



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2010-1

Volunteer Recognition

Bill Leichtenheimer's legacy in SaddleBrooke is the founding of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club over 10 years ago. Bill's philosophy was that the hiking club should offer something for everyone, not just top hikers. That philosophy has seen the SBHC thrive through the years, involving many volunteers and 425+ members each year.

Bill has served the club as president, vice-president, guide, fitness walk leader and organizer of Catalina Hills work days. Ten years ago Bill was guiding hikes 5 days a week. About five years ago Bill started leading fitness walks 5 days a week to encourage non-hikers as well as hikers to stay fit. Bill is proud that the SBHC continues to grow with over 25 hiking guides leading over 75 hikes every two months, plus many other activities listed in this newsletter.



In 2001 Bill started offering hikes & backpacks on the Arizona Trail with fellow hikers Kathy Gish, Kathy Martin, and Jim Strickler. Together they

covered 600 miles. Despite numerous setbacks, Bill was determined to complete the entire 800+ mile trail. Bill accomplished that goal this fall. One highlight was camping at Two Bar Ridge in the Superstitions and viewing the sunset over Canyon Lake with a full moon rising over the mountains. Another reason to go for a hike!

Thanks, Bill, for contributing to the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club for over 10 years.

Oracle State Park Needs Your Help

The Friends of Oracle State Park are working with the Arizona State Parks to pay for an Arizona State Parks ranger to have the park open on the weekends. The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club has contributed \$100 towards this goal. Members of our club are invited to make a tax free contribution to Friends of Oracle State Park, Inc, P.O. box 8405, Tucson, AZ 85738. The website is: www.FriendsOSP.org.

Remember to Renew Your 2010 SBHC Membership

All memberships paid in October, November & December extend membership through 2010. At \$5 per year the SBHC membership remains the best bargain around! A Membership Renewal Form is attached to this newsletter. Please mail to Bob Perez at the address on the Renewal Form.

Walking Tour of Historic Florence, AZ. Monday, January 11

Limited to 12. See "Hikes Offered" for details. Call Sandra Sowell 818-0995 for reservations.

**January 20th Orientation for New Hikers,
West Ballroom, MV at 3:00 P.M. & Social
Hour to follow at 4:00 P.M. in the Palo Verde
Lounge**

If you are new to hiking in Arizona you may want to learn about our trails, guided hikes, and recommendations for hiking in this climate and terrain. Lead guides Frank Brier and Roy Carter, assisted by fellow guides Jan Wilson and Walt Shields, will share informative materials and helpful hiking tips based on their experiences. You will have an opportunity to meet additional guides and members of the Saddlebrooke Hiking Club, to learn about early morning conditioning walks within Saddlebrooke, and to learn about hikes selected especially for novice hikers and those new to Arizona. For further information, call Frank (818-0413) or Roy (818-3137). We hope to see you and to have you join us.

**Atascosa Lookout with Sky Island Alliance
Tuesday, January 26**

A representative of the Sky Island Alliance will accompany hikers to Atascosa Lookout. He will explain the importance of preserving the Tumacacori Highlands, one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States. Jaguars have been photographed in this area. The Sky Island Alliance is a Tucson-based organization dedicated to the protection of wildlife and habitats in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.

Reservations: Call Dick Krueger 818-2671. Limit: 16. See hike description under "Hikes Offered."

**Understanding Habitat in the Sonoran
Southwest Featuring Janice Pryzbyl, Sky
Island Alliance MountainView West
Ballroom, February 17th at 3:00 p.m.**

The Sky Island Alliance was founded in 1991 by a small number of activists from Arizona, New Mexico, and the adjacent Mexican state of Sonora who were motivated by the steady encroachment of urban settlements and highway networks on the movement of animals between mountain ranges. Their title brilliantly captures and conceptualizes the separation of these mountain ranges and their essential connectedness as habitat. Unfortunately,

although local magazines and posters regularly "borrow" the terminology, much remains to be done before the facts of linkage are better understood, documented, and translated into policy that facilitates sustainable habitat and greatly reduces road kill.

The Alliance has utilized memberships, private donations, and grants to build a paid staff of more than a dozen professional employees assisted by both interns and volunteers to promote research, conservation, restoration of habitat, and policy changes. Since policy change may be expensive – consider the costs of tunnels under or wildlife bridges over the adjacent state highway which intersects migration routes between the Tortolitas and the Santa Catalinas – systematic documentation is essential for successful advocacy.

Janice Pryzbal is Project Director of the Sky Island Alliance effort to mobilize volunteers to track and record the movement of animals among their isolated mountain habitats. She will provide an extended introduction to the various programs organized by the Alliance and to her own experiences mobilizing as well as training those volunteers to create essential databases to complement the public advocacy performed by her colleagues. Her grass-roots strategy was refined in her master's thesis so this will be a rare opportunity to learn what doesn't work as well as strategies that have the potential to work with modest budgets.

Janice will be available to chat with Club members and prospective volunteers at our monthly social at 4 P.M. in the Palo Verde Lounge.

Please note that a representative of the Sky Island Alliance will join the hike to Atascosa Lookout and explain efforts to preserve habitat in the Tumacacori Highlands on January 26th.

News You Can Use

Newcomers Orientation	Jan. 20 th	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	Jan. 20th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Feb. 3rd	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	Feb. 3rd	4:00 p.m.
Special Program	Feb. 17th	3:00p.m.
Social Hour	Feb. 17th	4:00p.m.

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

Hiking News

Roy Carter and Frank Brier

Welcome to new hike guides Susan Hollis and Dick Krueger. Hikes being offered in these two months include 7 A's, 32 B's, 25 C's, and 14 D's, ten of which are new. This is simply a dizzying number of choices for members, and reflects the huge popularity of hiking in Saddlebrooke.

In keeping with the momentum of our members to increasingly use their computers to do the "walking" for them, check out the following web sites for information about hikes/trails, local and otherwise. The first is provided by the town of Marana, whose Parks Dept. has put together information about hikes in the Tortolitas (<http://www.marana.com/index.aspx>). Trails are described at <http://www.marana.com/index.aspx?NID=785>, and there is a pretty good (but not great) map at <http://www.marana.com/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1646>. There is a brochure which has a better map.

Another web site with good map and elevation information, showing 50 or so hikes in the Tucson area, may be found at <http://www.localhikes.com/Search.asp>. Search for Tucson.

