

SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2015

HIKING ON THE HUALAPAI AND HAVASUPAI INDIAN RESERVATIONS Wednesday, November 18

Away from the large visitor crowds of Grand Canyon National Park lie two Indian Reservations directly to the west of the central park area, situated on the south rim of the canyon. These are the Hualapai and Havasupai reservations. Eighteen members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club will be participating in a Northern Arizona University program spanning five days (Nov. 7-12) in this remote and beautiful area. Daily guided hikes will be embellished with evening programs on geology, ecology, and culture to provide a comprehensive learning experience.

The Hualapai, or "People of the Tall Pines", have a reservation encompassing approximately one million acres, with over 1,600 members residing on the reservation. The Havasupai, or "People of the Blue-Green Water", have a reservation encompassing over 188,000 acres, with over 600 members residing on the reservation. One of the highlights of the trip will be a hike on the Havasupai reservation to Mooney Falls seen in the following photograph:



Join us as members of the group who will be hiking into this beautiful area share their experiences just a few days after their return. Venue is the HOA#1 Activity Center on Wednesday, November 18, at 3:00 P.M. This program is open to all SaddleBrooke and SaddleBrooke Ranch residents. Afterwards attendees are encouraged to attend a social hour in the Agave Lounge. For more information about the programs, contact Mary Croft at 651-270-1660 or mbcroft45@mac.com.

ARIZONA TRAIL WORK EVENT AND TOUR OF THE AMERICAN FLAG RANCH NOVEMBER 18, 2015 7:30 A.M. Depart



American Flag Ranch - a historic structure on the Arizona National Scenic Trail

Isaac Laurin, a native of Martinique, located the American Flag Mine and built his home in 1877. The American Flag Mine was one of the first in the area to yield rich dividends. By 1880, there were several hundred miners working the American Flag, Apache and Campo Bonito mining areas. Through the efforts of Laurin, E. O. Stratton and others, the first post office was established on December 28, 1880, as part of Laurin's American Flag Ranch building. It was named the American Flag Post Office. Today, the original structure is believed to be the oldest extant territorial post office building in Arizona. In 1881, Laurin sold his mining interests to the Richardson Mining Company of New York. The area population

dwindled over the next several years, and the American Flag Post Office was decommissioned on July 16, 1890. All mail was subsequently sent to Tucson via the Oracle Post Office, located at the Acadia Ranch. Laurin then turned his attention to developing the American Flag Cattle Ranch and lived at American Flag for about eight years as rancher and cattleman before moving to Phoenix where he died in 1911.

In the 1970's, 3C Ranch owner, Thelma Rowe, donated the American Flag to the Arizona Historical Society. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings in 1979. AHS and OHS entered into a 5-year partnership during which time the house's utilities were upgraded, the tin roof replaced and a caretaker installed. In 1999, AHS quitclaimed the Ranch to OHS. OHS and the American Flag committee continued to stabilize and maintain the ranch building and systems while negotiating with US Forest Service and Pinal County to move the road that was causing seismic damage to the structure. In 2010, a core group of volunteers began rehabilitation of the barn and ranch house.

For more information about volunteering for 2.5 hours of work on the Arizona National Scenic Trail and the tour that follows, call Elisabeth Wheeler (818-1547) or Mary Croft (651-270-1660).

Submitted By Elisabeth Wheeler elisarick@wbhsi.com

VIVA LAS VEGAS



Red Rock Canyon

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club will be hiking in the Las Vegas, Nevada area April 18 - 20, 2016, on the annual trip. Las Vegas is about 400 miles from SaddleBrooke. We have a varied group of hikes planned for hikers of all levels from D to B. The four principal hiking areas are Red Rock Canyon, Valley of Fire, Lake Mead, and Mt. Charleston.

Red Rock Canyon (See Picture) is the most popular hiking area in Las Vegas. Red Rock is a National Recreation area that resembles the terrain of Moab, Utah. Pristine canyons and terraced red rock formations have established trails. Red Rock is extremely popular and gets over a million visitors a year.

Valley of Fire is an hour east of Las Vegas and is Nevada's first state park. Valley of Fire has petroglyphs, arches, white domes, and spectacular scenery like a mini Arches National Park. Valley of Fire has been featured in many westerns and TV shows. A new hike called Firewave (See Picture) is now the most popular hike in the park.



