

SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

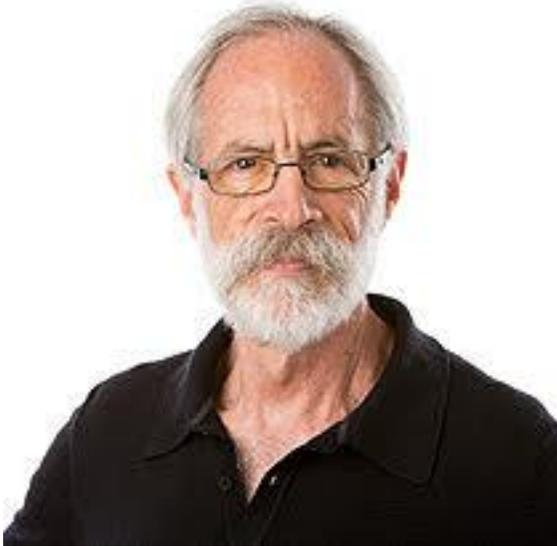
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2017

DR. JOAQUIN RUIZ FROM U OF A GEOLOGY AND EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CATALINA MOUNTAINS

Wednesday, November 15

Submitted By Mary Hanley



On Wednesday, November 15, at 4 p.m., Dr. Joaquin Ruiz, Vice President for Innovation and Dean of the College of Science at the University of Arizona, will speak to members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club about the geological features of the Catalina Mountains that attract the variety of vegetation, plants and wildlife that we see there today. He will explain that some wildlife, birds, vegetation and plants that we see in the Catalinas travel from as far north as the Arctic and come up from as far south as Patagonia! This makes the area of the Catalinas unique in the Americas.

Dr. Ruiz will also address the effects of climate change on the area. As the Catalinas are a very popular hiking destination for our club members, this should be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what we see during those hikes and what a changing climate might mean for the future.

Dr. Ruiz is a renowned Professor of Geosciences and the Thomas R. Brown Chair and Director of

Biosphere 2. As a scientist with equal abilities in chemistry and in geology, he addresses many first-order problems in the Earth Sciences. Along with his research team, Dr. Ruiz works on problems ranging from the origins of life to present day climate change.

All SaddleBrooke and SaddleBrooke Ranch residents are welcome to attend this very interesting meeting which will be held in the HOA 1 Activity Center. Please remember that there is limited parking at the Center and no parking along the street. However, there is parking near the Bocce courts and a walkway down to the Center. Following the talk, everyone is encouraged to go to the Agave Lounge at the SaddleBrooke clubhouse for a drink. If you have questions about the meeting, please contact Mary Hanley from the Hiking Club Program Committee at maryhanley0254@gmail.com

HIKING CLUB 2018 FALL TRIP TO SANTA FE – SAVE THE DATES

Submitted by Walk Shields



Mark your calendars now. The Hiking Club is pleased to announce that next year's fall trip will visit enchanting Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Arrival: Monday, October 1
Scheduled hikes: October 2 – 4
Departure: Friday, October 5

Santa Fe markets itself as “the city different,” and truly it is one of the jewels of the southwest offering world-class cuisine, museums, and shopping along with a wide variety of hiking venues in beautiful settings. For those wishing to extend their stay, the Albuquerque Balloon Festival begins October 6.

Walt Shields is the overall trip leader and organizer, and Ray Peale will assemble and manage the hikes. More information and sign up procedures will be forthcoming in a Club mailing.

SADDLEBROOKE HIKERS ON THE ARIZONA TRAIL

Submitted By Elisabeth Wheeler



SaddleBrooke hikers hiking on the Arizona trail, enjoying the scenery. Photo by Elisabeth Wheeler

Members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club are avid supporters of the Arizona National Scenic Trail and maintain the Oracle Passage of the AZT. The Arizona National Scenic Trail traverses over 800 miles of diverse scenery from Mexico to Utah. The Oracle Passage features close to 9 miles of rolling desert terrain from American Flag Trailhead to Tiger Mine Trailhead. There are scenic views of the Santa Catalina Mountains, the Galiuro Mountains, and Oracle State Park with fascinating rock formations along the way with displays of seasonal wildflowers.