A third web site is <http://www.hikearizona.com>. This is a great site with lots of hike information, pictures, gps tracks, and personal narratives uploaded by hikers. This site is somewhat more complex to navigate than the ones above, but there is a wealth of excellent information if you are patient. We suggest registering, which gives one access to all the content. There is no downside to registering, and no spamming e-mails will come your way.

Finally, every hiker needs access to timely and accurate weather information. There are numerous sources of excellent information (e.g. Weather Channel for Tucson at <http://weather.aol.com/forecast/todays/us/az/tucson/id/85706>), but we highly recommend trying Weather Underground at (for the Tucson NEXRAD radar display) <http://www.wunderground.com/radar/radblast.asp?ID=EMX>. Just click on the "+" for the Tucson radar display (the "animated" view is best). The "Wundermap" showing locations of local contributing stations is at <http://www.wunderground.com/wundermap/>. There is a contributing station in Saddlebrooke for

obtaining real time local measurements, such as temperature and wind speed, at <http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=KAZTUCSO51>.

If you know of other good resources for hikers, particularly those electronic in nature, please pass them along to Roy or Frank for sharing with club members. See you on the trail.

Pace and Enjoyment of Hikes

Roy Carter

The following article on "Pace" appeared in the September/October newsletter. Because many club members were out of town when it came out, it is repeated below to help when selecting hikes.

"Pace is the average speed you walk over the course of a hike. It is determined by the length of stride, steepness and condition of the trail, hiker physical condition, and some other factors. I think club members would agree that a hike is most enjoyable when all hikers proceed along at relatively the same speed and need about the same number of rest stops. A hiker who struggles to keep up with the group becomes frustrated and may overreach their level of conditioning. On the other hand, a hiker that wants to go faster than the pace set by the guide may get upset, concerned that they aren't getting enough of a workout, will be late in returning, etc.

Recognizing this, the club has set guidelines for pace, which are presented elsewhere in this newsletter, to help club members in deciding which hikes they would like to attempt. The problem is that hiking is not an exact science. Although our guides try to follow the guidelines, one guide's normal (or what they think is normal) pace may markedly differ from another guide's perception of normal pace. Also, one guide may routinely hike at the low end of a range, whereas another may hike at the upper end. Hikers should determine which guides set a pace that is comfortable for them. Club members, if they don't already know from the grapevine or by personal experience, should ask the guide about expected pace when signing up for a hike. A good rule of thumb is to try every guide once to see how well his or her pace fits your preferences.

Luckily, we have an excellent cadre of guides who cover a wide range of paces. Get out there and try them. The club encourages you to advance your hiking skills by trying harder hikes, but, for your pleasure and safety as well as the comfort of the rest of the hikers in your group, please check with the

hiking guide before signing up for hikes that are beyond your current level of conditioning. Similarly, check before signing up for a hike that will be too slow for you to enjoy. Be aware that guides (especially one that you have not hiked with before) may ask a few questions when you call to sign up to determine whether the hike is suitable and safe for you. Please don't take offense if this occurs; they are merely looking out for your safety and are trying to ensure a relatively homogeneous group.

We also appreciate that hikers, like hiking guides, can have varying goals. Some desire a strong aerobic workout, whereas others may enjoy an opportunity to "smell the flowers." Most hikes contain a mix of these extremes, and our guides try to strike a balance between them. So, a bit of tolerance and understanding is required by all. For example, those seeking to maximize their aerobic workout must understand that some hikers need to catch their breath every so often, and those who enjoy stopping to take photos need to limit the amount of time they hold the group up while they pursue their hobby. These precautions will help keep frustration to a minimum and heighten enjoyment of the hike experience for all members on the hike."

Officers

President: Michael Reale, 825-8286; mjreale@msn.com
Vice-President: Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmlhaz@gmail.com
Secretary: Marjorie Herrmann, 8189515; marjorie.herrmann@gmail.com
Treasurer: Elizabeth Tancock, 825-7838; etancock@wbhsi.net
Chief Hiking Guides: Frank Brier, 818-0493; FrankBrier@aol.com
 Roy Carter, 818-3137; rvcarter@aol.com

Volunteers

Catalina Hills Cleanup: Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmlhaz@gmail.com
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Volunteers (Cont'd)

Newsletter: Carole Rossof, 877-9262; crandmr@q.com
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Socials: Cheryl Straw, 818-3631; cstraw@wbhsi.net
Statistics and Awards: Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com
Work Days: Jim Strickler, 825-8735; sherabjim@wbhsi.net

Awards

500 Hikes	Dave Hydeman
250 Hikes	Frank Brier, Bill Katz
50 Hikes	Jack Denton, Pet Knoll, Litch Litchfield & Faye Von Wrangler

Congratulations!

General Hiking Information

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

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

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

Voluntary Driver Donations: Voluntary driver donations are shown in the table of Hikes Offered. If there are two entries under driver donation, for example \$7 + \$2, the first is for the driver and the second for any required entry and/or parking fee. If a state park pass is used for entry, the second amount

should be given to the pass holder (whether he/she is the driver or not). Note, however, that some hikes may require additional fees.

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

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

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

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

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

Hike Ratings, Pace, And Elevation

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accumulated Gain is the sum of all upward stretches of a hike as recorded by a gps device over

the course of the entire hike. Accumulated elevation gain is generally a more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation.

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

Fitness Walks - Five Days A Week

Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. Enjoy the company of other hikers while perusing SaddleBrooke. The sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. No advanced signup is required to participate in these walks.

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at **7:00 a.m.** from the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. If you have

any questions please contact Michael at 825-8286 or Dean at 818-0299.

Judy's Tuesday and Thursday walking group will start the Fitness Walk at **7:00 a.m.** We start our walk on Tuesday at the Mountain View Parking lot. On Thursday we begin our walks at the SaddleBrooke Tennis parking lot. We walk for an hour and complete about 3 or 4 miles according to where we walk. Most of our walks are touring SaddleBrooke and the few times we leave the premises it is discussed amongst the walkers. We leave exactly at 6:30 a.m., and wait for no one. For more information call Judy at 825-7077 or e-mail at: mbarenkopf@msn.com.