Firewave

Mt. Charleston, about 30 miles north of Las Vegas, has seasonal waterfalls, canyons, and a bristlecone forest of 3000-year-old trees. Mt. Charleston hikes will be at 8000 to 9000 feet in elevation. The park ranger said that April is the ideal time to see the waterfalls.

Lake Mead hiking will have overlooks of Lake Mead and a hike on the Railway Tunnel Trail that was used in constructing Hoover Dam. Another hike is to a hot springs through a narrow canyon. A tour of Hoover Dam will be scheduled right after those hikes.

The weather should be ideal, as Mt. Charleston should be in the high 50's and Red Rock Canyon in the low 80's. Las Vegas has many lodging options, as you are well aware.

The guides are currently preparing a hike schedule. We have approximately 10 guides lined up for the Las Vegas trip. Later in the year we will send out a hike table, and you will be able to sign up for individual hikes. If you want to participate in the Annual Trip, call Dave Sorenson at 777-1994 or drop him an email at Iowaboy1950@yahoo.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE VIA FERRATE?

By Roy Carter



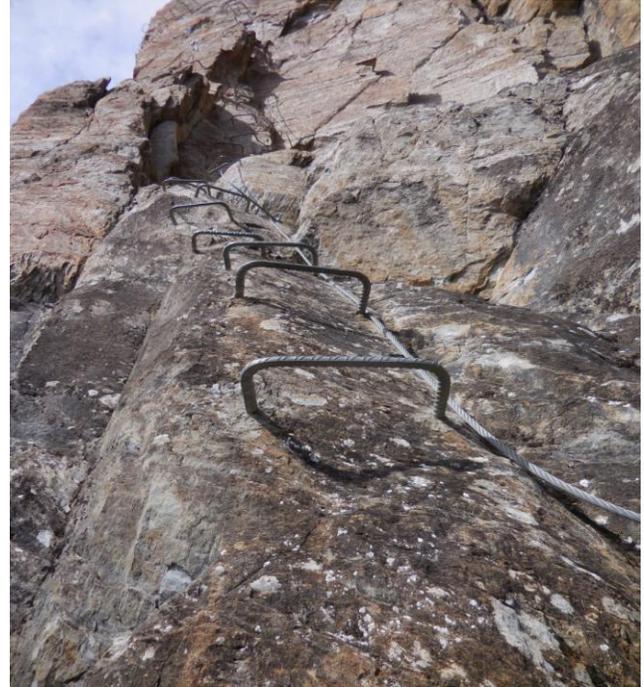
Some of my recent Facebook posts of hiking and via ferrata in the Alps and Pyrenees inspired an editor's invite to submit a short article for publication in this esteemed and world-renowned newsletter. Even though I know this is the off season and not much is happening in the club (which means she is short of material), the author was happy to comply.



Cable Bridge Near Corvara, Italy

Via ferrata (defined literally as "by way of iron"), is strictly a European thing. It grew mostly out of WWI, when the Austrians and Italians were fighting over ownership of the Dolomites, a beautiful but very cold section of the Alps along the border between them. Both countries constructed iron ladders and cables

throughout the mountainous area to facilitate movement of men and materials to gain control of the high ground. After the war, climbers and hikers discovered that these routes were fun to use, and constructed even more. They have grown in number throughout the Alps, and are a key tourist draw for these countries as they await ski season.



The Little Roof is the Crux on this Route in Andora

There are only a handful of via ferrata routes in the states, one being Telluride, CO. If one really wanted to try this unique sport, Telluride would be the place to start. It is on the easy side but there a few spots where the exposure is real. The best part is that the sport is not very technical, not like rock climbing where you need to know a lot about ropes, gear, etc. All you need are a normal harness, a helmet, sturdy shoes (i.e., hiking), and a lanyard to connect you with the cables while climbing.



A Unique Ladder on a Route in Switzerland

If you follow the guidelines for the sport, it is really quite safe. One negotiates the route by climbing on the rock and the iron cables/ladders/stemples which are firmly embedded in the rock. Rock climbing experience definitely helps, but you don't need it to enjoy this sport. What is critically important is that you can't have the slightest fear of heights or exposure. On some routes, your rear is hanging out over several hundred feet of air, and it not unusual to cross monkey bridges (bridges constructed of three steel cables), wooden walkways (a 4x4 or similar piece of lumber affixed over a chasm), and even tyrol lines (a single cable from which one is suspended from a pulley).