Come and join the camaraderie of working on the Arizona trail with fellow volunteers from SaddleBrooke. 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 pruners. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The work session usually lasts about 3 hours. Hike 3-4 miles. **The next work party will be Wednesday, November 15, departing from SaddleBrooke at 7:30 a.m. and returning before noon.** Light refreshments will be served. Contact Elisabeth Wheeler at hikerelisabeth@gmail.com or 520-818-1547. Ray Peale, Co-Steward of the Oracle Passage, will lead the work event with assistance from Zach McDonald of the Arizona Trail Association.

HIKING CLUB WILDERNESS FIRST AID COURSE WILL OPEN TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Submitted by Walt Shields

Each year the Club provides in-depth training for our guides in the management of accidents, injuries, medical emergencies and environmental issues that may occur on our hikes.

For the first time this year, the course will be open to club members with a limit of 20 participants. The date is Friday, December 8. It will be taught by Walt Shields and Frank Earnest, both of whom have medical backgrounds with training in wilderness medicine. The course will focus on issues that affect our age group and the environment in which we hike.

A forthcoming Club mailing will include information about the location and registration procedures.



WHAT IS YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER?

Submitted by Rob Simms

Many SBHC members contact guides via email to inquire about joining a hike. Given the size of our club (673 members at last count), we all do not know each other. Even if we have hiked together before, we certainly do not have each other's telephone numbers memorized.

Please assist your guide by providing your full name and telephone number in email correspondence when asking to join a hike. This avoids additional communication and assists your guide in completing the hike sheet. Thank you. Regards, Rob Simms

CATALINA HILLS DRIVE CLEANUP WALK

Submitted by Walt Shields

Twice each year, the Hiking Club participates in a cleanup walk of Catalina Hills Drive as part of the county Adopt-A-Highway program. This is a service project that our club provides to maintain the quality of our community. We need 8 volunteers. The walk this Fall is scheduled for Friday, November 17, at 9:00 a.m. and will involve about 1-1/2 hours of time. It is listed as a "D" level hike.

Safety vests and some pick-ups will be provided, but it is best to bring your own. We will meet at the usual location in the MVCC parking lot. **Please contact Walt Shields, at waltshields@mac.com or 520-818-3439 to sign up.**

EARLY SETTLERS OF CATALINA STATE PARK

SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

Submitted by Myrna Simms

On Wednesday, January 17, 2018, come hear historian Jim Williams discuss "Early Settlers of Catalina State Park". Jim has a B.A. in History from Ursinus College and an M.A. in Government from Lehigh University. He is a former Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator in Pennsylvania. He is currently President of the Oro Valley Historical Society and is writing a history of Oro Valley.

HERMIT'S REST AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK SPRING, 2018

Submitted by Susan Hollis

At the western edge of the developed portion of the Grand Canyon's South Rim sits a small stone structure called Hermit's Rest. The building was commissioned by the Fred Harvey Company in 1914 and designed by architect Mary Jane Colter. She designed Hermit's Rest in what is known as "National Park Rustic" style. The buildings are supposed to look as if they were built with old-fashioned hand tools, made of materials taken from the surrounding landscape and appear like a dwelling of an early Euro-American settler such as Louis Boucher, the "hermit" for whom many sites on the western portion of the South Rim are named.



Hermit's Rest

For over 100 years the building has provided shelter, food and gifts for tourist. The pathway leading to the rest stop begins at a small stone arch with a bell at the top that Mary Colter found at an old Spanish mission. Both the building and stone archway are still at Hermit's Rest. Several hiking trails start or end near Hermit's rest.

The club's Spring 2018 hiking trip will be to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Join us for the trip and you will have the opportunity to visit Mary Colter's building and the Hermit's Rest Arch. We will be scheduling a hike on Rim Trail all the way to Hermit's Rest and a hike on the Hermit's Rest trail to Dripping Springs or beyond.



Dripping Springs

More information about the trip can be found on the club's website, in the "Programs and Club Trips" sub-menu.

