest of SB Hiking Club members.

Commitment to participating in training hikes between February 1st and April 27th, is a requirement for crew members. Ten training hikes will be offered between February 1st and April 27th. Candidates must complete a minimum of six of the ten hikes, including one B+ or A hike. The training hikes will be scheduled by the trip Hiking Guide and provided at the November organizational meeting. Candidates not participating in the training hikes will be replaced by club members from the stand-by list. The stand-by list will be established on November

30 based on the same five priorities. Anyone signing up on or after December 1 will be placed at the end of the stand-by list.

The club organized portion of the trip (rim hotels, food/lodging at Phantom Ranch) will cost approximately \$455 for the South Rim option and \$570 for the North Rim option. Other costs will include round trip travel (round trip car pool to south rim \$60 per person) and meals on the rim and road (3 breakfast, 4 lunches and 3 dinners). Phantom Ranch accommodations are separate men and women dormitories. On the rim, crew members will be paired with an appropriate roommate. We will keep spouses together as long as an additional room is not required. The club is responsible for hotel and Phantom Ranch bookings and payment, and therefore has established the following refund policy. Crew members canceling before April 27 will receive a full refund. Crew members canceling on or after April 27, will only receive refunds if an acceptable replacement is found from the stand-by list or club membership. The trip Hiking Guide will determine the acceptability of any replacement members.

The payment schedule for crew members will be as follows:

1. First Payment, February 1st – \$ 225
2. Second Payment, April 1st - \$230 (\$345 for North Rim)

Any refunds will be made within 30 days of cancellation. Any unused funds will be returned by July 1st. All interested club members are reminded that any emergency evacuation or other unscheduled services will be paid by the person involved.

News You Can Use

From Roy Carter and Frank Brier

With the favorable weather coming up in November/December, and the return of many SB residents for the winter, the club is offering 58 hikes, nearly a hike per day. This doesn't include additional hikes that are being planned for the October 30 picnic or other special hikes. The huge offering includes 4 A's, 20 B's, 28 C's and 6 D's, or put another way, something for everybody. There has never been a better time to start hiking.

We hope you will help us welcome new hike guides for this cycle: Howie Fagan, Elaine Fagan, and Margaret Valair. Hikers should note that the Knagge Trail (to the Knagge Cabin ruins) is virtually impassible due to vegetative overgrowth. The same is true for the trail from Charleau Gap to Mules Ears on the Samaniego Ridge. Check with Elisabeth Wheeler for more information.

Many of you will be interested in the blog created by our own Bill Leightenheimer while completing the 160-mile segment of the Arizona Trail between the Moqui Stage Station south of the Grand Canyon and the Mogollon Rim near Payson. Using Mac software, Bill (and his chauffeur) put together narrative, photos, and map info in a way that most every hiker will find entertaining. Check it out at http://web.me.com/whlaz/Bills_AZ_Trail_Hike/Welcome.html.

Thanks to everyone for continuing to provide GPS data that will further improve our Hike Database. Other measurements are interesting, but the focus of the club wide effort is TH to TH distance, net elevation change, and accumulated gain. We appreciate your help and your ideas.

More News You Can Use

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Special Presentation: | Nov. 18th | 3:00 p.m. |
| Social Hour: | Nov. 18th | 4:00 p.m. |
| Board Meeting: | Dec. 2nd | 3:00 p.m. |
| Hiking Guide Meeting: | Dec. 2nd | 4:00 p.m. |
| Social Hour: | Dec. 16th | 4:00 p.m. |

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

Officers

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| President: | Michael Reale – 825-8286; mjreale@msn.com |
| Vice-President: | Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com |
| Secretary: | Marjorie Herrmann – 818-9515; marjorie.herrmann@gmail.com |
| Treasurer: | Elizabeth Tancock – 825-7838; etancock@wbhsi.net |
| Chief Hiking Guides: | Frank Brier, 818-0493; FrankBrier@aol.com Roy Carter, 818-3137; rvcarter@aol.com |