News You Can Use		
AZ Trail Work Session	11/18 Wed.	7:30 – 11:30 A.M.
Hiking on the Hualapai and Havasupai Indian Reservation HOA #1 Activity Center	11/18 Wed.	3:00 P.M.
SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	11/18 Wed.	4:00 P.M.
SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North	12/2 Wed.	2:30 – 4:00 P.M.
SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North	12/2 Wed.	4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
First Aid Classroom Training Instruction for SBCH Guides	12/15 Tues.	
First Aid Training for SBHC Guides	12/17 Thurs.	8:00 A.M.

Club Calendar (posted to website)

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar							Nov 2015 (Mountain Time - Arizona)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			B Ridge/Ine/Upper	B Alamo Springs		C Maiden Pools	D Alamo Cyn.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		D Ventanta Canyon		C Sutherland Trail @			B Blacketts Ridge
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			C Rams Creek Basin	B Phone Line	B Tortolitas Alamo		A Pima Cyn Saddle
										C Arizona Trail Work Program Hiking			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		C Flatiron Peak	C Middlegate	B Cochle Springs			C OSP West
29	30	1	2	3	4	5							
C Wild Mustang to	B Wasson Pk:	D FingerRockSpring	C S. Wild Burro	B I Picacho Peak	D Alamo Canyon	C OSP East Loop							

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 C Wild Mustang to	30 B Wasson Pk:	1 D FingerRockSpring	2 Board Meeting C S. Wild Burro Guide Meeting	3 B I Picacho Peak	4 D Alamo Canyon	5 C OSP East Loop
6	7 C Finger Rock to	8 B Wasson Peak	9	10 B Seven Falls	11 C Romero Pools	12 B-Esperero Trail
13	14 B Pontatoc Peak	15 Guide First Aid class	16 B Hutch's Pool	17 Guide First Aid hike	18	19 C OSP West Loop @
20	21 C-Weavers Needle	22 D Wild Burro and	23 C Rams Creek Basin	24	25	26
27	28 C Oracle Ridge Trail	29	30 C Can. Loop, Birding	31	1	2

Hikes Offered

Tuesday, November 03, 2015 Tortolita Mountains: Ridgeline Trail/Upper Wild Burrow Trail Loop from Rail-X. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate New, 8:00 AM, \$2. This very scenic hike circumnavigates upper Wild Burrow Canyon using three relatively new trail segments. The trailhead is reached via the Rail-X Marble Mine Road off Oracle Hwy. at the Pima/Pinal county line. We hike into Wild Burro Canyon from the east side of the Tortolitas on an old road which leads down to the windmill at the upper (east) end of Wild Burrow Canyon. Just before getting to the windmill we will see the sign for the junction with the new Loop trail. We turn left onto the Loop trail, cross Wild Burrow Wash and walk past an old stone wall which once was a goat corral. The Loop trail switchbacks up in a southerly direction for 1.5 miles to the junction with the Ridgeline trail. At this point we turn right (west) and follow the Ridgeline trail to its intersection with the Alamo Springs trail. We turn right (north) to Alamo Springs, which is a nice spot for lunch. Leaving Alamo Springs on the Wild Mustang/Alamo Springs loop trail we go north 0.4 miles to the junction with the new Upper Wild Burrow trail. We turn right and follow the Upper Wild Burrow trail to return to the windmill at the east end of Wild Burrow Canyon. We then regain the jeep road back to the trailhead. NOTE: high-clearance 4WD or AWD vehicles will be needed to reach the starting point for this hike. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 3800 feet; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 1632 feet; RTD 20 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 04, 2015 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs Loop. Rating B. 8:00 AM, \$4 From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash to Lower Javalina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail. 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 to the parking lot. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain 1319 feet; RTD 44 miles. Larry Allen 825-7864

Friday, November 06, 2015 Maiden Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$4. Starting at the public parking lot on the left (past the employees' parking lot) at Ventana Canyon Resort, hikers follow the new Forest Service trail into the canyon. The trail is rocky in places with some steep climbing and substantial steps-up which make it more difficult than the average C hike. There are numerous wash crossings which involve boulder hopping if water is flowing. On the return, there are fine views of the east side of Tucson. The pools provide an excellent place for lunch. The return is by the same route. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain 1335 feet; RTD 54 miles. Don Taylor 825 5303 or Donald_R_Taylor@ yahoo.com.