Club members should plan to drive up on Monday, April 30, 2018. Three days of hikes (Tuesday - Thursday) will be scheduled. Those wishing to hike

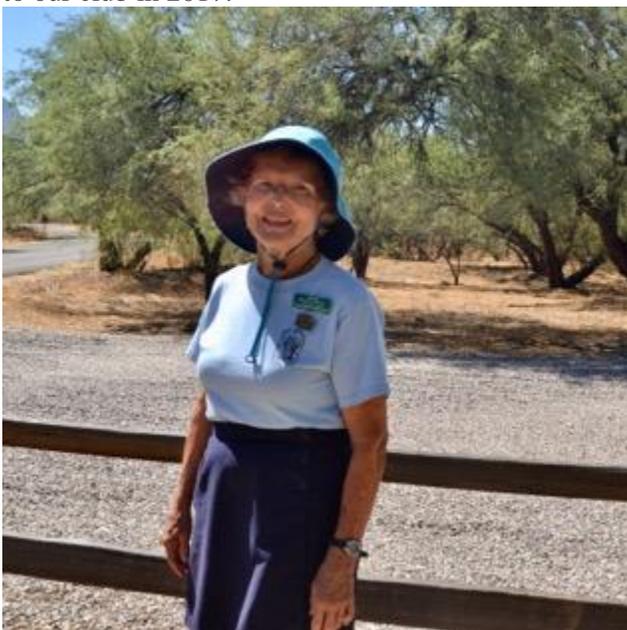
all three days should plan to return to SaddleBrooke on Friday, May 4. For those wishing to return a day early (Thursday May 3), some short morning hikes will be scheduled that day.

To confirm your participation and register for the trip, please contact Dianne Temple at 520-825-7353 or email at diannetempleaz@gmail.com. For more information on the trip, please contact Susan Hollis at 520-825-6819 or email at slhollis@yahoo.com.

ELISABETH WHEELER HONORED FOR 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS TO SADDLEBROOKE HIKING CLUB

Submitted by Dave Corrigan

Each year at our fall hiking club picnic we honor an individual for contributions that person has made to the club within the last year. For 2017, we have chosen Elisabeth Wheeler for this honor. Elisabeth is currently serving as the steward of the Oracle Passage of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. She, along with our co-steward, organizes and participates in the work groups for our segment the Arizona trail. Also, this year, Elisabeth, along with Roddy Wilder, organized our Fall hiking trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas. We have 68 hikers participating in this October hiking trip. As one of our tenured hiking guides, Elisabeth also leads many of our traditional hikes in the SaddleBrooke area (24 hikes this year!), as well as hikes on our club trips. She has always been a strong advocate for the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club and is the type of hiker and person we all aspire to be. It is with extreme pleasure that we honor Elisabeth Wheeler for her many contributions to our club in 2017.



**HIKING CLUB FALL PICNIC
OCTOBER 6**

Submitted by Sue Bush

On Oct. 6 the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club held its Fall picnic at Catalina State Park. Picnic committee members shown above -- Elaine Fagan, Martha Hackworth, Mary Jo Swartzberg, Joyce Mauriczi and Lissa White. Not pictured – Pat Morris, LaVerne Kyriss and Harriett Pearson.



Future Trips

| Destination | Dates | Contact Person |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Off the Beaten Track in Marble Canyon, Arizona | Nov. 5 – Nov. 11, 2017 | Ken Wong kmwong@q.om |
| Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona | Apr 30 – May 4, 2018 | Dianne Temple diannetempleaz@gmail.com |
| Santa Fe, New Mexico | Oct 2-4 2018 | Walt Shields waltshields@mac.com |

News You Can Use

| | | |
|---|------------|-----------------------|
| AZ. Trail Work Session Meet: Mountain View Lot | 11/15 Wed. | 7:30 A.M. |
| Geology and Effects of Climate Change in the Catalina Mountains Dr. Joaquin Ruis | 11/15 Wed. | 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. |
| SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1 | 11/15 Wed. | 5:00 P.M. |
| SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North HOA #1 | 12/6 Wed. | 2:30 – 4:00 P.M. |
| SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North HOA #1 | 12/6 Wed. | 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. |
| Guides Management of Accidents & Medical Emergency Seminar | 12/8 Fri. | 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. |
| Guides Field Training Exercise for Emergencies | TBD | |

Hiking Information

HIKE ELEVATION, RATINGS & PACE

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

1. **Net Elevation Change:** 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).
2. **Accumulated Gain:** 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.
3. **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. Ratings flagged with an “!” indicate special trail conditions that might be of concern to some hikers. Please read the hike descriptions or talk to the hiking guide before deciding whether to sign-up. Ratings flagged with a smiling face indicate an easier, smoother trail (often paved) than normal at that rating.

