

SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2013-6

Club Reaches 500th-Member Milestone

Jerry and Pat Morris had the distinction earlier this fall of becoming the 499th and 500th members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club in 2013—the first time the club has hit that mark in any one year. The couple, who moved to SaddleBrooke in June, are long-time Tucsonans, having lived here for 36 years. They have hiked in the Grand Canyon, around Pinetop where they have a cabin, and in the Rincons and Sabino Canyon area where they used to live. Now that Jerry is retired, they're looking forward to getting to know this side of town a little better.



Ready, Set, Go to Moab, Utah!

If you've gone on any of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club's large group trips over the past three years—the Grand Canyon, Flagstaff and Sedona, and Zion National Park in Utah—you know how much fun

they are. Next year, the club will be offering members a chance to see even more of Utah's natural wonders on an April 28-30 trip to Moab, Utah.

Moab's unique combination of beautiful red rock scenery and canyons cut by the mighty waters of the Colorado River have made it one of the most sought after destinations in the Southwest. Within minutes of town is Arches National Park, with over 2,000 arches located in the park's 76,518 acres. There are many hikes available in Arches for hikers of all levels, including hikes to the longest arch in the world, Landscape Arch, and to Delicate Arch, the most widely recognized landmark in the park.

Canyonlands National Park, 32 miles outside of Moab, is the largest national park in Utah. Canyonlands has two primary districts, Islands in the Sky, with hiking trails suitable for all levels, and The Needles, with hikes more suitable for stronger hikers, like the Druid Arch hike.

In addition to two National Parks, there are several Bureau of Land Management recreation sites near Moab, with hiking trails to famous geological formations such as Corona Arch and Fisher Towers.

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club is planning to offer hikes led by member guides in all of these areas. Because there is no limit on the number of hikers allowed on the trails around Moab as was the case on some of the Zion hikes this year, hiking club members may bring a non-guest member to accompany them if they wish.

Participants will arrange their own transportation and lodging. According to Mapquest, the distance to Moab is about the same as this year's drive to Zion—approximately 575 miles. Due to the popularity of Moab, those who are interested in the trip are encouraged to making their reservations for lodging soon. Hikes will be offered all three days—April 28, 29 and 30—so it's suggested that you reserve now for four nights, arriving on April 27 and leaving on May 1. Once the hiking schedule is available, you will be able to decide whether you'd rather check out on April 30, hike a half-day (or not) and then drive part

of the way home—or hike a full day on April 30 and leave on May 1. It's always easier to cancel one night's lodging than to try and book an extra night if the motel is full!

More specifics on the club's Moab trip can be obtained by contacting Susan Hollis at slhollis@yahoo.com or 825-6819, or Dave Sorenson at iowaboy1950@yahoo.com or 777-1994.



Canyon Lands National Park



Corona Arch Near Moab



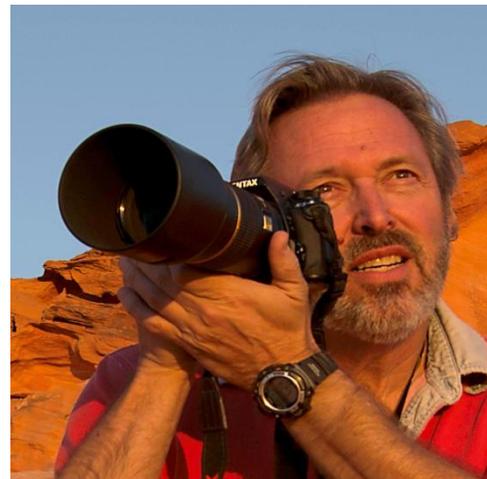
Delicate Arch, Arches National Park
Photos taken by Randy Park

Photo Adventures Wednesday, November 13, 3:00 P.M. Coyote Rooms, HOA 1 Clubhouse

Journalist, Kerrick James has specialized in adventure travel photography for a wide variety of publications, including National Geo. Adventure, Arizona Highways, Alaska Airlines Magazine, Outdoor Photographer, etc., and has more than 200 book and magazine covers to his credit. He also writes adventure travel features and also has taught nearly 50 photo workshops, from Alaska to Hawaii, the Southwest, the Sea of Cortez, Costa Rica and Panama. Kerrick loves to share and teach.