Volunteers

Catalina Hills Cleanup ; Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756;
wmhlaz@gmail.com
Communications: Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547;
elisarick@wbhsi.com
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Socials: Cheryl Straw, 818-3631;
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Statistics and Awards: Susan Hollis, 825-6819;
shollis@yahoo.com
Work Days - Jim Strickler, 825-8735;
sherabjim@wbhsi.net

Awards

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1000 Hikes | Bill Leightenheimer |
| 500 Hikes | Stan Strebbig |
| 250 Hikes | Elisabeth Wheeler |
| 50 Hikes | Kathy Davis, Richard Ganzel, Melissa White |

Congratulations

General Hiking Information

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

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

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

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

Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated. Since a driver may not have change, we would ask that, if you see two entries for the driver donation, you try to have the amounts for each.

Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView.

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

bring a snack or lunch depending upon the hike. High complex carbohydrates (nuts, trail mix, and etc.) are good.

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

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

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 Elevation

Ratings:

Ratings are based on the following round trip distances and accumulated gains in elevation over the course of the hike. The hike rating is determined by one (or both) of the two values being exceeded. For example, if a hike exceeds the criterion for distance but not for corresponding elevation, the rating would be set for distance.

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

Pace:

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

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

Elevation Change:

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

Net Elevation Change is the change in elevation obtained by subtracting the starting elevation from the elevation of the destination, in feet. This estimate may be obtained from USGS maps or a global positioning system (gps). If no destination is listed, which may be the case for loop hikes or point-to-point hikes, net change is defined as the difference between the trailhead elevation and the highest elevation reached during the hike.

Accumulated Gain is the sum of all upward stretches of a hike as recorded by a gps device over the course of the entire hike. Accumulated elevation gain is generally a more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation.

Accumulated Loss, another measure of hike difficulty, is the sum of all downward stretches of a hike. Accumulated elevation loss is useful for some downhill hikes and is usually obtained with a gps device

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 sign up is required to participate in these walks.

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at **6:30 a.m.** from the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. Beginning December 1st the fitness walks will start at **7:00 a.m.** If you have any questions please contact Michael at 825-8286 or Dean at 818-0299.

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

Hikes Offered

The hikes for the next two months are listed in the table on the following pages. Any symbols are explained immediately below the table, and trail descriptions follow the table. **Pace will be moderate unless otherwise noted.**

