

Announcement for October Newsletter

Maps and GPS Fundamentals Seminar

The club is sponsoring a two-day seminar called **Map and GPS Fundamentals** on the mornings of November 11 and 12, Thursday and Friday. The seminar will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in two different rooms in the MountainView Club House. The Thursday session will be in the Palo Verde East Room, and the Friday session will be in the Ballroom West meeting room.

The objectives of the seminar are to show participants how to read topographic maps, use handheld GPS devices, determine and plot locations on a USGS map, to download tracks and waypoints and plot them using several kinds of popular software, and how to use the internet to find information useful to hikers. We hope to show hikers how to determine their location on a map and to prevent them from becoming lost on unfamiliar trails. The two main coordinate systems, geographic and UTM, will be explained and participants will be led through exercises to gain skill and understanding at using information provided by their GPS. A follow-up geocaching competition is planned for seminar participants, with the winner receiving a \$25.00 gift certificate and recognition in the next newsletter.

Demonstrations are planned for some of the most common types of software available and an opportunity for one-on-one Q&A with some of the club's most knowledgeable and experienced hikers. This will be an excellent opportunity to get your questions answered with regard to maps and handheld GPS devices. Make your new GPS work for you! If you intend to buy a GPS in the near future, some of the information will help you decide which model is best for you. If you have a suggestion for a demonstration you would like to see included, please pass it along.

This is an opportunity you can afford; it's free. But the class size is limited to 30 people (not including hike guides) who are currently club members. You should call Roy Carter at 818-3137, or email him at rvcarter@aol.com as soon as you decide you would like to attend (first come, first serve). New members and nonmembers will be placed on a space available list and notified a week before the seminar if there is room available. Hope to see you there.