Join him for an hour of photo adventures both accessible and grand on Wednesday, November 13, 3:00 p.m. in the Coyote Rooms in the SaddleBrooke HOA1 Clubhouse. Note the change of location. A hiking club social will follow the program at 4 p.m. in the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse Agave Lounge.

For more information about this program contact Elisabeth Wheeler [818-1547](tel:818-1547).



Bighorn Sheep Restoration Project in the Santa Catalina Mountains

Thirty bighorn sheep will be translocated into Catalina State Park in the Fall of 2013, with the expectation they will climb up Montrose Canyon into the Pusch Ridge wilderness. The sheep will be monitored closely (each bighorn sheep will wear a GPS collar). If these sheep thrive approximately 2 more groups of 30 bighorn will be translocated into the Santa Catalinas within the next 3 years.

The diverse advisory committee (Catalina Bighorn Advisory Committee) believes this effort has a high

probability of success because the habitat was improved by the Bullock & Aspen fires. These huge fires 10 years ago burned away much of the unnaturally dense vegetation built up during decades of fire suppression, spurring the regrowth of a diverse array of plants that has significantly improved habitat for sheep. Also, a FireScape plan will be put in place. This involves low-intensity prescribed burns in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness and other management actions to help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and improve natural wildlife habitat.

No established trails will be closed to hikers, but restrictions will be put in place in a defined Bighorn Sheep Management Area (Pusch Ridge Wilderness area) during lambing season. No one will be allowed 400 feet off established trails. "Social" trails that have been established by horseback riders and hikers will be off-limits during lambing season. Dogs will not be permitted in the restricted areas.

Having both a healthy mountain lion and big horn sheep population will be the goal. When a big horn sheep dies, investigators will determine the cause of death. If it was a mountain lion kill, then tracking dogs will scout from the dead bighorn to the guilty mountain lion who will be killed, unless it is a mother with cubs. This is not expected to happen very often. No hunting of big horn sheep will be allowed for at least 5 years. If a healthy herd is established there would be the possibility of 1-2 hunting permits 5 to 10 years from now.

The Catalina Bighorn Advisory Committee, established in 2012, is comprised of personnel from the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, the Wilderness Society, Sky Island Alliance, Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the Center for Biological Diversity. The advisory committee is working closely with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the United States Forest Service.

News You Can Use		
Hiking Club Program	11/13	3:00 P.M
Social Hour	11/13	4:00 P.M..
Board Meeting	12/4	2:45 P.M.
Guide Meeting	12/4	4:00 P.M.

Board Members	
President	Larry Allen 825-7864, allenlw70@gmail.com
Vice-President	Dianne Ashby 818-9919, deashby87@gmail.com
Secretary	Dave Sorenson 777-1994 iowaboy1950@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Melissa Simpson 818-7839, mjsimp0328@aol.com
Chief Hiking Guides	Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com

Volunteers	
Catalina Hills Cleanup	Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
Communications	Ken Wong, 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
Programs	Elisabeth Wheeler;818-1547; elisarick@wbhsi.net
Membership Roster	Karen Cusano, 468-2501; kdjcnp@yahoo.com
Merchandise	Pam Corrigan, 850- 8885 pam@daveandpam.com
Newsletter Copies	Martha Hackworth, 818-2573 marthahackworth@gmail.com
Newsletter	Carole Rossof, 877-9262; crandmr@q.com
Publicity	Karen Schickedanz, 818-7817; karenschick@wbhsi.net
Socials	Mary Jo Swartzberg, 825-0463; MJSwartzberg@hotmail.com Becky Hilst, 441-2927; bckhilst51@gmail.com La Verne Kyriss 333-2689; jlkyriss@gmail.com Mary Kopp, 785-213-0520; MaryKopp55@yahoo.com Pam Vassallo, 488-0455; pvassallo_2000@yahoo.com