Saturday, November 07, 2015 Alamo Canyon 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2 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 3.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 435 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Monday, November 09, 2015 Ventana Canyon - Lower Level. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$4. The hike begins from a parking lot at the Ventana Canyon Resort and proceeds gradually up Ventana Canyon for a mile or so. Several stream crossings are involved and there may be water depending on recent rains which require some boulder hopping. At the turnaround point, the trail starts a steep climb through the beautiful canyon which leads eventually to Maiden Pools and, much further along, Window Rock. The trail passes through massive cliffs of metamorphic stone slanting skyward to sharp points above the canyon floor. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 400 feet; RTD 54 miles. Guide: Dave Sorenson 777 1994.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 Sutherland Trail (One way). Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2. 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 waterfalls are flowing. The route begins at the easternmost trailhead in Catalina State Park, uses the Cutoff Trail to connect to the north side of the park along FR # 643. A car shuttle will be needed along with high clearance 4WD vehicles. Hike may be done in reverse. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet (at Catalina); net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Marv Rossof; 877-9262

Saturday, November 14, 2015 Blackett's Ridge. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate. 7:30 AM, \$4. 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 starts a steady and continuous climb 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 off precipitously. The return retraces our steps back to the Visitor Center. Hike 6 miles;

trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1668 feet; accumulated gain 1733 feet; RTD 54 miles. Guide: Aaron Schoenberg. Cell Phone: (845) 987-4893. Home phone 825-2060. E-mail: askus3@centurylink.net.

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 Rams Creek Basin to Catalina State Park. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$2. 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 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2404 feet; net elevation change 1181 feet; accumulated gain 2172 feet; RTD 21 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439, waltshields@mac.com]

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$4. 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 10.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 964 feet; accumulated gain 1401 feet; RTD 56 miles. Howie and Elaine Fagan 818 9555.

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 7:30AM, \$3 Paid by club. Come and join the fun -- it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain the "Oracle Passage" section of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. This 6.5 mile section starts at the American Flag TH, ambles through washes and across low ridges speckled with high desert plants just east of Oracle State Park south to Highway 77. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, pruning, building cairns and developing/clearing erosion control devices. Bring along gloves, hat, water, and hand clippers. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 3 hours. Hike 3 -4 miles. RTD 41 miles. The club will pay the \$3 driver donation. Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547.

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB PROGRAM - HIKING ON THE HUALAPAI AND HAVASUPAI INDIAN RESERVATIONS. Away from the large visitor crowds of Grand Canyon National Park lie two Indian Reservations directly to the west of the central park area, situated on the south rim of the canyon. These are the Hualapai and Havasupai reservations. Eighteen members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club will be participating in a Northern Arizona University program spanning five days (Nov. 7-12) in this remote and beautiful area. Daily guided hikes will be embellished with evening programs on geology, ecology, and culture to provide a comprehensive learning experience. Join us as members of the group who will be hiking into this beautiful area share their experiences just a few days after their return. Venue is the HOA#1 Activity Center on Wednesday November 18 at 3:00 P.M. This program is open to all SaddleBrooke and Saddlebrooke Ranch residents. Afterwards attendees are encouraged to attend a social hour in the Agave Lounge. For more information about the programs, contact Mary Croft at 651-270-1660 or mbcroft45@mac.com."

Thursday, November 19, 2015 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate 7:30, AM, \$4. This hike travels the outer rim of the area. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, to Lower Javalina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail. After ascending the first part, we take a short side trail to a high point overlooking the area to the west. We then continue on the Alamo Springs Trail to our lunch spot in Wild Burro Canyon. We then proceed on a short connector trail to the Wild Mustang Trail until we connect with the Upper Javelina Trail and return to the trailhead via the Wild Burro Wash. The hike offers remote hiking with great views of the Tortolita Mountains and passes several crested saguaros. Hike

10 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 2136 feet; RTD 44 miles. Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547.

Saturday, November 21, 2015 Pima Canyon to the Saddle. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$3. 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 3917 feet; RTD 42 miles.. Guide Don Taylor. 825-5303 or Donald_R_Taylor@yahoo.com.