| Rating | Distance | Accumulated Gain in Elevation |
|--------|--|---|
| A | Greater than 14 miles | Greater than 3,000 ft |
| B | Greater than 8 miles, less than 14 miles | Greater than 1,500 ft, Less than 3,000 ft |
| C | Greater than 4 miles, less than 8 miles | Greater than 500 ft, Less than 1,500 ft. |
| D | Less than 4 miles | Less than 500 ft |

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. Unless otherwise noted, all hikes are assumed to be Moderate pace.

| Pace | Average Speed - MPH |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Leisurely | Less than 1.5 |
| Slow | Greater than 1.5, Less than 2.0 |
| Moderate | Greater than 2.0, Less than 2.5 |
| Fast | Greater than 2.5 |

Club Calendar

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar

Nov 2017 (Mountain Time - Arizona)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | C1 Lower | D CSP Halloween | C Canyon | B Tanque Verde C 50-Yr Trail to | D-Alamo Canyon | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| SBHC MARBLE CANYON NOV 5-11 | | | | | | |
| C Canada del Oro | C Baby Jesus Tr. | A Mt. Kimball via B Tortolita | | C Aspen Draw / Mint D N50 Yr/HC Loop | C Pima Canyon to D Catalina Hills | B Wasson Peak |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | B Tortolita | A Agua Caliente C Deer Camp/BJ | 4pm SBHC 5pm SBHC Social C Arizona Trail | B Josephine Saddle C Pima Canyon to | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| C+ Tonto National | B BJ/Sutherland | C Bridal Wreath | | C+ Romero Pools | C Lower Javelina | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| | B Wasson Peak | C Sutherland Trail | C Cochise | C- Aravaipa Canyon | | |

Saddlebrooke Hiking Club Calendar

Dec 2017 (Mountain Time - Arizona)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| | B Wasson Peak | C Sutherland Trail | C Cochise | C- Aravaipa Canyon | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| D OSP Exploration | A Sabino Canyon D- Ventana Canyon | B Baby Jesus / D Alamo Cyn | 2:30pm SBHC BOD 4pm SBHC Guide C Hidden Canyon | B Seven Falls C Dripping | NO HIKES TODAY SBHC MEDICAL | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | B Superstitions: | Guides Field NO HIKES TODAY | B Wasson Pk C Pima Canyon to | C Nature, Canyon C- Lower | B- Hutch's Pool C OSP West | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | C+ Romero Pools | C- Sutherland | ?? AZT Work Day NO SBHC Dec | D Alamo Canyon | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | B Soldier Trail | | C Sutherland Trail | | |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | | | | |

Hikes Offered

Wednesday, November 01, 2017 Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [136, 8:00 AM, \$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]

Thursday, November 02, 2017 Fifty-Year Trail to Middlegate. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [501, 8:00 AM, \$1]. 50 yr N Trail > Middlegate, 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 (dirt). [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031]

Thursday, November 02, 2017 Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [443, 07:00 AM, \$6]. The hike begins at the Javalina Picnic Area in Saguaro National Park – East off the Cactus Forest Drive 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 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1962 feet; accumulated gain 2225 feet; RTD 82 miles. [Guide: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Friday, November 03, 2017 Alamo Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. 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]

Sunday, November 05, 2017 Canada del Oro from the Preserve. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [133, 10:00 AM]. The trail begins in the golf course parking lot SaddleBrooke Preserve area. Hikers walk down a short dirt road and go through a barbed wire fence. The hike crosses the CDO and heads up into the foothills of the Catalinas on a old road. The return is via the same route. Hike 4 to 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3270 feet; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 3 miles (some dirt). [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]

Sunday, November 05, 2017 SBHC Marble Canyon Trip November 5–11

Monday, November 06, 2017 Baby Jesus. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [96, 8:00 AM, \$2]. 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 702 feet; accumulated gain 1335 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Tuesday, November 07, 2017 Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [271, 7:00 AM, \$4]. Starting from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way, this rocky trail climbs steadily and follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail passes Linda Vista Saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball," and onto the Pima Canyon Trail. A half mile

further and hikers arrive at the top of Mt. Kimball. The destination offers one of the most fantastic views in all of the Catalinas. The return hike is down the same trails. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 4049 feet; accumulated gain 4148 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, 825-6819.]