Volunteers Cont'd	
Socials Cont'd	Lonnee Platner, 303-305-8610; lonnep@gmail.com
Statistics and Awards	Randy Park, 825-6819, rvfulltime@isp.com
Work Days	Jim Strickler, 825-8735;

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at the SaddleBrooke and Desert View Fitness Centers

General 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). Other persons in the vehicle who also hold park passes would not be responsible for the second amount. Note, 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 walks in SaddleBrooke because of the 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.

Hike Elevation, Ratings & Pace

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 highest (or lowest) point reached during the course of the hike, in feet. This estimate may be obtained from USGS maps or a global positioning system (GPS).

- **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

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

Fitness Walks Five Days A Week

Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. Enjoy the company of other hikers while perusing SaddleBrooke. The sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. No advanced signup is required to participate in these walks. Please view the chart below for the start times for all the walking groups led by Bill Leightenheimer, and Martha Hackworth

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. If you have any questions please contact Martha at: 818-2573, or Bill at: 825-5756.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
September 1st	6:30 a.m.
November 1 st	7:00 a.m.
April 1st	6:30 a.m.
June 1st	6:00 a.m.

Hikes Offered

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Name of Hike</u>	<u>Hike Rating</u>	<u>Pace</u>	<u>Leave Time</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Driver Donation</u>
11/2	Sat	OSP East Loop	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+2
11/3	Sun	Phone Line Trail - Round Trip	B		8:00	Phil McNamee	369-4504	\$4
11/4	Mon	David Yetman Trail	C		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$6

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
11/5	Tues	Alamo Canyon	D		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2+\$2
11/6	Wed	Big Rock Dome #1	C	slow	8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$1
11/7	Thurs	King Canyon Loop	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$6
11/8	Fri	Sabino Canyon – Bear Canyon Loop, No Tram	A		6:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
11/11	Mon	Canyon Loop, Montrose Pools, and Birding Trail	D		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$2 + \$2
11/12	Tues	Hidden Canyon	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2
11/13	Wed	Adventuring with Kerrick James, Coyote Room HOA1			3:00 pm	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	
11/13	Wed	SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge – HOA1			4:00 pm			
11/14	Thurs	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
11/14	Thurs	Chiricahuas - Heart of Rocks	C		7:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$21
11/15	Fri	Baby Jesus	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2
11/15	Fri	Finger Rock Guard	A!		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
11/16	Sat	OSP West Loop	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
11/17	Sun	Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail	B		8:00	Phil McNamee	369-4504	\$7+\$2
11/18	Mon	Bug Spring Trail #1	B		7:30	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$7
11/19	Tues	Window Rock	A		6:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
11/20	Wed	Sutherland Trail	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
11/20	Mon	Phoneline Trail – Round Trip	B		8:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$4
11/21	Thurs	Finger Rock to Spring	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
11/21	Thurs	Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop	C!		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$5
11/25	Mon	Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina & Upper Javelina	C		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
11/29	Fri	Tortolita Mountains: Cochie Spring Trail	B		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
12/1	Sun	Pima Canyon to the Saddle	A		8:00	Phil McNamee	369-4504	\$3
12/2	Mon	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
12/2	Mon	Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk	D	Slow	7:45	Bill Lightenheimer	825-5756	\$0
12/3	Tue	Hidden Canyon Loop	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2
12/4	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room N HOA1			2:45 p.m.			
12/4	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room N HOA1			4:00 p.m.			
12/5	Thurs	Aspen Draw / Mint Spring Loop	C		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10
12/5	Thurs	Hutch's Pool	B		7:45	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$4+tram
12/6	Fri	Alamo Canyon	D		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2+\$2
12/7	Sat	OSP East Loop	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
12/9	Mon	Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$6
12/9	Mon	**Madera Canyon Nature Trail	D		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$10
12/10	Tue	Deer Camp/Baby Jesus Loop	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2
12/11	Wed	Superstitions-Peralta	C		8:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$14
12/11	Wed	Esperero Trail	B		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
12/12	Thurs	Ram's Creek Basin to Catalina State Park	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2+\$2
12/13	Fri	Sutherland Trail	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2+\$2
12/16	Mon	**Tortolita Mountains: Wild Burro Trail from the North	C		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$2
12/17	Tues	Pima Canyon to 1 st Dam	D!		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$3
12/18	Wed	Alamo Canyon to Water Tanks	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
12/18	Wed	Box Camp Trail	B		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$9
12/19	Thurs	Sweetwater Trail (short version)	D		8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$5
12/19	Thur	Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs Loop	B		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
12/20	Fri	Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails	B		8:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$7
12/21	Sat	OSP West Loop	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
12/24	Tues	Oracle Ridge	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3