| Date | Day of Week | Name of Hike | Hike Rating ^a | Pace | Leave Time | Leader(s) | Phone Number | Driver Donation |
|-------|-------------|--|--------------------------|------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 11/2 | Mon | Hidden Canyon Loop | C+ | | 8:00 | Fred Kennedy | 825-5310 | \$2 |
| 11/3 | Tues | Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail | B | | 7:00 | Elisabeth Wheeler | 818-1547 | \$5 |
| 11/4 | Wed | Blackett's Ridge | B | Slow | 8:00 | Elaine & Howie Fagan | 818-9555 | \$4 |
| 11/4 | Wed. | Extended Fitness Walk | C+/B | Fast | 6:30 | Michael Reale | 825-8286 | |
| 11/6 | Fri | Peppersauce Canyon | C+ | | 7:00 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$5 |
| 11/6 | Fri | Deer Camp | C | | 8:00 | Chris Costello | 818-0368 | \$2 |
| 11/7 | Sat | Romero Springs | B | | 7:00 | Kathy & Philip Cotton | 825-2243 | \$2+\$2 |
| 11/9 | Mon | Finger Rock Canyon to Overlook | C | | 8:00 | Roy Carter | 818-3137 | \$4 |
| 11/9 | Mon | Box Camp Trail to Prison Camp (revised end TH with key exchange – no tram) | A | | 6:30 | Elisabeth Wheeler | 818-1547 | \$9 |
| 11/10 | Tues | Sutherland Trail | C | | 7:00 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$2+\$2 |
| 11/12 | Thurs | Garwood Dam to Little Wild Horse Tank | C+ | | 7:00 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$6 |
| 11/13 | Fri | Tortolita Trail | C | | 8:00 | Chris Costello | 818-0368 | \$4 |
| 11/13 | Fri | Pima Canyon to 3rd Dam | B | | 7:30 | Frank Brier | 818-0493 | \$3 |
| 11/15 | Sun | ++Canyon Loop Trail | D | | 1:00 PM | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$2+\$2 |
| 11/16 | Mon | Blackett's Ridge | B | | 8:00 | Margaret Valair | 818-1035 ^b | \$4 |
| 11/17 | Tues | Tanque Verde Ridge (Part Way) | C+ | | 7:00 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$6 |
| 11/17 | Tues | Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon (no tram) | A | | 6:30 | Elisabeth Wheeler | 818-1547 | \$4 |
| 11/18 | Wed | SBHC Program: Hiking the Himalayas, SB Club House Coyote Rm. | | | 3:00 PM | Larry Linderman | | |
| 11/18 | Wed | SBHC Social Hour, SB Club House Lounge | | | 4:00 PM | | | |
| 11/19 | Thurs | Pusch Peak | A | | 8:00 | Roy Carter | 818-3137 | \$2 |
| 11/19 | Thurs | Hidden Canyon Loop | C+ | | 8:00 | Walt Shields | 818-3439 | \$2 |
| 11/19 | Thurs | ++Alamo Canyon | D | | 1:00 PM | Frank Brier | 818-0493 | \$2+\$2 |
| 11/20 | Fri | Soldier Trail to Molina Basin via Prison Camp | B | | 7:00 | Larry Linderman | 818-1977 | \$6 |
| 11/23 | Mon | Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail | B | | 8:00 | Margaret Valair | 818-1035 ^b | \$5 |
| 11/24 | Tues | Oracle Ridge to Saddle | C+ | | 8:00 | Marv Rossof | 877-9262 | \$3 |
| 11/24 | Tues | Pontatoc Ridge | C+ | | 8:00 | Walt Shields | 818-3439 | \$4 |
| 11/25 | Wed | Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Springs | D+ | | 8:00 | Roy Carter | 818-3137 | \$4 |
| 11/27 | Fri | Blackett's Ridge | B | | 7:00 | Kathy & Philip Cotton | 825-2243 | \$4 |