Hikes Offered

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

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating ^a	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
1/2	Sat	Rams Creek Basin	C		8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
1/2	Sat	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:30	Kathy/Philip Cotton	825-2243	\$4
1/3	Sun	**OSP - American Ave. Loop	D		1:00 pm	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$3
1/5	Tues	Linda Vista Loop	D+		9:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
1/5	Tues	Pusch Ridge to 2 nd Overlook	C+		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
1/5	Tues	Superstitions: Weavers Needle Crosscut	B		6:30	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	\$11
1/6	Wed	Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail	B		8:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$5
1/6	Wed	Rillito River Hike #1	D	Slow	9:00	Jan & Dean Wilson	818-0299	\$3
1/7	Thurs	Garwood Dam to Little Wild Horse Tank	C+		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$6
1/7	Thurs	**Tortolita Mt. – Aspen Creek/Wild Mustang Loop	B		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
1/8	Fri	Pima Canyon to 2 nd Dam	C	Slow	8:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$3
1/8	Fri	**Superstitions: Robbers Roost Exploratory	B+		7:00	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	\$11
1/8	Fri	Tortolita Mt's- Wild Burro & Alamo Springs Loop	B		8:00	Chris Costello	818-0368	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating ^a	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
1/11	Mon	**Walking Tour of Historic Florence, AZ	D	Slow	9:00	Sandra Sowell	818-0995	\$7+\$6 Tour
1/12	Tues	Saguaro National Park –West: Ramble	D		8:15	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$6
1/12	Tues	**Tortolita Mountains: Cochie Springs	B		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
1/13	Wed	Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista	B		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
1/14	Thurs	Picacho Peak Loop	B		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$7+\$2
1/15	Fri	Babad Do'ag Trail	C	Slow	8:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$7
1/15	Fri	Superstitions: Marsh Valley Loop	A		6:00	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	\$14
1/16	Sat	Baby Jesus	C		8:30	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$2
1/17	Sun	Honey Bee Canyon North	D		12:30 pm	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
1/18	Mon	Pontatoc Ridge	C+		7:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	\$4
1/19	Tues	Pima Canyon to 2 nd Dam	C		8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$3
1/20	Wed	SBHC Program MV Ballroom-West Newcomers Orientation to SBHC			3:00 p.m.			
1/20	Wed	SBHC Social Hour, MV Club House			4:00 p.m.			
1/20	Wed	Superstitions: Peralta Trail	C+		7:30	Sandra Sowell	818-0995	\$14
1/20	Wed	Romero Pools	C+		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
1/21	Thurs	Seven Falls (no tram)	B		8:00	Larry Dukatz	825-7097	\$4
1/21	Thurs.	Bridal Wreath Falls	C+	Slow	8:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$6
1/22	Fri	Tortolita Mts. – Wild Burro Canyon	C		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
1/22	Fri	Superstitions: Weavers Needle Loop	B+		6:00	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	\$11
1/23	Sat	Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon	A+		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
1/24	Sun	Canyon Loop, Montrose Pools, and Birding Trail	D		1:00 p.m.	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$2+\$2
1/25	Mon	Blackett's Ridge	B		8:00	Margaret Valair	818-1035	\$4
1/26	Tues	Atascosa Lookout (Revised), w/ rep. of Sky Island Alliance ^c	B-		7:00	Dick Krueger	818-2671	\$18
1/26	Tues	++Finger Rock Trail to F.R. Spring	D+		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
1/27	Wed	Phone Line Trail – no tram	B		8:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating ^a	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
1/27	Wed	Deer Camp Loop – w/ Historical Narrative ^d	C		8:00	Bob Simpson	818-2610	\$2
1/28	Thurs	Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail	B		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$5
1/29	Fri	Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop	C+	Slow	8:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$5
1/29	Fri	Superstitions: Mountain Ridgeline	A+		6:00	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	\$11
1/30	Sat	Lime Falls, Saguaro NP-East	D		7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$6
1/30	Sat	Charouleau Gap Road	C+		8:30	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	0
1/31	Sun	Boyce-Thompson Arboretum	D		9:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$12 + fee
2/1	Mon	Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook	C		8:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$4
2/1	Mon	Superstitions: First Water – Second Water Trail Loop	B-	Slow	7:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$15
2/2	Tues	Picacho Peak to Saddle	C		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$7+\$2
2/2	Tues	Bug Spring Trail #1	B		7:30	Sandra Sowell	818-0995	\$7
2/2	Tues	**Goldfields: Pass Mountain Ridgeline Loop	B		6:00	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	\$12
2/3	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting			3:00 p.m.			
2/3	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting			4:00 p.m.			
2/4	Thurs	Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon with tram	B		7:45	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$4
2/4	Thurs	Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam	C		8:30	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$3
2/5	Fri	Antelope Peak	C		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$7
2/6	Sat	Brown Mountain	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$6
2/7	Sun	Romero Springs	B		7:30	Kathy& Philip Cotton	825-2243	\$2+\$2
2/7	Sun	Roadrunner-Panther Peak Wash, Cam-Boh Trail Loop	D		1:00 p.m.	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$5
2/8	Mon	Romero Pools	C+		8:00	Margaret Valair	818-1035	\$2+\$2
2/9	Tues	Superstitions: World's Greatest Cactus	B		7:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$11
2/10	Wed	OSP West Loop	C		9:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3
2/10	Wed	Wasson Peak via King Canyon	B		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$6
2/11	Thurs	Douglas Spring Trail to	B		7:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating ^a	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
		the Campground						
2/11	Thurs	**Tortolitas: Bushwhack to Wild Horse Mt.	B		7:30	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$1
2/12	Fri	Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail (short)	C		8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$7+\$2
2/12	Fri	Superstitions: Peralta/ Geronimo Cave Loop	B	Slow	7:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$14
2/12	Fri	Pima Canyon to 3 rd Dam	B		7:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$3
2/13	Sat	Deer Camp Loop – w/ Historical Narrative ^d	C		8:00	Bob Simpson	818-2610	\$2
2/15	Mon	Piestawa Peak & Camelback Mountain	B	Slow	7:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$16
2/16	Tues	Big Rock Dome and Elephant Trunk Bushwhack	C+	Slow	7:30	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	0
2/17	Wed	SBHC Program – MV Ballroom- West Sky Island Alliance Program			3:00 p.m.			
2/17	Wed	SBHC Social Hour MV Club House			4:00 p.m.			
2/18	Thurs	Rice Peak from Peppersauce Campground	A		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$5
2/19	Fri	Deer Camp - Baby Jesus Loop	C		8:00	Chris Costello	818-0368	\$2
2/20	Sat	King Canyon to Mam-a-Gah Picnic Area	D		8:15	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$6
2/22	Mon	Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail	A		7:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	\$10
2/22	Mon.	Superstitions: World's Greatest Saguaro Cactus	B	Slow	7:00	Greg Lindahl	825-3679	\$11
2/23	Tues	**Window Rock Loop	A		6:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
2/24	Weds	Buster Spring Bushwhack	B		7:30	Bill Leightenheimer	825-5756	\$2+\$2
2/25	Thurs	50 Year Trail – South End	D		8:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
2/25	Thurs	Esperero Canyon	B		8:00	Laura Ruxer	825-1829	\$4
2/26	Fri	++Pima Canyon to 1 st Dam	D+		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$3
2/26	Fri	** Goldfields: Arches Sky Island - Golden Dome-Rhyodacite Canyon Loop	A		6:00	Cheryl & Dean Werstler	825-9057	\$14
2/27	Sat	Deer Camp/Baby Jesus Loop	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$2