Tuesday, November 07, 2017 Tortolita Mountains: Wild Mustang / Wild Burro Canyon Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [469, 8:00 AM, \$4]. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, connect with the Upper Javalina Trail, and make their way up to the Wild Mustang Trail. The trail will lead the group over the higher elevations of the mountains to the north past at least 3 crested saguaros. Near the upper end of Wild Mustang Trail we take a connector trail southeast down to the Wild Burro Canyon Trail. The trail overlooks the narrow upper canyon which spreads wide with numerous side canyons and tributaries. As we continue down Wild Burro Canyon, we pass a crumbling stone structure and arrive at a boulder strewn falls which thunders with runoff from the upper side canyons and tributaries when it rains. A short distance later we will merge onto Lower Javalina Trail, quickly descending through hillsides covered with enormous boulders and a forest of saguaro cacti. We will then rejoin Wild Burro Trail to return to the trailhead. Hike 8.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 1150 feet; accumulated gain 1785 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]"

Thursday, November 09, 2017 Aspen Draw / Mint Spring Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [88, 7:00 AM, \$10]. 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 6.9 miles; trailhead elevation 8000 feet; net elevation change 1400 feet; accumulated gain 1573 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com]

Thursday, November 09, 2017 North Fifty-Year Trail to Hidden Canyon Loop – Short Version. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 8:00 AM, \$2]. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area off Golder Ranch Road. We take the 50-Yr. Trail north to an unnamed spur trail which connects to the Hidden Canyon Trail. We turn south on the Hidden Canyon Trail and then follow the Deer Camp and 50-Yr. Trails back to the cars. There are beautiful saguaros and rock formations, in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Friday, November 10, 2017 Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 8:00 AM, \$3]. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so 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 in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1007 feet; accumulated gain 1315 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Saturday, November 11, 2017 Wasson Peak via Hugh Norris Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [478, 07:00 AM, \$6]. From the trailhead near Hohokum Road (off N. Kinney Road past Red Hills Visitor Center), the hike follows the Hugh Norris Trail to and from Wasson Peak. Hugh Norris is the longest trail to Wasson Peak, but the climb is gradual along a ridge with spectacular views. There are excellent 360-degree views from the top. There is little shade; bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 9.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2640 feet; net elevation change 2124 feet; accumulated gain 2400 feet; RTD 73 miles. [Guide: Don Taylor, 825-5303, donald_r_taylor@yahoo.com]

Monday, November 13, 2017 Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs / Wild Mustang Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [454, 08:00 AM, \$4]. This hike travels the outer rim of the area. From the Ritz Calton 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: Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 Agua Caliente Hill. Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [1, 07:00 AM, \$6]. The hike has great panoramic views of Tucson, and the Rincon and Santa Catalinas. The trail starts climbing immediately from the Camino Remuda Trailhead. The trail continues up and down for approximately two miles to a water hole. From here, the trail climbs and then drops into a wash. Next is a steep climb to a ridge and a junction with old jeep FS # 4445, about three miles from the trailhead. It is another 1.5 miles to the top of Aqua Caliente Hill. The return is via the same route. Hike 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2930 feet; net elevation change 2430 feet; accumulated gain 3045 feet; RTD 75 miles. [Guide: Randy Park, 825-6819]

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [167, 8:00 AM, \$2]. 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 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 667 feet; accumulated gain 1128 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [87, 7:30 AM, \$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 7.5 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 north 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 pruners. 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, 520-818-1547 or hikerelisabeth@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 SBHC Program: Dr. Joaquin Ruiz, Vice President for Innovation and Dean of the College of Science at the University of Arizona, will speak to members of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club about the geological features of the Catalina Mountains that attract the variety of vegetation, plants and wildlife that we see there today. 4:00 p.m. in the HOA#1 Activity Center - SBHC Social Hour at 5:00 p.m. in the Agavé Lounge immediately following the program.