| Date | Day of Week | Name of Hike | Hike Rating ^a | Pace | Leave Time | Leader(s) | Phone Number | Driver Donation |
|-------|-------------|--|--------------------------|------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 11/30 | Mon | Deer Camp/Samaniego Roost Loop | C | | 8:00 | Fred Kennedy | 825-5310 | \$2 |
| 11/30 | Mon | Picacho Peak via Hunter Trail | B | | 8:00 | Roy Carter | 818-3137 | \$7+\$2 |
| 12/1 | Tues | Moonlight Hike, Catalina State Park | C | | 7:00 PM | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$2+\$2 |
| 12/1 | Tues | Tortolita Mts. - S. Wild Burro/Alamo Springs Trail Loop | B | | 7:00 | Elisabeth Wheeler | 818-1547 | \$4 |
| 12/2 | Wed. | Extended Fitness Walk | C+/B | Fast | 7:00 | Michael Reale | 825-8286 | |
| 12/2 | Wed | Phone Line Trail - Round Trip | B | | 8:00 | Elaine & Howie Fagan | 818-9555 | \$4 |
| 12/2 | Wed | SBHC Board Meeting | | | 3:00 PM | | | |
| 12/2 | Wed | SBHC Guides Meeting | | | 4:00 PM | | | |
| 12/3 | Thurs | Cochise Stronghold to End of Trail (East to West); will include dinner in Benson | B | | 7:00 | Michael Reale | 825-8286 ^c | \$20 |
| 12/3 | Thurs | Hutch's Pool | C+ | | 8:00 | Walt Shields | 818-3439 | \$4+tram |
| 12/4 | Fri | Tortolita Mts.- S. end Wild Burro Canyon & Lower Javelina Tr. | C | | 7:30 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$4 |
| 12/4 | Fri | Deer Camp Loop | C | | 8:00 | Chris Costello | 818-0368 | \$2 |
| 12/7 | Mon | **Catalina Hills Trash Clean-up Walk | D | Slow | 7:45 | Bill Leightenheimer | 825-5756 | 0.0 |
| 12/7 | Mon | Bill Cody Loop | B | Slow | 7:00 | Michael Reale | 825-8286 ^c | \$3 |
| 12/7 | Mon | Romero Pass | A | | 7:00 | Frank Brier | 818-0493 | \$2+\$2 |
| 12/8 | Tues | Hutch's Pool | C+ | | 7:45 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$4+tram |
| 12/8 | Tues | AZ Trail - Rincon Valley | B | | 7:00 | Elisabeth Wheeler | 818-1547 | \$9 |
| 12/9 | Wed | Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs | C | | 8:00 | Roy Carter | 818-3137 | \$2 |
| 12/10 | Thurs | Lime Falls | D | | 7:30 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$6 |
| 12/10 | Thurs | Blackett's Ridge with tram | C+ | | 8:00 | Walt Shields | 818-3439 | \$4+tram |
| 12/11 | Fri | Tortolita Trail | C | | 8:00 | Chris Costello | 818-0368 | \$4 |
| 12/11 | Fri | Pima Canyon to 3rd Dam | B | | 7:00 | Kathy & Philip Cotton | 825-2243 | \$3 |
| 12/12 | Sat | Deer Camp | C | Slow | 8:00 | Jim Strickler | 825-8735 | \$2 |
| 12/14 | Mon | Babad Do'ag Canyon | C+ | | 7:00 | Larry Linderman | 818-1977 | \$6 |

| Date | Day of Week | Name of Hike | Hike Rating ^a | Pace | Leave Time | Leader(s) | Phone Number | Driver Donation |
|-------|-------------|--|--------------------------|------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 12/15 | Tues | **Box Canyon Hike in the Tortilla Mt. plus a Hike in Santan Mt. Regional Park ^d | C+ | | 6:30 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$12+\$2 |
| 12/15 | Tues | Baby Jesus Petroglyph Loop | B | | 8:00 | Fred Kennedy | 825-5310 | \$2 |
| 12/16 | Wed | SBHC Social Hour, MountainView Club House Lounge | | | 4:00 PM | | | |
| 12/16 | Wed | AZ Trail Work Session | C | | 8:00 | Jim Strickler | 825-8735 | \$5 pd. By Club |
| 12/17 | Thurs | ++Linda Vista Loop | D+ | | 7:30 | Elisabeth Wheeler | 818-1547 | \$2 |
| 12/17 | Thurs | Josephine Saddle and Rogers Rock | B | | 6:30 | Michael Reale | 825-8286 ^c | \$10 |
| 12/18 | Fri | Romero Springs | B | | 8:00 | Roy Carter | 818-3137 | \$2+\$2 |
| 12/18 | Fri | Mescal Mt. ^e | C+ | | 7:00 | Jan Wilson & Karen Gray | 818-0299 | \$10 |
| 12/19 | Sat | Hidden Canyon | C | | 8:00 | Jim Strickler | 825-8735 | \$2 |
| 12/19 | Sat | Pima Canyon to Pima Springs | B | | 7:30 | Frank Brier | 818-0493 | \$3 |
| 12/21 | Mon | Brown Mountain | C | | 8:00 | Marv Rossof | 877-9262 | \$6 |
| 12/22 | Tues | Superstitions: Peralta Trail | C+ | | 7:00 | Jan Wilson | 818-0299 | \$14 |

a - "+" and "-" after a rating mean that a hike is harder or easier than the average hike in that rating category. "+" may be added due to a loose rocky trail, an unusually steep area, or other special conditions that make it more difficult than the category implies. "-" may be added to a hike due to a smooth trail or other special conditions that make it easier than the category implies.

b - Call Margaret after November 1 for her November/December hikes.

c - Or email Mike at mjreale@msn.com.

d - Santan Mountains Regional Park is located about 12 miles northwest of Florence, AZ. The group will hike approximately 4.5 miles on a loop trail that is not terribly difficult, probably a high D or low C level. There is a Visitor Center, with restrooms, at the Phillips Rd. entrance.

e - Karen Gray, a retired geologist, will join us on this hike to provide insight into the formation of the Mescal Mts. and geological features along the way.