- a A “+” or “-“ after a rating mean that a hike is harder or easier than the average hike in that rating category. A “+” may be added due to a loose rocky trail, an unusually steep area, or other special conditions that make it more difficult than the category implies. “-A“ may be added to a hike due to a smooth trail or other special conditions that make it easier than the category implies.
- b – Pace is moderate unless otherwise described.
- c - A representative of the Sky Island Alliance will accompany hikers to Atascosa Lookout. He will explain the importance of preserving the Tumacacori Highlands, one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States. Jaguars have been photographed in this area. The Sky Island Alliance is a Tucson-based organization dedicated to the protection of wildlife and habitats in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.
- d - Learn about the history of Rail N Ranch from the late 1800s to the development of Saddlebrooke. See old photos of the Deer Camp in use and hear more about local history.

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

Hike Descriptions

Antelope Peak. Rating C. The hike starts 1.5 miles off Freeman Road 15 miles from Florence Hwy # 79. High clearance vehicles are required to reach the trailhead. The area offers great views of surrounding terrain and has numerous Hedgehog cacti. Native animals are often seen in this area. Be sure to bring sunscreen due to the exposure. Hike 4.5 miles; trailhead elevation 4100 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1008 feet; RTD 72 miles (dirt).

****Atascosa Lookout (Revised). Rating B.** We hike to the fire lookout station in the Tumacacori Highlands, near Rio Rico. The trail starts off Hwy # 289, 7 miles east of Pena Blanca Lake, and is very scenic, offering views over 75 miles in all directions. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change 1600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 190 miles (dirt).

Babad Do’ag Trail. Rating C. The trailhead is along the Catalina Hwy just across from the Babad Do’ag overlook. The trail climbs up the southern slope of McDougal Ridge until it reaches an altitude of about 4800 feet, generally paralleling Soldier Canyon. Hikers continue past the "End of Trail" sign for about 0.15 miles to a waterfall that is a good place for lunch. The route is retraced on the return leg. “Babad Do’ag” means Frog Mountain in the Tohono O’odham language. Hike 4.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3600 feet; net elevation change 1170 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 86 miles.

Baby Jesus. Rating C. The hike starts in the Fifty-Year Trail area near the east end of Golder Ranch Road and follows a jeep road that connects to the beginning of the Baby Jesus Trail across the Sutherland Wash. Hikers follow the trail on the east

side of Baby Jesus Ridge to a rock grouping, seeing a “window”, beautiful saguaros, and rock formations along the way. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Big Rock Dome and Elephant Trunk Bushwhack. Rating C+. The hike starts from the horse ranch southeast of Saddlebrooke Unit 9, and proceeds across CDO Wash to Big Rock Dome. The hike is a strenuous bushwhack for an adventurous-minded, fit hiker in the granite rocks east of Saddlebrooke. Long pants, long sleeved shirts, and gloves are required. Hikers will see a rare double-crested saguaro. Hike 4 to 5 miles; trailhead elevation 3270 feet; net elevation change 770 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 5 miles.

Blackett’s Ridge. Rating B. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blackett’s Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 1620 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Boyce-Thompson Arboretum. Rating D. The arboretum (fee required) features 35 acres of nature paths, towering trees, cacti, mountain cliffs, a

streamside forest, a desert lake, and panoramic views. It is located about 100 miles north of SaddleBrooke off U.S. 60 between Florence Junction and Superior. The park is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring lunch, camera, hiking stick optional. Hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Call the hike guide for more details. Hike is under 4 miles; trailhead elevation ___ feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 164 miles.

Bridal Wreath Falls. Rating C+. The Douglas Spring Trailhead is located at the east end of Speedway Blvd. The hike involves some steep climbing up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles, before turning off on the 0.3 miles spur leading to the falls. 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 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1120 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 80 miles.

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

Bug Spring Trail # 1. Rating B. From the Lower Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile up the Catalina Highway from Hirabayashi Campground), the hike proceeds southeast along a narrow ribbon of trail carved into the granite hillside. After an uphill set of switchbacks, the terrain mellows out with outstanding vistas and views of granite sculptures. The trail dives down the north side of the ridge into a heavily forested drainage. Upward to the highpoint of the trail, you can see a few big madrone trees and views of the Sierrita Mountains, Baboquivari and the mighty Rincons. The Upper Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile south of General Hitchcock Campground) is the turnaround point. Return is via the same trail. Hike 9.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 94 miles.

Buster Spring Bushwhack. Rating B. The hike involves a moderately difficult bushwhack on the north side of the Buster Mtn. in Catalina State Park.

The hike starts at the Alamo Canyon Trailhead shortly turning off to the left on a diminishing trail and provides bushwhackers a close-up view of tremendous cliffs and outcroppings in upper Alamo Canyon and around Table Mountain. Along the route, hikers will pass Buster Spring (el. 4150 feet) and climb to a prominent saddle about 0.3 miles east of Buster Mtn. (el. 4450 feet). From the saddle, we will drop down into Alamo Canyon and loop back to the trailhead. Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1750 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 24 miles.