a– New hikes not yet included in the Hike Database are indicated with “***”.

b – Hike ratings are based on round trip distance and accumulated elevation gain, where available. Ratings flagged with a “!” indicate special trail conditions that might be of concern to some hikers. Please read the hike descriptions before deciding whether to sign up.

Ratings flagged with a “☺” indicate an easier, smoother trail than normal at that rating.

c – Pace is moderate unless otherwise stated.

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.

Alamo Canyon to the Water Tank. Rating C. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Elevation change is gradual. The trail proceeds from the ruins through Alamo Canyon. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods. Hikers then go around, down, and up and down again to an unused, large water tank. Trail is rocky in some areas. The return is one of three ways of equal distance. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 1050 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Aspen Draw / Mint Spring Trail. Rating C. The hike begins on Turkey Run Road in Summerhaven across from the Visitor Center. After about a mile, we take the Aspen Draw Trail to Radio Ridge. From there we descend the Aspen Trail to Marshall Saddle, where we pick up the Mint Spring Trail to Carter Canyon Road, for a short 0.75 miles back to the trailhead. Hikers may choose to have lunch in Summerhaven before returning. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 8000 feet; net elevation change 1400 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Baby Jesus. Rating C. The hike starts in the Fifty-Year Trail area near the east end of Golder Ranch Road and follows a jeep road that connects to the beginning of the Baby Jesus Trail across the Sutherland Wash. Hikers follow the trail on the east side of Baby Jesus Ridge to a rock grouping that looks in profile like the Madonna and Child, (for which the ridge is named) seeing a "window," beautiful saguaros, and rock formations along the way. The return is via the same route. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Big Rock Dome #1. Rating C!. Many SaddleBrooke residents have a view from their homes of "Dome Rock" -- the large dome to the east that is bald in the middle with patchy vegetation on both sides -- located about a third of the way up Charouleau Peak. Many have mused that it would be great to have a picnic on top of this prominent landmark. Do this hike and you can make the claim. The hike leaves from the horse farm at the end of Arroyo Way near Unit 21. We cross Canada del Oro, which may have a shallow flow if it has rained, and follow a dirt road before turning left on the Charouleau Gap Road. After about 2 miles, passing forests of ocotillo, we climb across some interesting bald rock formations. There are great views of SaddleBrooke, Catalina and Biosphere along the way. On the way back, the group takes a short 1/2 mile side trip to a scenic overlook. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 675 feet; accumulated gain 962 feet; RTD 0 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 Blakett'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 2720 feet; net elevation change 1689 feet; accumulated gain 1735 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Box Camp Trail. Rating B. Starting at the Box Camp Trailhead near Spencer Peak 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 (fee required). 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 may be overgrown and requires trail finding skills. A car will need to be left at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 7920 feet; net elevation

change minus 4600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; accumulated loss minus >4600 feet; RTD 123 miles.