"**" before a hike means it is an exploratory hike, and a candidate for inclusion in the Hike Database. "++" before a hike means that it is an orientation hike and encouraged for beginning hikers.

Hike Descriptions

Alamo Canyon. Rating D. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is gradual. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no water crossings. Hikers will stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 423 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating C. This is one of the Hiking Club work days. Come join the fun - it's nice to work

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

Babad Do'ag Canyon. Rating C+. The hike involves passing through a canyon that has no defined trail. The hike starts at Horsehead Road parking area (near Soldier Trail Road). Hikers negotiate brush in the canyon at several points and some boulder hopping is required. Hikers climb a dry waterfall at the end, so there is some exposure. Dress defensively. Gloves are helpful. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1130 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 80 miles.

Baby Jesus / Petroglyph Loop. Rating B. The hike starts in the Fifty-Year Trail area near the east end of Golder Ranch Road and follows a jeep road to the Sutherland Wash Petroglyph area. Hikers proceed along a trail north of the Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs that connects to the Baby Jesus Trail. At the intersection, hikers turn south until they reach the Sutherland Trail. We go west to a trail that leads to the petroglyphs, then north to the trailhead. Along the way, hikers see beautiful saguaros, rock formations (including a window), oak woodlands, and ancient petroglyphs. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet, accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Bill Cody Loop. Rating B. The beautiful, historic Bill Cody loop begins at the American Flag trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers pass the 1877 adobe house at the trailhead, and then proceed up the Arizona Trail to the Oracle Ridge Trail. We then go south toward Apache Peak, and down FR # 639, through Camp Bonita Canyon past the old Patterson Diaz homestead site. Campo Bonito is a great place for lunch. From Campo Bonito, hikers swing northward past the "Yellow Cabin" and through the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. We may tour the unique stone house if the owner is home. Hikers return to the trailhead via the Arizona Trail. Hike 8.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 41 miles.

Blackett's Ridge with Tram Ride. Rating C+. From the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, we take the Bear Canyon Tram (fee required) to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blackett's Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. At the bottom, we return to the Visitor Center via the tram. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation gain is 1689 feet; accumulated gain is ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

Blackett's Ridge. Rating B. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blackett's Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks

mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1620 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Box Camp Trail. Rating A. Starting at the Box Camp Trailhead on Catalina Hwy, the trail is downhill, crosses the East Fork Trail, then along the Sabino Canyon Trail to the uppermost tram stop in Sabino Canyon. We pass the Box Springs trail spur turnoff, stop for lunch near Apache Springs, and descend through pines, oaks, manzanita, and finally, saguaros. In the opinion of many hikers, this is the finest, most spectacular top to bottom hike in the Catalinas. The trail is overgrown and required trail finding skills. A car will need to be left at Sabino Canyon. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 7920 feet; net elevation change minus 5200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; accumulated loss ___ feet; RTD 123 miles.

****Box Canyon Hike in the Tortilla Mountains. Rating C.** The Tortilla Mountains are reached by driving to Price Road north of Florence (just south of the railroad track), and to Box Canyon Road. The last portion includes 14 miles of dirt road. The road is well graded, so high clearance or 4WD vehicles are NOT necessary. Vehicles may be parked at the entrance to Box Canyon. About a mile into the canyon, hikers will see very interesting rock formations, rock coloring, and sheer walls. A fork in the wash is reached after a bit, marked with a large sign with an arrow pointing left. The left fork curves left, eventually turning back to Hwy # 79 north of Florence. The right fork, which we will follow, swings right, and then begins an ascent of 536 feet to a cattle guard, and a 'pass' of sorts. The 'pass' is about 2.5 miles from the starting point and is a good lunch spot with great views. The return is via the same route. This road leads, in another 3 to 5 miles, to the Coke Ovens, and the Martinez Mine/Cabin. There are numerous Jeeps, ATV's, and dirt bikes on this road on weekends. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 1750 feet; net elevation change 536 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 123 miles (including 28 miles on dirt).