Canyon Loop, Montrose Pools, and Birding Trail. Rating D. Starting at the main trailhead at Catalina State Park, the hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We take the Sutherland Trail to the Canyon Loop Trail, then hike up to Montrose Pools via the Romero Canyon Trail. On the way back, we will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 320 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Charouleau Gap Road. Rating C+. Starting from the 4WD parking area off Lago del Oro Blvd. just outside of SaddleBrooke, hikers proceed up Charouleau Gap Road, a rocky jeep road, to a picturesque table rock with great views of SaddleBrooke. The area is filled with huge granite boulders and outcroppings. The return uses the same route. Charouleau Gap Road has loose, slippery rocks in some areas. Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 850 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 2 miles.

Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike easterly toward Deer Camp, and then take the Middle Tank Connecting Trail to the Baby Jesus Trail which leads back to the trailhead. The area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 993 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Deer Camp Loop. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail Area. We hike east up and out of Sutherland Wash to Deer Camp, and then head southwest down a winding trail to connect with a trail that proceeds to a lookout on an arm of Samaniego Ridge. The trail affords good views of SaddleBrooke, the Sutherland Wash, the Biosphere, the Tortolita Mountains, and Pusch Ridge. We will follow this trail back down over slick rock, past an

ancient cholla tree, then through an ocotillo grove. It continues down a dry creek bed (watch for those cairns) and intersects with the Baby Jesus Trail. The trail passes through a grove of 100+ year old saguaros on the way back to the trailhead. Hike 5.7 miles, trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 1400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet.

Douglas Spring Trail to the Campground. Rating B. Hikers drive to the east end of Speedway to reach the Douglas Spring Trailhead. The hike involves some steep hiking on a well-used trail to the campground. Coming back we may take the spur out and back to Bridal Wreath Falls, and follow Douglas Spring Trail back to the trailhead. The trails are mostly open, so bring sun protection. Bring lunch. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 2684 feet; RTD 80 miles.

Esperero Trail. Rating B. The hike reaches a saddle overlooking Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot over a few small foothills to "the Gulch". The hiking is initially steep.... then it gets much steeper! We'll have lunch at the saddle (el. 4400 feet) while viewing the falls below, and return to the Visitor Center. Depending on season, there may be water in the falls. Extra drinking water is recommended. Hike 7.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1898 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Fifty-Year Trail - South End. Rating D. The hike starts near the horse corral off Golder Ranch Road and proceeds south to a stream terrace that provides a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash area and the Santa Catalina Mountains. There are also good views of Sun City and the Tortolitas. The return is via the same route. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 12 miles.

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

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

Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle. Rating B. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike starts on level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs 2500 feet. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up, and coming down is just as difficult. From the Saddle, hikers will enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, the Santa Ritas, and the city of Tucson as it spreads out below and into the distance. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 2500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles.

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

****Goldfields: Arches-Sky Island-Golden Dome-Rhyodacite Canyon Loop—Exploratory. Rating A+.** Across from the Superstitions is a little noticed range called the Goldfields, bordered by the Apache Trail Highway on the south and Saguaro Lake and the Salt River on the north. This hike is 60-90% off trail (dress accordingly). We will start from the Water Users Trailhead and cross the Salt River. From the river we climb steeply on a horse trail 0.5 mile to Sunrise Arch, and then head southwest, bushwhacking and climbing to a high point covered with golden slickrock with outstanding views over Gateway Canyon. A half mile from the Arch is Sky Island which we will loop around going southeast and then north to the top where we will visit various overlooks. We will then head south, left around the first of 3 hills spotting Precarious Arch, a great boulder suspended precariously above a gap in the rocks, on the top. After climbing the third hill, we are standing on the north rim of Gateway Canyon

with views of Rhyodacite Canyon, Pass Mountain, and other peaks. We continue our hike on the north rim of the Goldfields to a series of spectacular overviews of canyons and the Salt River and to the Delicate Arch. Depending on time and inclination, we may at this point include various exploratory side trips on the way back to the trailhead. Hike 9.5-12.5 miles; trailhead elevation 1400 feet; net elevation change approx. 1000-1600 feet; accumulated gain approx. 2800-3000 feet; RTD approx 208 miles.

****Goldfields: Pass Mountain Ridgeline Loop-- Exploratory. Rating B+.** Across from the Superstitions is a little noticed range called the Goldfields, bordered by the Apache Trail Highway on the south and Saguaro Lake and the Salt River on the north. This hike is about 40% off trail (dress accordingly). From Meridian Trailhead, we go west, then north, on the Pass Mountain Trail for 2 miles looking for rock formations resembling the Good Shepherd and a medieval castle. We veer northeast at the Wind Cave Trailhead, continuing for 1.25 miles, climbing until we reach the yellow rhyolite formation that can be seen all the way from Phoenix and, shortly, the Wind Cave. As we turn south, the trail gets steeper and rockier and we then take the northern approach to Peak 3127. Here we leave the trail to hike along the Ridge to the Notch. North of the Notch, the Ridgeline becomes a gentle walk in the sky, interrupted by rock climbs to Peaks 3305 and 3312 where we are rewarded by outstanding views. Leaving the Ridgeline, we take a moderate decent eastward to a wide level spot on the Pass Mountain Trail, and then 2.25 miles back to the trailhead. Hike approx. 8 miles; trailhead elevation 1900 feet; net elevation change 1400 feet; accumulated gain approx. 2000 feet; RTD approx. 160 miles.

Honey Bee Canyon North. Rating D. The hike takes place in Honey Bee Canyon at Rancho Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes and end for snacks/lunch at a broken dam. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time, this is a real eye opener. Hike 2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain 200 feet; RTD 26 miles.

King Canyon Trail to Mam-A-Gah Picnic Area. Rating D. The hike proceeds along an old 4WD road (King Canyon Trail) to where a trail crosses the canyon going up to Mam-A-Gah picnic area. The picnic area is named for the "deer dance" of the Tohono O'odham Indians. We return by hiking down the canyon, viewing petroglyphs along the way. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation ___ feet; net

elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 73 miles.

Lime Falls, Saguaro NP - East. Rating C. The hike begins off Cactus Forest Drive and follows the Cactus Forest Trail which provides a wonderful example of the Sonoran Desert. Along the way, we will stop to observe some old lime kilns that were operational from 1880-1920. Hikers then turn onto a side trail to a rock outcropping to a waterfall when there is enough rain or snow melt. We hike to the loop drive and return the same way. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 300 feet; accumulated gain 300 feet; RTD 80 miles.