Bug Spring Trail # 1. Rating B. From the Lower Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile up the Catalina Highway from Hirabayashi Campground), the hike proceeds southeast along a narrow ribbon of trail carved into the granite hillside. After an uphill set of switchbacks, the terrain mellows out with outstanding vistas and views of granite sculptures. The trail dives down the north side of the ridge into a heavily forested drainage. Upward to the highpoint of the trail, you can see a few big madrone trees and views of the Sierrita Mountains, Baboquivari and the mighty Rincons. The trail descends steeply to the Upper Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile south of General Hitchcock Campground), which is the turnaround point. Return is via the same trail. Hike 9.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change 1625 feet; accumulated gain 2520 feet; RTD 94 miles.

Canyon Loop, Montrose Pools, and Birding Trail. Rating D. Starting at the main trailhead at Catalina State Park, the hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We take the Sutherland Trail to the Canyon Loop Trail, then hike up to Montrose Pools via the Romero Canyon Trail. On the way back, we will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 320 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. Volunteers will meet in the parking lot just west of the Fitness Center at SaddleBrooke CC.

Chiricahua Heart of Rocks. Rating C. The hike consists of the Ed Riggs, Mushroom Rock, Big Balanced Rock and Heart of Rocks Loop Trails, visiting the most spectacular rock formations in Chiricahua National Monument. If time permits, we may include a portion of the scenic Echo Canyon trail. Because this is an all day trip (140 miles to the Monument), those wishing to, will stop for dinner at

a very good, reasonable Italian Restaurant in Benson on the way back. Hike 7.3 miles; trailhead elevation 6780 feet; net elevation change <1000 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 288 miles.

David Yetman Trail. Rating C. The hike is an easy walk through typical vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. The trail has two trailheads; one at Camino de Oeste and one near the bottom of the west side of Gates Pass. Cars will be left at one end and hikers will drive to the other trailhead. From the Gates Pass side, the trail is easy for the first mile, easy down a wash, but steep upward for a short distance along the climb back up to the ridge. Hikers pass the Central Arizona Project, an old stone house built in the early 1930's by Sherry Bowen, and a well that serves a wildlife watering tank. Bring lunch, water, hat, sun lotion, and hiking stick. Hike 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 75 miles.

Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike easterly toward Deer Camp, and then take the Middle Tank Connecting Trail to the Baby Jesus Trail which leads back to the trailhead. The area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 6.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 1213 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating B. Hikers drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the Douglas Spring Trailhead. The hike involves moderately some steep hiking on a well-used trail to the campground. Coming back we may take the spur out and back to Bridal Wreath Falls, and follow Douglas Spring Trail back to the trailhead. The trails are mostly open, so bring sun protection. Bring lunch. Hike 13.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 2002feet; accumulated gain 2684 feet; RTD 80 miles.

Esperero Trail. Rating B. The hike reaches a saddle known locally as Cardiac Gap, which overlooks Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot, through the Cactus Picnic Area and 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.

Finger Rock Guard. Rating A!. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Finger Rock Guard is the large rock formation to the east of Finger Rock, a well-known landmark that can be seen from many places in Tucson (and from Saddlebrooke). The hike begins with the first 2.5 miles and 2200 feet accumulated gain of the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads eventually to Mt. Kimball. At the point where the trail turns northeast toward the Linda Vista Saddle, the trail descends a steep 200 feet into Finger Rock Canyon. The trail continues up a faint, steep and, in many places, slippery path to the saddle between Mt. Kimball and Finger Rock. From there, the trail turns southwest toward the rock guard. Rock scrambling and rock climbing are required to reach the summit 450 feet above the saddle. There is significant exposure to heights and steep drop-offs along the last few hundred feet of elevation. Bring extra water. Call to discuss with the hiking guide. This is a difficult hike but the fantastic views from the summit make it a "must do" for dedicated hikers. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 3375 feet; accumulated gain 4000 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.