Thursday, November 16, 2017 Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 8:00 AM, \$3]. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so 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 in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1007 feet; accumulated gain 1315 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]

Thursday, November 16, 2017 Josephine Saddle and Rogers Rock. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [237, 7:00 AM, \$10]. 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 may be done in reverse. Hike, 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1839 feet; RTD 130 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com]

Friday, November 17, 2017 CSP Fifty-Year Tr Sutherland Wash Loop Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [NEW, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. Spot a car at main CSP trailhead for return shuttle. The hike begins at the Equestrian Ctr in Catalina State Park and goes north on Fifty-Yr Tr to exit gate. Proceed out gate to Sutherland Link Connector trail and down to Sutherland Wash re-entering park through gate. Continue South on social-side trails. This spot is the location of the original Sutherland Ranch. Continue on unnamed side trails to the Nature Trail and main trailhead. Hike 7.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated gain 700 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031]

Friday, November 17, 2017 Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [141, 9:00 AM, \$0]. 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 usual location at MVCC. [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Monday, November 20, 2017 Tonto National Monument/Roosevelt Lake Dam/AZ Trail (Vineyard Mountain). Rating: C+. Pace: Moderate [453, 05:30 AM, \$13]. This outing is limited to 11 members, and as a result of the response to the posting in the Sept/Oct. newsletter is currently filled up. If you want to join a waiting list, contact Aaron. This outing's centerpiece is a park ranger guided-tour hike of the Upper Cliff Dwellings, normally closed and allowed only by reservation. The tour follows an unpaved, moderate to steep trail with a gain of 600 feet. We will also visit the lower cliff dwellings on our own as well as doing several short other walks around Roosevelt Dam and complete the outing with a 1.8 mile venture up Vineyard Mountain for a panoramic view of Roosevelt Lake. The guided hike is an educational experience regarding the life of the Salado Indians (People of the Salt River). Park entry fee required. The monument is 120 miles one way, on good roads (off Hwy # 188) and overlooks Roosevelt Lake. Bring lunch, ample water, and a hat. Hikes total 7.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2770 feet; net elevation change 1160 feet; total accumulated gain for all hikes 1500 feet; RTD 244 miles. [Guide: Aaron Schoenberg 825-2060; askus3@centurylink.net]

Tuesday, November 21, 2017 Baby Jesus/ Sutherland Trail Key Exchange. . Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [494, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. The hike links two very beautiful and popular trails with a one way key exchange. One group will start at the Fifty Year Trail parking area and follow the Baby Jesus Trail to the Madonna and Child rock formation. The other group will begin at Catalina State Park and follow the Sutherland Trail past Cargodero Canyon to meet the other group at the rock formation where the exchange will take place. Hike 7.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet (Catalina State Park), 3400 feet (50 Year Car Park); net elevation change 1123 feet; accumulated gain 1545 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Wednesday, November 22, 2017 Bridal Wreath Falls Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [119, 7:30 AM, \$6]. The Douglas Spring Trailhead is located at the east end of Speedway Blvd. The hike involves some relatively steep climbing up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles, before turning off on the 0.3 mile spur leading to the falls. We return via the Douglas Spring trail for 0.3 miles, and then take the Three Tanks Trail for 1.5 miles to where it joins the Carillo Trail. We hike for 0.5 miles and rejoin the Douglas Spring Trail, with considerable

elevation, and return to the trailhead. Another option is to continue on the Three Tanks Trail to the Garwood Trail that joins the Douglas Spring Trail only 0.3 mile from the trailhead. The trail is well used and easy to follow. Bring sun protection. Water may be flowing over the falls if there has been sufficient rainfall. Hike 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1050 feet; accumulated gain 1391 feet; RTD 80 miles. [Guide: Howie and Elaine Fagan, 818-9555, howieandelaine@q.com]

Thursday, November 23, 2017 Romero Pools. Rating: C+ Pace: Moderate [370, 8:00 AM, \$2+\$2]. Thanksgiving morning hike. 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. [Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]"

Friday, November 24, 2017 Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina and Upper Javelina. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [459, 9:00am, \$4]. 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 6.9 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 550 feet; accumulated elevation 910 feet; RTD 44 miles. [Susan Hollis, 520-825-6819 or SLHOLLIS@YAHOO.COM]"

Monday, November 27, 2017 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [480, 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 8.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1624 feet; accumulated gain 1776 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, dave@daveandpam.com, 520-820-6110]

Tuesday, November 28, 2017 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428, 8:00 AM \$2 + \$2]. 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 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide:Marv Rossfo; 877-9262.]

Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Cochise Stronghold (East) / Amerind Foundation Museum. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [159, 7:30 AM, \$16]. This is a beautiful hike through the Dragoon Mountains to a saddle that provided a hiding place for Cochise during the apache wars. Cochise is buried in a hidden location in the area. The area contains several beautiful rock formations and pinnacles. The trail begins and returns to the Cochise Stronghold Campground off Hwy # 191 east of Benson. Bring lunch, a camera, and at least one quart of water. On the way back, we will stop at the Amerind Foundation Museum (fee required), where American Indian artifacts are on display. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 1298 feet; accumulated gain 1298 feet; RTD 221 miles (some dirt). [Guide: Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Thursday, November 30, 2017 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version). Rating: C+. Pace: Moderate [19, 07:30 AM, \$10 + \$5]. Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful and pristine canyon and a favorite for all who have been there. Hikers should expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Wear shorts, socks and shoes (that can get wet) with good traction (for wet rocks). Bring dry shoes/shorts/shirt for drive home, if desired (and a plastic bag for wet items). Aravaipa Canyon is a wilderness area with no trails, signs, or facilities. Hiking stick is recommended. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 368 feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Sorenson 777-1994]

Sunday, December 03, 2017 OSP Exploration. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [308, 12:00 PM, \$3+\$2]. The hike involves the exploration of several trails in Oracle State Park. Along the way, hikers enjoy the interesting boulder groups, oak woodlands, manzanita stands, and desert grasslands found in this state park. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change 200 - 400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 40 miles.[Guide: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]

Monday, December 04, 2017 Sabino Canyon - Bear Canyon Loop (no Tram). Rating: A. Pace: Moderate [374, 06:30 AM, \$4]. 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. [Guide:Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Monday, December 04, 2017 Ventana Canyon - Lower Level. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [475, 08:00 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. [Dave Sorenson 777-1994.]

Tuesday, December 05, 2017 Alamo Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. 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]

Tuesday, December 05, 2017 Baby Jesus / Petroglyph Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [98, 7:00 AM, \$2]. The hike starts in the Fifty-Year Trail area near the east end of Golder Ranch Road. The trail crosses the Sutherland Wash and connects to the Baby Jesus Trail. At the intersection, hikers turn south until they reach the Sutherland Trail. We go west on the Sutherland (or another connecting link) for about a mile to a trail that leads to the petroglyphs, then north back to the trailhead (completing a clockwise loop). Along the way, hikers see beautiful saguaros, rock formations (including the Madona and Child, and a window), oak woodlands, and ancient petroglyphs. The hike may be done in reverse. The southern connecting link may be overgrown since it receives little use. Hike 9.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 936 feet, accumulated gain 1448 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

Wednesday, December 06, 2017 Hidden Canyon Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [219, 8:30 AM, \$2]. 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 8.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 750 feet; accumulated gain 1195 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

Wednesday, December 06, 2017 - SBHC Board of Directors meeting @2:30pm in HOA#1 Coyote Room North.

Wednesday, December 06, 2017 - SBHC Guide's Meeting @4:00pm in HOA#1 Coyote Room North.

Thursday, December 07, 2017 Seven Falls. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [387, 8:00 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: Phil McNamee 520-369-4504 mcnameephil@gmail.com]"

Thursday, December 07, 2017 Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: SLOW [172,8;00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 460 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Karen Gray, 818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com].

Friday, December 08, 2017 Guide's Management of Accidents and Medical Emergencies seminar. HOA#2 Mt. View Sonoran room 8:30am to 4:00pm. Walt Shields and Frank Earnest will be the presenters along with hopefully a representative from Pima County Search and Rescue. The seminar will be for all guides plus we will open it to a limit of 20 interested club members. We will plan to have an Field Training Exercise "Incident Hike" for guides only the following week. I will plan to send out a special announcement to the club membership 2 months prior as well as publicize it in the newsletter. [Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com.]

Monday, December 11, 2017 Superstitions: Dutchman Trail / Bluff Springs Loop. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [402, 06:30 AM, \$14]. The hike starts at the Peralta Trailhead off Hwy # 60 in the Superstitions and follows the Dutchman Trail through Barkley Basin. From the basin, the trail climbs past Miners Needle (smaller sister of Weavers Needle) to Miners Summit, then descends along the Bluff Springs Trail to Bluff Spring (has seasonal water). There are netleaf hackberry and oak shade trees along the way. Hikers then continue back to the trailhead with superb views of Weavers Needle. Hike 9.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2415 feet; net elevation change 895 feet; accumulated gain 1580 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt). [Guide:Frank Earnest, 507-261-9175, fearnestiv@gmail.com.]