Monday, November 23, 2015 Superstitions -Flatiron Peak. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 7:00 AM, \$13. The group will hike the scenic Siphon Draw Trail (Starts as Discovery Trail) under the towering cliffs of Superstition Mountain. We will pass through the Siphon Draw narrows and possibly see rock climbers on the Crying Dinosaur rock formation. After 1.43 miles we reach the official end of the trail. Hike will end at the top of Sipon Draw. (At this point the hike=1.4 miles; 1100 feet accumulated gain.) RTD 175 miles. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

Tuesday, November 24, 2015 50 yr N Trail > Middlegate, Rating C, Pace Moderate NEW, 8:00 AM, \$1 Park cars at the Corral one-half mile from the end of Golders Ranch Rd. Hike jeep trails and cycle trails to Middlegate. Cross Sutherland Wash and return S via Deer Camp Trail. This hike is on State Trust Land. Hike 5 miles; accumulated gain ~600 feet; RTD 4 miles. [Rob Simms, Spartan7375@gmail.com or 517-410-9031]

Wednesday, November 25, 2015 Cochie Spring Trail. Rating B. 8:00 AM \$4 The hike begins in the hikers parking area of the Ritz Carlton and proceeds up a connecting spur behind the hotel to join 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 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles. Larry Allen 825-7864

Saturday, November 28, 2015 OSP West Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$3 + \$2. 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. Marv Rossof 877 9262

Sunday, November 29, 2015 Tortolita Mountains: Upper Javelina and Wild Mustang Trails to Lookout. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00am, \$4. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton Hotel parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, up the Upper Javelina Trail, and connect with the Wild Mustang Trail. The hike continues to a rocky ridge with views of Dove Mountain development, Tucson and Marana. At that point we will stop for lunch/snacks and return to the trailhead. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 795 feet; accumulated gain 950 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Susan Hollis: 825-6819 or slhollis@yahoo.com]

Monday, November 30, 2015 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$7. 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 7.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1331 feet; accumulated gain 1675 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt). [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439, waltshields@mac.com]

Tuesday, December 01, 2015 Finger Rock Spring. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$4. 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 relatively rocky. There are some fairly significant ups and downs along the way. Hike 2.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Roy Carter, 818-3137]

Wednesday, December 02, 2015 Tortolita Mountains: S. Wild Burro Canyon and upper Alamo Springs trail. Rating C. 8:00 AM, \$4 From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, we hike up Wild Burro Canyon for 2 miles, until we reach the ruins of an old stone house. At this point, we continue in the wash for 20-30 yards to reach the Alamo Springs Spur trail. We hike on the Alamo Springs Spur trail until we reach Alamo Springs Trail. From the Alamo Springs Trail, we proceed north to the lunch spot at the top of Wild Burro Canyon. Return is via the Wild Burro Canyon Trail which is on the west side of Canyon at this point. Following the Wild Burro Canyon trail south, we reach the stone house ruins again, and at this point, we hike out the way we came in, via Wild Burro Canyon trail. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1090 feet. RTD is 44 miles. Larry Allen 825-7864

Wednesday, December 2, 2015, Board Meeting 2:30 to 4:00 PM Coyote Room North at SaddleBrooke Clubhouse

Wednesday, December 2, 2015, Guide Meeting 4:00 to 5:00 PM Coyote Room North at SaddleBrooke Clubhouse

Thursday, December 03, 2015 Picacho Peak via Hunter Trail. Rating: B!. Pace: Moderate 7:30 AM, \$7 + \$2. 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 4.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2000 feet; net elevation change 1393 feet; accumulated gain 2106 feet; RTD 90 miles. Mike Wolters 719-530-1039

Friday, December 04, 2015 Alamo Canyon 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2 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 3.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 360 feet; accumulated gain 435 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com.]

Saturday, December 05, 2015 OSP East Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$3 + \$2. 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. [Guide: Marv Rossof; 877-9262]

Monday, December 07, 2015 Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$4. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike covers level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs up the canyon. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up and coming down, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. From the overlook, hikers will enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, Finger Rock, and the steep Finger Rock Canyon, then return. Hike 3.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 922 feet; accumulated gain 1325 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Roy Carter, 818-3137]

Tuesday, December 08, 2015 Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate 7:30 AM, \$5. 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 2329 feet; RTD 60 miles. Guide: Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547

Thursday, December 10, 2015 Seven Falls. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate 8:30 AM, \$4. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and continues to lower Bear Canyon, then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls. The return is via the same route. The falls, which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. The trail crosses the Bear Canyon wash several times in each direction and can involve significant boulder hopping/wading after rainy periods. Ask the guide about current conditions. Hike 8.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 662 feet; accumulated gain 1307 feet; RTD 56 miles. Guide: Dave Sorenson 777 1994

Friday, December 11, 2015 Romero Pools. Rating: C!. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost 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. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1400 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

Saturday, December 12, 2015 Esperero Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$4. 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 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 2036 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor . 825 5303 Donald_R_Taylor@yahoo.com.]