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 620 feet; accumulated gain 880 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

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 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 975 feet; accumulated gain 1212 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Hutch's Pool. Rating B. Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram (fee required) to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon. 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. During periods of heavy rain or significant snow melt, the crossings can be difficult. Ask the guide about current stream flow conditions. This lovely hike will take the group 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 10.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1850 feet; RTD 56 miles.

King Canyon Loop. Rating C. The hike begins from a parking area across from the Desert Museum and proceeds up the King Canyon Trail to the Sweetwater Saddle. The return is either down the trail to the Mam-a Gah picnic area or down an old mining road to the wash, then along the dry wash where petroglyphs can be viewed. The wash is interesting and wildlife can sometimes be seen. Bring a camera, lunch, water, and hiking stick if you have one. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 960 feet; accumulated gain 1118 feet; RTD 73 miles.

****Madera Canyon Nature Trail.** Rating D. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. The hike starts at the Proctor Parking area and proceeds 2 miles up the Nature Trail. Return is via the same route. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Oracle Ridge. 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 there are great views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas to the west. We will lunch on the ridge and return by same route. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 700 feet; RTD 40 miles (dirt).

OSP East Loop. Rating C. The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. Hikers follow the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection, we turn southeast and follow trail to the intersection with the Manzanita Trail. We follow this trail west and onto the Nature Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. This route is fairly level with little elevation change with wide open views and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. Hike 6.2 miles, trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 760 feet; RTD 40 miles.

OSP West Loop. Rating C. The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. We hike the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection we turn west and hike toward Hwy # 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. The first third of the hike is fairly level, the second third is a series of up and down hills on rocky trail and the last third has gentle hills. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated gain 1150 feet; RTD 40 miles.

Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C!. The hike begins at the Peppersauce Campground on the northeast side of the Catalinas. The trail follows old Mt. Lemmon (Oracle Control) Road up to the Nugget Canyon turnoff. We will stop to see Peppersauce Cave. Bring a flashlight. We then travel up the canyon, follow jeep roads, view an old mine, then come down Peppersauce Canyon. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills, but there are numerous stream crossings involving boulder hopping during periods following significant precipitation. This is a strenuous hike for this level due to a steep incline in one area and loose rocks in another. Hike 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 1230 feet; accumulated gain 1320 feet; RTD 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 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain 1425 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail. Rating B!. From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the lower route to Picacho Peak. The climb to the top involves the use of cables to get to the top, which provides 360-degree views of the area. This is a short, strenuous climb, but less so than from the Hunter Trailhead at Barret Loop. Bring leather or rubber tipped gloves and ample water. There are several areas of climbing where the trail is slippery due to loose rock and where the trail is exposed to sharp drop-offs. Park entrance fee required. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 1494 feet; accumulated gain > 1500 feet; RTD 90 miles.

Pima Canyon to 1st Dam. Rating D!. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. There are pools of water at the dam most of the year. The trail is rocky at some points and involves some steps-up and steps-down but is not difficult. Hike 2.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 470 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Pima Canyon to the Saddle. Rating A. The Pima Canyon 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 and the perennial Pima Spring to the Saddle which provides a superb view of the entire Montrose Canyon and Romero Canyon drainage areas, the most inaccessible region of the entire Catalina Mountains. The overlook (el. 6480 feet) a few hundred feet past the Saddle is an excellent place for lunch. Hike 10.8 miles; trailhead

elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 3360 feet; accumulated gain 3570 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Rams Creek Basin to Catalina State Park. Rating C. From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision we hike up a large wash on an established trail through nice vegetation to a large rock waterfall with commanding views over Rancho Vistoso and the Tortolita mountains. We then continue on to a connecting trail via a large watering tank to Catalina State Park. We cross several washes and pass by Alamo Canyon falls, which provides a cool oasis and usually has running water. This hike involves a short car shuttle. Hike 6.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2404 feet; net elevation change 1181 feet; accumulated gain 2979 feet; RTD 21 miles.