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 Guides Field Training Exercise for Emergencies

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [336, 8:00 AM, \$3]. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so 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 in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1007 feet; accumulated gain 1315 feet; RTD 42 miles. [Guide: Howie and Elaine Fagan, 818-9555, howieandelaine@q.com].

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 Wasson Peak via Sendero Esperanza and Hugh Norris Trails. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [480, 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 8.0 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1624 feet; accumulated gain 1764 feet; RTD 73 miles (dirt). [Rob Simms Spartan7375@gmail.com 517-410-9031]

Thursday, December 14, 2017 Lower Incinerator Ridge. Rating: C+. Pace: Moderate [48, 7:30 AM, \$9]. A new section of trail was added to the Incinerator Ridge Trail in the spring of 2012. The new trail is noted for its great vistas. The trail heads north/northwest from the San Pedro Vista Pullout, off the Catalina Hwy. The hike will proceed to Mt Bigelow and return via the same route, the 1st section of the trail is steep and rocky, but the views make up for it. Starting Elevation: 7,350 feet. Net Elevation Change 1150 feet. Hiking Length is 6 miles. RTD 123 miles. [Guide: Michael Reale; 825-8286 or mjreale@msn.com.]

Thursday, December 14, 2017 Canyon Loop, Birding, and Nature Trails. Rating: C. Pace: Slow -Moderate [136,8:00 AM, \$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: Karen Gray, 818-0337, kgrayinaz@yahoo.com.]

Friday, December 15, 2017 OSP West Loop. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [310, 9:00AM, \$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.]

Friday, December 15, 2017 Hutch's Pool. Rating: B+. Pace: Moderate [227, 7:45 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.]

Monday, December 18, 2017 Romero Pools. Rating: C+. Pace: Moderate [370, 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. [Guide: Dave Corrigan, 520-820-6110, dave@daveandpam.com]

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating: C+. Pace: Moderate [431, 8:30 AM, \$2]. This hike takes us on a grand circle tour of four concentrations of ancient petroglyphs located west of Baby Jesus Ridge near the Sutherland Wash. According to the book "Paradise Found" by Kathy Alexander there are over 1,400 petroglyphs in the area. Along our hike we will see beautiful saguaros, seasonal wildflowers, and beautiful vistas of Pusch Ridge. The hike involves a few short, steep, rocky sections of trail, some rock scrambling, and a short section of mild bushwhacking. There are also two crossings of a wash which may involve some easy rock-hopping depending on the season. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while we rest in the shade of some giant boulders at one of the petroglyph locations. Hike 5.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3240 feet; net elevation change -205 feet; accumulated gain 744 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt). [Guide: Tim Butler, 825-0193, tucsontimmer@gmail.com]

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 – No SBHC program in December.

Thursday, December 21, 2017 Alamo Canyon. Rating: D. Pace: Moderate [6, 8:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. 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 429 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Rob Simms (prefer email) Spartan7375@gmail.com or 517-410-9031.]

Tuesday, December 26, 2017 Soldier Trail. Rating: B. Pace: Moderate [391, 8:00am, \$6]. This scenic and rocky hike begins at the 1.3 mile pullout on Catalina Hwy. The group hikes 3 miles to Prison Camp (Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Area) for lunch and returns. The first 0.5 miles is very steep. The rest of the trail is mostly up with some level and down stretches. The gorge in Soldier Basin may have water flowing below some rugged cliffs. There are good views of the Tucson area. This trail was used in the 1800s as a cavalry passage into the mountains. Hiking stick is recommended. Hike 6.0 miles; trailhead elevation 3280 feet; net elevation change 1600 feet; accumulated gain 2118 feet; RTD 84 miles. [Susan Hollis 520-825-6819 or slhollis@yahoo.com]"

Thursday, December 28, 2017 Sutherland Trail. Rating: C. Pace: Moderate [428,9:00 AM, \$2 + \$2]. 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 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 657 feet; accumulated gain 818 feet; RTD 24 miles. [Guide: Marv Rossof; 877-9262.]