

Heritage Highlands Hikers

February 2012 Hike Schedule

Reminders:

- **Speaker:** "Celebrating the Completion of the Arizona Trail" Tuesday February 28 See Below.
- **Hiking Club Spring Picnic** Thursday March 8 Catalina State Park
- **Hiking Trip to Sedona, AZ** March 14-16. See below for details.
- You must be a member of the club, or guest of a member, to join a hike (except for "Orientation" hikes).
- For your safety & to facilitate enjoyable group hiking, we require that everyone do an "Orientation Hike" before signing for hikes.
- Phone the assigned Hike Leader to sign up, or for questions.
- Departure is from the Clubhouse parking lot at time listed. Please be there 10 minutes early to check-in (15 for Orientation Hikes).
- ALWAYS bring enough WATER to last for the time your hike takes, ENERGY SNACKS, & LUNCH if lasting over the noon hour.

2012 Dues: If you have not yet paid your \$5 Dues for the next calendar year, please deliver to our Treasurer Dan Nestor. You can contact him at 744-4090 or email to RNDN5020@gmail.com. If you are a renewing member, you may pay your dues to any hike leader who will forward to Dan. After Jan 31, 2012, we will delete former members who have not renewed, from our email communications.

Hiking Trip to Sedona, AZ March 14-16. We will be doing 2 days of "B" and "C" level hikes in the heart of Red Rock country. Our target is to do the most scenic hikes, and have lots of photo ops. The Hiking Club has reserved a block of rooms at a 4 star hotel and negotiated a special rate for us. For more details see the detailed email sent in mid January, or the hiking club web site- "Sedona Trip March 2012".

Wednesday February 1 Linda Vista, Orientation Pace: Leisurely Level: D, 2.8 miles, 400ft
Hike Leader: George Hammond 579-3296 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 11:30am
Participation in an orientation hike is required by all new hikers and experienced hikers who are hiking for the first time with Heritage Highland Hikers. Membership is not required. Linda Vista Trail is ideal to expose the new hiker to trail conditions they'll experience while hiking on the desert level trails while gaining 400ft in elevation. The hike leader will also provide information about hiking with the group. Orientation hikes are not limited to just new hikers; anyone can sign up for these easy level hikes. Eat a good breakfast and bring a half-liter of water. \$2 per person carpool fee. (25 miles).

Wednesday February 1 Cody Loop Trail (Catalina's near Oracle) Pace: Moderate Level: B-, 8 miles, 1,100ft
Hike Leader: Dave Seiller 744-9338 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 3:30pm
We'll travel on the Arizona Trail through Wild Bill Cody's ranch where he also established several gold mines. This 'must see' area on the back side of the Catalina's has easy switch backs through a very scenic area. We will hike up the Arizona trail to the Oracle ridge trail. We will then go south towards Apache Peak, then down FR639 through Camp Bonita Canyon and lunch at Campo Bonita. From there we swing back to the High Jinks mine/homestead where Bill Cody stacked his gold in 1912, and then back down to the Arizona Flag Trailhead. Bring a lunch, snacks, and at least 1.5 liters of water. \$5 per person carpool fee (68 miles).

The following Hike Rescheduled to Feb 28. See below.

Thursday February 2 Pontatoc Canyon Trail (Santa Catalina Mtns) Pace: Moderate Level: B+, 7.4 miles, 1,920ft
Hike Leader: John Skillicorn 320-282-8463 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 3:00pm

Friday February 3 Baby Jesus Turnaround Pace: Moderate Level: B-, 7.4 miles, 700ft
Hike Leader: Frank Price 579-8013 Depart: 9:00am Est. time of return: 2:00pm
From Golden Ranch Rd., we will hike to the Cottonwoods and then on the beautiful Baby Jesus Trail along the Baby Jesus Ridge to a rock outcropping for lunch. The trail is easy on the feet and the Saguaros and rock formations are worth a photo. Bring 2.5 liters of water and lunch. (If we have enough high clearance vehicles, we will save a mile.) \$3 per person carpool fee. (33 miles)

Friday February 3 Arizona Trail- Segment #5 -- Santa Ritas Pace: Fast Level A, 14 miles, 2,000 ft Approx
Hike Leader: Stan Clark 329-8071 sdclark51@yahoo.com Depart: 7:00am Est. time of return: 6:00pm
Second in the Arizona Trail series begins near the Gardner Canyon Trailhead. The route heads toward Cave Creek, descending into Fish Canyon, then heads to Kentucky Camp. The route then passes by Granite Mountain into Enzenberg Canyon ending in Oak Tree Canyon just off AZ highway 83. This is an "Adventure" hike. Due to logistics sign ups needed by Monday January 30. Estimated Carpool Fee \$6 (80 miles)

Saturday February 4 "New Adventure" Hike in Oracle State Park Pace: Moderate Level: B-, 6 miles, 600 ft (est.)
Hike Leader: Sharon Christensen 505-4780 & Rosemary Lemmon 579-9894 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 2:00pm
Oracle State Park is re-opening this day and is free to enter. We'll do a 6 mile loop using a combination of the Manzanita, Arizona, and Wildlife Corridor trails. The loop is accessed from the Kannally Ranch House parking area. We will hike a rolling terrain of oaks and open grasslands. The hike leaders have not done these hikes, but will have good instructions. \$5 per person carpool fee (60 miles).