Monday, December 14, 2015 Pontatoc Peak. Rating B!. Pace: Moderate New, 8:00 AM, \$4. 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 a faint trail junction that leads right and straight uphill. The junction is a little over 2 miles from the trailhead and clearly visible due to increased recent use. Continuing along this faint, steep, rocky trail for another half mile and 900 feet vertically will get you to the peak, but there is significant boulder scrambling required along the way. The peak is not identified on USGS topo maps, but is located at 12S 510674, 3578685 and is about 5080 feet high. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area at the top and along the way. The hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline, rocky path, and scrambling. At the junction on the way down, a right turn will take you to just below the old mines. Including this short side trip adds 0.2 miles and 100 feet of climbing but allows hikers to reach the destination of the Pontatoc Ridge hike also. There are short stretches of exposed trail near the old mines and along the steep climb to the ridge leading to the peak. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3100 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain 2400 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Roy Carter, 818-3137]

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 First Aid classroom instruction for SBHC Guides presented by Walt Shields, Frank Ernest, and Tim Butler

Wednesday, December 16, 2015 Hutch's Pool. Rating: B!. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$4 + \$ tram. 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 8.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1454 feet; RTD 56 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439, waltshields@mac.com]

Thursday, December 17, 2015 8:00 AM This will be a first aid training hike for SBHC guides. It will present several "accidents and incidents" situations for guides to practice their first aid and incident management skills. It will be led by Walt Shields, Frank Ernest, and Tim Butler.

Saturday, December 19, 2015 OSP West Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$3 + \$2. 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. [Guide: Marv Rossof; 877-9262]

Monday, December 21, 2015 Superstitions: Weavers Needle to Fremont Saddle and Overlook Point. Rating C!. New, 7:00 AM, \$14 This in-and-out hike through the beautiful Superstition Mountains, brings you up to a stunning vista overlooking Weavers Needle. The needle is an iconic Arizona landmark often pictured in photos. The hike begins at the Peralta Trailhead and rises quickly on a rugged, vegetated path. Oak and mesquite trees are common along the trail as well as huge bolder formations. Magnificent vistas of the Superstitions are visible as the ascent continues. The trail reaches it's highest elevation at Fremont Saddle and Weavers Needle comes into view. The hike continues for another 1/2 mile to reach Overlook Point (sometimes referred to as Lone Pine). After enjoying the view and a snack, we descend down the same trail. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 1,385 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

Tuesday, December 22, 2015 Tortolita Mountains: Wild Burro and Lower Javelina, Rating: D. Pace: Moderate New, 8:00am, \$4. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. The hike proceeds up Wild Burro Canyon and Lower Javelina then to the remains of an old stone house (belonging to goat herders in the early 1900s). Return is via the Wild Burro Trail. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change ~200 feet; accumulated gain ~200 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Susan Hollis 825-6819 or SLHOLLIS@yahoo.com]

Wednesday, December 23, 2015 Rams Creek Basin. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00 AM, \$2. From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision, we hike up a wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are great views of Rancho Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere along the way. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600feet; net elevation change 789 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles. [Guide: Marv Rossof; 877-9262]

Monday, December 28, 2015 Oracle Ridge Trail to Saddle. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00AM, \$3. 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 Bonita Canyon on the northwest side of Apache Peak. Return by the same route. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 4720 feet; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain 1000 feet; RTD 40 miles (dirt). [Susan Hollis 825-6819 or slhollis@yahoo.com]

Wednesday, December 30, 2015 Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate 8:00AM, \$2 + \$2. Starting at the main trailhead in Catalina State Park, this hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We first hike the Nature Trail which has panoramic views, and then continue onto the Canyon Loop Trail. We will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail prior to returning. If the group is really ambitious, we will swing through the Canyon Loop Trail the opposite way we came for a total of 6.7 miles. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 370 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Marv Rossof; 877-9262]