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

Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon. Rating A+. 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 return hike is down the same trails. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 4138 feet; accumulated gain 4148 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating A. The hike begins in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains.) and follows the Old Baldy Trail to Mt Wrightson. The return is via the same route. This trail provides the shortest route to the top (9453') of Mt. Wrightson. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. There is shade along the way. Hike 11.1 miles; trailhead elevation 5400 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 4029 feet; RTD 130 miles.

****OSP American Avenue. Rating D.** Oracle State Park contains native Sonoran cacti, desert grassland, oak trees, and Manzanita stands, and contains several miles of well-maintained trails. The hike begins at the trailhead off American Ave. on the western edge of the park and proceeds along the relatively smooth Mariposa Trail toward the Oak Woodland picnic area. About 0.25 miles before reaching the picnic area, the group will take the 0.8-mile Bellota Loop Trail which nearly reaches the Group Use Area adjacent the historic Kannally Ranch House before connecting back to the Mariposa Trail for the return. Along the way are excellent views of the Galiuro Mountains and San Pedro Valley to the north and the Catalina Mountains to the south. Hike 3.2 miles; net elevation gain <500 feet; accumulated gain <500 feet; RTD 40 miles.

OSP West Loop. Rating C. The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. We hike the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection we turn west and hike toward Hwy # 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. The first third of the hike is fairly level, the second third is a series of up and down hills on rocky trail and the last third has gentle hills. Hike 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1001 feet; RTD 40 miles.

Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C+. The hike begins at the Peppersauce Campground on the northeast side of the Catalinas. The trail follows old Mt. Lemmon Road up to the Nugget Canyon turnoff. We will stop to see Peppersauce Cave. Bring a flashlight. We then travel up the canyon, follow jeep roads, view an old mine, then come down Peppersauce Canyon. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills. This is a strenuous hike for this level due to a steep incline in one area and loose rocks in another. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 53 miles (dirt).

Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating B. The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. There are three options for the return: the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a

connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

Picacho Peak Loop. Rating B. The hike combines both the Hunter and Sunset Vista Trails. Beginning at the Hunter Trailhead at Barret Loop, we hike up to a saddle, down to the Sunset Vista Trail and climb to the top, 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. The return is via Sunset Vista Trail to the Sunset Vista Trailhead. The use of two trailheads requires the use of two cars, one at each trailhead. This is a short, strenuous climb with a moderate return. Bring leather or rubber tipped gloves and ample water. There are several areas of climbing where the trail is slippery due to loose rock and/or where the trail is exposed to sharp drop-offs. Park entrance fee required. Hike 5.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2000 feet; net elevation change 1374 feet; accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 90 miles.

Picacho Peak to Saddle. Rating C. The hike follows the Hunter Trail from the Barret Loop up to the saddle and returns via the same route. There are terrific views of surrounding area at the saddle. There are a few sections of loose rock, and permanently installed guide cables to assist hikers along the relatively steep trail. Park entrance fee required. Hike <3 miles; trailhead elevation 2000 feet; net elevation change 960 feet; accumulated gain 960 feet; RTD 90 miles.

Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail (short version). Rating C. From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the trail to the point on the foot of the peak that starts the steep climb to Picacho Peak (entrance fee required). The return is via the same route. The southerly views from the turning point are excellent. Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 751 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 90 miles.

Piestewa Peak and Camelback Mountain. Rating B. These two well-traveled hikes are both in the mountains in Phoenix with beautiful views to all areas of the Valley. We will first do the easier Piestewa Peak Trail which is 2.4 miles roundtrip with a climb of 1190 feet on a good improved trail with many switchbacks. We will then drive a very short distance to the Camelback trailhead. This trail is only 2.32 miles roundtrip but climbs 1300 feet. It is a very steep hike with several large rocks to scramble

over as well as slippery dirt and gravel. Gloves are recommended. The two hikes back-to-back the same day are guaranteed to give a challenging aerobic workout. Hikes 4.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2000 feet; net elevation change 2490 feet (2 hikes total); accumulated gain ___ feet (2 hikes total); RTD 220 miles.

++Pima Canyon to 1st Dam. Rating D+. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. There are pools of water most of the year. The trail is rocky at some points and involves some step ups and step downs. Hike 2.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 470 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating C. 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 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 977 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Pima Canyon to 3rd Dam. Rating B. The trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small first dam as we enter the beautiful rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again into the open. We will hike past a rocky open area in the canyon beyond the second dam near ancient grinding holes and continue on to the third dam, the largest of the three. The return is via the same route. Hike 8.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2900 feet; net elevation change 1870 feet; accumulated gain 2210 feet; RTD 42 miles.

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

net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Pusch Ridge to 2nd Overlook. Rating C+. From the trailhead at the east end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds part way up Pusch Ridge to a great overlook with views to the north, west, and southwest. The first mile of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 0.75 miles is difficult with slippery footing, rock scrambling, and exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. The trail passes four man-made dams and a lower but excellent overlook with fantastic great north, west, and southwest. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2650 feet; net elevation change 1350 feet; accumulated gain 1350 feet; round trip 28 miles.

Rams Creek Basin. Rating C. 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 water fall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 21 miles.

Rice Peak from Peppersauce Campground. Rating A. The hike proceeds westerly up Peppersauce Canyon from the campground to the Oracle Ridge Trail (also the Arizona Trail along this portion), entirely on a very rocky jeep road. There are interesting "peppersauce conglomerate" formations in Peppersauce Canyon. At the Oracle Ridge Trail, we turn south, continuing to the point where the trail is closest to the Rice Peak. At that point, we leave the trail to follow a faint, very steep, rocky trail to the top. There are great views along the ridge trail and remnants of the Apache fire are visible on some of the trees. There are also interesting conglomerate rock outcroppings at the peak, and superb views from the peak to the San Pedro River and the Galiuro Mountains beyond. The return is via the same route. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 4620 feet; net elevation gain 2955 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 40 miles.

Rillito River Hike # 1. Rating D. The hike begins from Children's Memorial Park on the north side of the Rillito River just west of Oracle Road. We walk up river (east) on an asphalt walking/bicycle path to a footbridge across the river at First Ave. We cross over to the south side and walk west on the compacted dirt path to Oracle Road. We cross back over the river at Oracle Road and return to the park.

Hike 4.2 miles; trailhead elevation ___ feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 40 miles.