Brown Mountain. Rating C. The Brown Mountain Trail is along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts at a trailhead on McCain Loop Road, just south of Kinney Road east of the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. Along this "ridge ramble" are excellent views of the mountains, valleys, and desert vegetation. The route has many up and downs. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 (trailheads at either end are 2640 and 2880) feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 73 miles.

Canyon Loop. Rating D. From the main trailhead at the end of the road in Catalina State Park, the hike begins with the Romero Canyon Trail, turns onto the Canyon Loop Trail, and then comes back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. The hike may be done in reverse direction. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 2.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 170 feet; RTD 24 miles.

****Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating D.** Volunteers are needed for the Trash Cleanup Walk for Catalina Hills Drive which is part of the Arizona Adopt A Highway Program. This is a community service that our club provides for SaddleBrooke and for Arizona. The walk will only take an hour to an hour and a half of your time. Trash bags and safety vests are provided by the Pinal County Highway Dept. Volunteers should bring gloves and a pickup stick if they have one. We will meet in the parking lot just west of the Fitness Center at SaddleBrooke CC.

Cochise Stronghold to End of Trail. Rating B. Hikers travel from west to east through the Dragoon Mountains along a spine of granite where the legendary Apache War Chief Cochise kept his many enemies at bay during the Indian wars. There are several beautiful rock formations along the way. Cochise is buried in a hidden location in the area. Hike 11 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 1500 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 221 miles (some dirt).

Deer Camp / Samaniego Roost Loop. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area and proceeds easterly, up and out of Sutherland Wash to Deer Camp, then turns southwest on a trail that connects to the Samaniego Ridge 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, to a grove of 100+ year old saguaros. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1288 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Deer Camp Loop. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail Area. We hike east up and out of Sutherland Wash to Deer Camp, and then head southwest down a winding trail to connect with a trail that proceeds to a lookout on an arm of Samaniego Ridge. The trail affords good views of SaddleBrooke, the Sutherland Wash, the Biosphere, the Tortolita Mountains, and Pusch Ridge. We will follow this trail back down over slick rock, past an ancient cholla tree, then through an ocotillo grove. It continues down a dry creek bed (watch for those cairns) and intersects with the Baby Jesus Trail. The trail passes through a grove of 100+ year old saguaros on the way back to the trailhead. Hike 5.7 miles, trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 1400 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet.

Deer Camp. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike east up and out of Sutherland Wash, through beautiful rock formations with many saguaros to a camp at the base of Samaniego Peak. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 825 feet; accumulated gain 980 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Esperero Trail. Rating B. The hike reaches a saddle overlooking Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot over a few small foothills to "the Gulch". The hiking is initially steep.... then it gets much steeper! We'll have lunch at the saddle (el. 4400 feet) while viewing the falls below, and return to the Visitor Center. Depending on season, there may be water in the falls. Extra drinking water is recommended. Hike 7.3 miles; trailhead

elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1898 feet; RTD 56 miles.

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

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

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

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

Garwood Dam to Little Wild Horse Tank. C+. The hike begins in Saguaro National Park – East off Cactus Forrest Drive. We hike through the cactus forest to Garwood Dam, and another 200 yards to Little Wild Horse Tank, which is a lovely pool of water. We retrace our route back past the dam and back to the trailhead. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 80 miles.