Sabino Canyon - Bear Canyon Loop (no Trams). 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.

Superstitions: Peralta Trail. Rating C. The hike follows the Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle in the Superstition Mountains. There are excellent views of Weavers 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 Weavers 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 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2410 feet; net elevation change 1360 feet; accumulated gain 1410 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

Sutherland Trail. Rating C. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate 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 waterfalls 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.

Sweetwater Trail (short version). Rating D. The hike begins from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson Mountains and covers about half the distance to the saddle where the Kings Canyon and Sweetwater Trails meet. The return is via the same route. The trail passes through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there are good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. Hiking boots and stick are recommended. Bring binoculars. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 60 miles.

Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs Loop. Rating B. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash to Lower Javelina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail, which is on the right after entering State Trust land. The group will follow the Alamo Springs Trail to the spring. Upon leaving the spring, the return is down the Wild Burro Trail to an old stone house and cistern 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 the Wild Burro Trail the parking lot. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 2780 feet; accumulated gain 1600 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Mountains: Cochie Spring Trail. Rating B. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, hikers go 1.5 miles on the flat Wild Burro Trail to the Upper Javelina Trail. The Upper Javelina Trail provides views of the Tucson Mtns and Boboquiveri Peak to the south. After a short hike on the Wild Mustang Trail, hikers join the Cochie Spring Trail and continue several miles to the remains of a dam past a windmill. Hikers will experience a quiet mountain wilderness. The return is by the same route. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; (data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina and Upper Javelina. Rating C. The hike begins at the Ritz Carlton Hotel hiker parking lot. The group will hike up Wild Burro Canyon a short distance to Lower Javelina Trail which we follow for 2 miles, then cross Wild Burro Canyon again to connect to Upper Javelina Trail. We will proceed along the Upper Javelina Trail for 3 miles; the end of Upper Javelina Trail is close to the new golf course. The group will

then hike an easy 1 mile path back to the parking lot. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 550 feet; accumulated elevation 910 feet; RTD 44 miles.

****Tortolita Mountains: Wild Burro Canyon from the North.** Rating C. The trailhead is reached via the Rail-X Marble Mine Road (5.6 miles), then a Jeep Road for 1.2 miles to the base of the mountains. 4WD vehicles are required for the Jeep Road. Hike 1.25 miles on ATV road, over a saddle and down to a Solar Water Tank (near stone wall and goat corral). At the Solar Water tank, pick up the new section of Wild Burro Trail and hike south to the intersection of the Wild Mustang Trail, turn right on Wild Mustang and hike short distance to our lunch spot on rock formations overlooking Wild Burro Canyon South. Return is via the same route. Hike ~8 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation __; gross elevation __. RTD 20.

Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating B. The hike begins at Sendero Esperanza Trailhead off Golden Gate Road. The route follows the Esperanza Trail (1.8 miles) to the Hugh Norris Trail and on to Wasson Peak (2.2 miles). The climb is gradual and the Hugh Norris section is primarily a ridge trail with spectacular views. The 360-degree views from Wasson Peak include Tucson and Santa Catalinas to the east, Green Valley/Santa Ritas to the south, Sells to the west, and Picacho to the north. We will lunch on top of the Peak and return the same way. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1561 feet; accumulated gain 1433 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt).

Window Rock. Rating A. The hike follows the most direct route up Ventana Canyon. The hike is difficult and steep, and involves lots of difficult climbing. The hike begins at the Ventana Canyon Resort parking lot past the employees' parking lot. It follows that trail past Maiden Pools until it reaches the Esperero Trail # 25, which is used for two miles to reach the Window. Ventana Canyon offers some of the best canyon views in southern Arizona. Views from the Window are fantastic, including such landmarks at Mt. Kimball, Cathedral Rock, and the Montrose Canyon drainage area. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 3840 feet; accumulated gain 4200 feet; RTD 54 miles.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!