Roadrunner / Panther Peak Wash / Cam-Boh Trail Loop Rating D. The hike begins at the Cam-Boh Picnic Area off Picture Rocks Road (reached from W. Ina). We first hike north 1.4 miles along the Roadrunner Trail, which runs along the boundary of Saguaro National Park - West, heading straight for Panther Peak. True to their name, roadrunners do thrive in this area, but they make a cooing sound, not a "beep, beep"! Along this section, hikers can see Picacho Peak and one of Twin Peaks to the northwest (another has nearly been leveled by limestone mining). After 1.4 miles, we reach the junction with Panther Peak Wash which we follow for 1.9 miles, mainly in the wash. Next, we cross the West Picture Rocks Road, and then join the Cam-Boh Trail for 1.3 miles back to the picnic area and the trailhead. Cam-Boh in Tohono O'odham means camp. Hike 4.6 miles trailhead elevation 2480 feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 60 miles.

Romero Pools. Rating C+. 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. Trail is rocky and rough in places. 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 1500 feet; RTD 24 miles.

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

Sabino Canyon to Bear Canyon (with Sabino Tram). Rating B. We take the Sabino Canyon tram to stop 9 and follow the Sabino Canyon, the East Fork, and finally the Bear Canyon Trail to the Bear Canyon Trailhead. From there, it's 1.6 miles to the Visitor Center. Tram fee required. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3320 feet; net elevation change 1800 feet; accumulated gain/loss 2620/3220 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Saguaro National Park – West: Ramble. Rating D. There are several short trails of interest in Saguaro National Park - West. One trail takes us to an area of petroglyphs which were made by Hohokam Indians about 1200 AD. We stop at the Visitor Center for an informative video before beginning the hike. Each of the short trails are off Kinney Road. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and hat. Hike 2 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 50 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 73 miles.

Seven Falls. Rating B. 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. There are seven stream crossings in each direction. 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. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 720 feet; accumulated gain 1550 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Superstitions: First Water - Second Water Trail Loop. Rating B-. Hikers start on the Dutchman Trail from the First Water Creek Trailhead, 3 miles of dirt road off Hwy #88, north of Apache Junction, in the Superstition Wilderness Area. After 4.2 miles, we turn onto the Black Mesa Trail. After another 1.5 miles, up a hill, we'll have lunch on a bluff, overlooking the heart of the Superstitions and Weaver's Needle. The hike then continues to the Second Water Trail and back to the trailhead. There are numerous water crossings and boulders along the trails, and wonderful scenery. Hike 9.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2300 feet; net elevation change 800 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 160 miles (dirt).

Superstitions: Marsh Valley Loop. Rating A. This is an enjoyable hike through two rugged canyons in the northwestern Superstition Mountains.

We hike the Boulder Trail from the Canyon Lake Trailhead, passing Battleship Mt. along the way. Hike 16.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3500 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 190 miles.

Superstitions: Mountain Ridgeline. Rating A+. This is a very demanding through hike that rewards energetic hikers, with incredible views, sometimes in both directions, from the crest of the Superstition Mountains. There is often no trail, but the hike on the rocky ridge line is very enjoyable and remote, and one is unlikely to encounter other hikers. We will drop a car at Lost Dutchman State Park and return to Carney Springs Trailhead to begin the hike. The hike climbs steeply up Boulder Canyon Trail, stays on the ridgeline, goes up to Superstition Peak, continues up to the Flatiron, goes down Siphon Draw, and ends at Lost Dutchman State Park. Have warm clothing in your pack and bring plenty of energy snacks and water in addition to lunch. Hike 12.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2200 feet; net elevation change 2750 feet; accumulated gain 4900 feet; RTD 155 miles.

Superstitions: Peralta / Geronimo Cave Loop Trail. Rating B. The hike follows the Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle in the Superstition Mountains. This may be the area's most beautiful canyon. Weaver's Needle is visible along much of the way. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver's Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. The trail is steep and rocky for most of the way. The return loops back to the trailhead via the Cave Trail, where we may explore Geronimo's Cave. The cliffs along this part of the hike provide spectacular views but are not for the acrophobic person (some open-face rock and steep downhill descents). Hike 7.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2410 feet; net elevation change 1450 feet; accumulated gain 1860 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

Superstitions: Peralta Trail. Rating C+. The hike follows the Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle in the Superstition Mountains. There are excellent views of Weaver's Needle at the saddle. This may be the area's most beautiful canyon. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver's Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. The trail is steep and rocky for most of

the way. Hike 4.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2410 feet; net elevation change 1360 feet; accumulated gain 1360 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

****Superstitions: Robbers Roost-Geronimo Cave Loop exploratory. Rating B+.** We begin the hike from the Lost Goldmine Trailhead, starting out cross country and making our way over to West Boulder Trail. We climb steeply to West Boulder Saddle, gaining 1650 feet in less than 2 miles. At the Saddle, we leave the trail and continue bushwhacking east up the 4000-foot Dacite Mesa through a myriad of hoodoos, spires, and boulders to the "Chiminaya." We continue southeast down a drainage in our search for the "Robbers Roost" cave. From the Cave we wind northwest along the Mesa slope until directly above and west of Fremont Saddle. From there we descend down to the Saddle. We finish our loop on the Cave Trail which makes its way along cliffs and boulders and across weather worn rock, passing Geronimo Cave. There are a couple of somewhat tricky, but fun, downward climbs on this trail. We come to a junction with Bluff Spring Trail which leads to Peralta Trailhead then take the road back to our starting point. Hike 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2290 feet; net elevation gain 1750 feet; accumulated gain 2280 feet; RTD 154 miles.

Superstitions: Weavers Crosscut. Rating B. Beginning at the Peralta Trailhead, the hike involves climbing the Bluff Spring Trail, which gains 500 feet elevation in the 0.5 mile, levels off, then gains 260 feet in 0.25 miles. After 3 miles we leave the trail for "Weaver Cross Cut" at Bluff Saddle. The hike continues near the base of Weavers Needle, a column of volcanic rock that rises a thousand feet to an elevation of 4553 feet and dominates the landscape for miles around. On Weavers Cross Cut Trail we go through fascinating rock formations, then descend to the Peralta Trail and return to the trailhead. Hike 7.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation change 1350 feet; accumulated gain 2025 feet; RTD 155 miles.