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

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. The hike begins past the Golder Ranch Road gate in the Fifty-Year Trail area. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 640 feet; accumulated gain 880 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Hutch's Pool. Rating C+. Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon (fee required). After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon, the trail is mostly level but involves several stream crossings along the East and West Forks before reaching the pool. Some boulder hopping may be necessary depending on seasonal rains and winter snow melt on Mt. Lemmon. This lovely hike will take us to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees, which is great place for a snack or lunch. The return is via the same route to the trailhead to catch the tram. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

Josephine Saddle and Rogers Rock. Rating B. The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. We then go down the Super Trail for about a mile and take a turnoff for Rogers Rock and travel about 0.25 miles to the rock. The top provides a wonderful view and is an excellent place to eat lunch. The return is down the Super Trail to the parking lot. The hike can be done in reverse. Hike, 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1700 feet; RTD 130 miles.

Lime Falls, Saguaro NP - East. Rating D. The hike begins off Cactus Forest Loop Drive. We head south on the Cactus Forest Trail from the loop drive for a 2.8-mile hike or drive further around the loop and go north on the Cactus Forest Trail for a 4-mile hike. The trail passes through a wonderful example of the Sonoran Desert. Along the way, we will stop to observe some old lime kilns that were operational from 1880-1920. Hikers then turn onto a side trail that takes them to a rock outcropping which produces a waterfall when there is enough rain or snow melt. Hike 2.8 or 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 300 feet; accumulated gain 300 feet; RTD 80 miles.

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

Mescal Mountain Old 4WD Road. Rating C. The hike begins 15.2 miles north of Winkelman on Hwy #77. We climb 400 feet right away, and then have a more gradual climb to total of 700 feet gain over the first 2 miles. There are great views in all directions, including the El Capitan slot canyon, Mescal Mountains with El Capitan Mountain, south to the Galiuro Mountains, and west to the Tortilla Mountains. From the high point (el. 3300 feet) we hike down the road to an overlook into a canyon. The return is via the same route. Optional event: swim/wade in the Gila River near Winkelman (mile post 142--on left side of Hwy # 77). Hike 6 to 7 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation gain 700 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 134 miles.

Oracle Ridge to Saddle. Rating C+. The hike begins in Oracle at a trailhead off the Cody Loop Road. It follows the Oracle Ridge Trail to the junction with the American Flag/Cody Trail where there are 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; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1000 feet; RTD 40 miles (dirt).

Peppersauce Canyon. Rating C+. From Peppersauce Campground, the hike proceeds up Peppersauce Canyon in the canyon itself, not on the hiking trail beside it, and will involve substantial rock hopping and uneven walking in the wash. The return is via the hiking trail. We will be going through some brush and some of the rock hopping has a little exposure to sun. Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Gloves would be helpful. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; round trip 53 miles (dirt).

Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating B. The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. There are three options for the return: the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

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

required. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2000 feet; net elevation change 1374 feet; accumulated gain 2152 feet; RTD 90 miles.

Pima Canyon to 3rd Dam. Rating B. The trailhead is at the east 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 small 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, the largest of the three. The return is via the same route. Hike 8.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change 1870 feet; accumulated gain 2210 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Pima Canyon to Pima Spring. Rating B. The trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail crosses open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. It then enters a beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. We hike past a three small dams before reaching the perennial Pima Spring, which has a concrete trough for holding water for wildlife. The spring is an excellent place for lunch. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change 2789 feet; accumulated gain 2875 feet; RTD 42 miles.

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

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

Romero Pass. Rating A. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows an up and down trail past Romero Pools and Romero Springs to Romero Pass. The last 2 miles before reaching the pass is very steep. The return is via the same route. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way and of Cathedral Peak at the top. Hike 15 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 3380 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 24 miles.

Romero Springs. Rating B. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the main trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. The spring is located about 2 miles past the Romero pools in a very scenic section of the canyon. It has been known to have quite a bit of wildlife. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. Lunch will be at the spring. The return is via the same route. Hike 10.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 2720 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon (no Tram). Rating A. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, hikers follow the Phone Line and Sabino Canyon Trails to the East Fork intersection, the East Fork to the Bear/Sycamore intersection and then the Bear Canyon Trail past Seven Falls, back to the Visitor Center. We may have to revise the route if the stream is high in Bear Canyon. This is a very scenic hike on good trails. Hike 17.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 2110 feet; accumulated gain 4155 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Soldier Trail to Molina Basin via Prison Camp. Rating B-. The hike begins at the 1.3-mile pullout on Catalina Hwy and continues one way to the Molina Basin. The first 0.5 miles is very steep and rocky. The trail then proceeds through Soldier Basin which affords views of a large gorge, rugged cliffs, and the Tucson area. The trail was used as a Calvary passage in the 1800's. After a stop at Prison Camp, the hike continues down hill via the Arizona Trail to the Molina Basin Campground. The hike is limited to 10 hikers. Three 5 passenger vehicles are needed for shuttle between trailheads. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3280 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 84 miles.

Superstitions: Peralta Trail. Rating C+. The hike follows the Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle in the Superstition Mountains. There are excellent views of Weaver's Needle at the saddle. 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 boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. The trail is steep and rocky for most of the way. Hike 4.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2410 feet; net elevation change 1360 feet; accumulated gain 1360 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

Sutherland Trail. Rating C. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after abundant winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous 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 hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 24 miles.

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

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

Tortolita Mountains - S. End Wild Burro Canyon & Lower Javelina Trail. Rating C. The trailhead is at the Wild Burro Canyon parking lot on Dove Mountain Blvd. We hike up Wild Burro Canyon, some in the arroyo and some on a compacted soil trail, winding through some trees and cacti. After 2 miles, we reach the ruins of an old stone house, which is where Wild Burro Canyon trail goes left and up along the ridge to the left. We pass this and take the Spur Trail which is on the right 20-30 yards ahead, to Alamo Spring Trail. There are great views of Wild Burro Canyon and Avra Valley, as we descend into Wild Burro Canyon. Once we reach Wild Burro Canyon, we walk in the arroyo until shortly before the lower waterfalls. Here we find a trail marker on the right side of the arroyo. We follow this part of the trail down the right side of the waterfall to the old stone house ruins. Then we retrace our steps back down the arroyo to our car. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 960 feet; accumulated gain 1090 feet; RTD is 44 miles.

Tortolita Mountains - S. Wild Burro Canyon / Alamo Springs Trail Loop. Rating B. We hike from the south end of Wild Burro Canyon off Dove Mtn. Blvd. to the junction with Alamo Springs Trail head. The first 1.5 miles involves walking in the wash and on compacted ground trail. Along the way, we look down on the Ritz Carlton Hotel and golf course. Once we top the pass, we proceed along the east side of the Tortolita Mountains. After about 3.5 miles, we finally reach the final "pass", then begin descending to the junction of the Alamo Springs Trail and Spur Trail and continue along the Spur Trail down into Wild Burro Canyon. Soon after reaching the canyon floor, there is an old stone house, and cistern on the right which belonged to goat herders in the early 1900's. There is also a large water catch basin, dubbed the "swimming pool". From this point, hikers walk back along Wild Burro Canyon Trail, which crosses the wash a number of times before reaching the trailhead. Hike 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain 1375 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Trail (medium version). Rating C. The hike involves a portion 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 the 12-mile recreational trail using only hand tools. Hike 6 to 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet; net elevation change <500 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 44 miles.

Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail. Rating B. The hike begins at the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro (the west extension of Ruthrouff Road) on the east side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike on the Sweetwater Trail through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. There is little shade along the way. Bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 9.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 1887; accumulated gain 2424 feet; trip drive 60 miles.

Happy Holidays!

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. Make out check to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. Mail To: Bob Perez, 65187 E Desert Sand Court, Tucson, AZ 85739.

A reminder: All new memberships and renewals paid in October, November & December extend membership through 2010. At \$5 per year the SBHC membership remains the best bargain around!