Superstitions: Weaver's Needle Loop. Rating B+. The hike is beautiful, steep, and rocky and passes through areas of huge boulders in the Superstition Mountains. The hike begins at the Peralta Trailhead on the Bluff Spring Trail and proceeds via various connecting trails north and northwest to the east side of the very prominent Weaver's Needle, passing through Barks canyon and Terrapin pass along the way. The trail then loops around the north side and returns through Boulder Canyon to the west side of Weaver's Needle via the Peralta trail, continuing up

and over Fremont Saddle to the Peralta Trailhead parking area on FR # 77. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2500 feet; net elevation change 2600 feet; accumulated gain; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

Superstitions: World's Greatest Saguaro Cactus. Rating B. The loop hike is a beautiful visit to the south central part of the Superstition Mountains. It begins and ends at the Peralta Trailhead off Hwy # 60. Along the way, the group passes through beautiful Bluff Springs Canyon where there are great views of Weaver's Needle. After passing Bluff Springs, we come to one of the most spectacular saguaro cacti in the world. The cactus is spectacular to behold and has an estimated sixty arms. We will try to determine its precise height. Bring along cameras and binoculars. The return is via the Dutchman's Trail circling Miners Needle and along a beautiful desert basin. Hike 11.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2400 feet; net elevation gain 800 feet; accumulated gain 2000 feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

****Tortolitas Bushwhack to Wild Horse Mt. Exploratory Rating B.** This hike is a loop and begins at the cattle guard/windmill on the Rail X Ranch and follows a jeep road and path to the saddle above Wild Burro Canyon. From the saddle, the path proceeds SW to a point where we will begin a bushwhack north following the Wild Burro Canyon drainage to another saddle. The descent from this saddle continues down a drainage westward to an old ranch road by Bass Spring in Bass Canyon. From there, we will follow the ranch road north a short distance before leaving the road and beginning a bushwhack east to the summit of Wild Horse Peak (elev. 4, 696 feet). Wild Horse Peak provides great views of SaddleBrooke and the Catalina Mts. From the summit, the descent is south and passes near the marble mine where hikers will be able to collect samples. We will then follow an old ranch road back to the starting point. Hikers will need to wear long sleeved shirts and trousers, and bring gloves. Hike 9 miles (est.); trailhead elevation 3621 feet; net elevation gain 1075 feet; accumulated gain 1956 feet. RTD 6 miles.

****Tortolita Mountains – Aspen Creek / Wild Mustang Loop Exploratory. Rating B.** This hike travels the outer rim of the area. We take the trailhead off Dove Mountain Boulevard, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, to Lower Javalina Trail to the Aspen Creek 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 Aspen Creek 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 12.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation gain 1300 feet; accumulated gain 2500 feet; RTD 44 miles.

****Tortolita Mountains - Cochie Spring Trail. Rating B.** From the Wild Burro Trailhead, hikers go 1.5 miles on the flat Wild Burro Trail to the Upper Javelina Trail. The Upper Javelina Trail provides views of the Tucson Mountains and Boboquiveri Peak to the south. After a short hike on the Wild Mustang Trail, hikers join the Cochie Spring Trail to the remains of a dam past a windmill. Hikers will experience a quiet mountain wilderness. The return is by the same route. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles.

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

Tortolita Mountains - Wild Burro Canyon. Rating C. The trailhead is reached via the Rail-X Marble Mine Road off Oracle Hwy for 5 miles to the county line. The hike begins along a jeep road to the windmill and into Wild Burro Canyon. The jeep road leads to a meadow and corral in the mountains. Weather and hikers agreeing, we may go further along a wash to a canyon lookout. There may be wild horses in the canyon. Hike 7 miles; trailhead

elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 20 miles (dirt).

****Walking Tour of Historic Florence, AZ. Rating D.** This tour will be led by H. Christine Reid of the Pinal County Historical Museum. Chris is involved with research and special projects for the museum and is an eleven-year resident of Florence. The tour will begin at the Pinal County Historical Museum. The tour will include the Silver King Hotel, 1891 Courthouse, George A. Brown House, Mandell Building, General Store, other surprises, and stories that are not usually told in the home tour. Limit 12. Lunch will follow at the Mt. Athos Greek Restaurant. Walk <4 miles; minimal elevation gain; RTD 100 miles.

Wasson Peak via King Canyon Trail. Rating B. The hike begins at the trailhead across from the Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum and goes up the King Canyon Trail. We pass the Mam-A-Gah picnic area and continue to the Sweetwater Saddle, the junction with the Sweetwater Trail. For the next mile or so, it's a steep climb to the junction of the Hugh Norris Trail and a short uphill climb to the summit. The 360 degree views from the top include Tucson to the east, Green Valley to the south, Picacho Peak to the north and Sells to the west. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 2880 feet; net elevation change 1807 feet; accumulated gain 1900 feet; RTD 73 miles.

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

****Window Rock Loop via Ventana and Esperero Trails. Rating A.** This is a classic hike to the unique Window, a large opening through a rock face on the crest of the front range of the Santa Catalinas. The trail is a very long loop, and takes one from saguaros to ponderosas and back again. The hike starts at the Ventana Canyon Trailhead, proceeds past the Maiden Pools to the ridge at the top of Ventana Canyon. At a junction near the saddle, the Esperero Trail goes eastward to the Window for a superb view of Tucson and surrounding mountains. The hike continues on the Esperero Trail past Window Peak (optional side trip) to Esperero Canyon, descends past Bridal Veil Falls and Cardiac Gulch to Esperero Creek. The Esperero Trail crosses the ridges of Bird Canyon and Rattlesnake Canyon to the Cactus Picnic area and continues down the road to the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. A car shuttle will be required back to the Ventana Canyon trailhead. Hike 15.5+ miles; trailhead elevation 2850 feet; net elevation change 4450 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 56 miles.

New Members

To join the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club you need to fill out a Membership Application and Release Form available online at saddlebrooke.org or with the SBHC newsletters at DesertView Fitness Center or the SaddleBrooke Fitness Center. To receive the Newcomer Packet (Patch, Information Sheet, Hiker's Log, Shirt Order Form) please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your membership application and membership dues.

Renewing Members

To renew your membership in the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club for 2010 please fill out the attached renewal form and mail it with your membership dues to Bob Perez at the address below.

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2010

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Your name and phone number will be added to the membership list provided to the club officers and guides. Your email address will be used to send you the hiking club newsletter and notices of events.

\$5.00 Annual Dues must accompany this Renewal Form. Make out check to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. Mail To: Bob Perez, 65187 E Desert Sand Court, Tucson, AZ 85739.

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