Monday February 6 Bluffs-Preserve Trail Pace: Moderate-Leisurely Level C , 5 miles 250 ft.
Hike Leader: Jim Yarsevich 579-0389 jo3jim@hotmail.com Depart 8:00 am Est. time of return 10:30 am

This hike starts at the club house, exits the main gate, heads to the south gate and then turns east until it picks up the trail off of Moore Rd. The trail meanders through a large variety of desert plants including a huge Sahuaro with a prickly pear growing out of one of its arms. It continues south to the rear of the shopping center at Tangerine and Dove Mountain and then loops back to Heritage Highlands. The trail is well maintained with few rocks and no step ups. Great views of the Catalina, Tortolita and Tucson Mountains. More of a walk than one of our typical hikes. Hiking boots not required. Bring water. No carpool fee. In fact no cars.

Monday February 6 Thimble Peak View (Mile 7 of Mt Lemmon Hwy) Pace: Moderate Level: B, 9 miles, 1,400ft
Hike Leader: Carlene Rogers 579-2585 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 4:00pm

We can see Thimble Peak from Sunrise Blvd, and can almost touch it from Blackett's Ridge. This is a very interesting and scenic hike. We follow the trail down into a valley and then proceed up a gradual ascent to the top of a ridge with great views. Then we take a trail ½ mile across a meadow and up a ridge to a point where Thimble Peak is just across a canyon. Golden Age Passport or fee plus a \$6 per person carpool fee. (84 miles)

Monday February 6 Arizona Trail- Segment #6 -- Las Colinas Pace: Fast Level A, 13 miles, 2,000 ft Approx
Hike Leader: Stan Clark 329-8071 sdclark51@yahoo.com Depart: 7:00am Est. time of return: 6:00pm

Third in the Arizona Trail series begins in Oak Tree Canyon and heads into Barrel Canyon. The route then climbs and descends into Schofield and Papago Canyons before heading north through Mulberry Canyon ending at Lakes Road. This is an "Adventure" hike. Due to logistics sign ups needed by Thursday Feb 2. Estimated Carpool Fee \$5 (70 miles)

Hike Cancelled- Will be rescheduled

Tuesday February 7 Quantrell Mine plus Little Elephant Head "adventure" hike(Santa Rita Mtns) Level: B-, 6-7 miles, 900ft?
Hike Leader: Frank Price 579-8013 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 3-4:00pm

This hike should be fairly easy and follows old mining roads and trails often used by those more adventurous hikers who hike back into climb elephant head. We will not turn off trail to do the difficult elephant head hike but will continue on the easier trail to the end to explore the abandoned Quantrell mine which in its hay day extracted gold and silver and other ore at the turn of the century. On our return we'll try to do "little elephant head" On our first trip to Quantrell mine we saw this trail and it's calling us back to give it a try. \$8 per person carpool fee (110 miles).

Wednesday February 8 Wild Burro and Alamo Spring Trails (Tortolita Mtns) Pace: Moderate Level: B-, 6 miles, 800ft
Hike Leader: Sandra and Ernie Green 572-2353 Depart: 8:00pm Est. time of return: 12:30pm

We'll take the Wild Burro, Lower Javelina, Spur, and Alamo Springs Trails to Alamo Spring. We'll return on the Wild Burro and Lower Javelina Trails. Bring 2 liters of water, and energy snacks. No carpool fee.

Wednesday February 8 Cochie Canyon to the Windmill Pace: Steady Level: B+/A-, 9.8 miles, 1,500ft
Hike Leader: Dennis Davidson 744-9506 Depart: 8:00 Est. time of return: 1:30pm

We will hike into Cochie Canyon using the shortest route. The Cochie Trail drops down to an old road and eventually comes to a windmill and an old dam. Cochie canyon is the next canyon north that is undeveloped and has great views, yet we can access it from the Ritz trailhead. We will take a break at the windmill and return by retracing our route. No carpool fee.

Thursday February 9 Sweetwater Trail to Saddle Pace: Leisurely/Moderate Level: C+, 6.8 miles. 1,200ft
Hike Leader: George Hammond 579-3296 Depart 8:00am Est. time of return: 3:30pm

We'll take a short drive to the east side of the Tucson Mts. where we'll hike up the Sweetwater Trail to its end at the saddle where it meets the King Canyon Trail. We'll go at a slow pace to make this a C+ level. The trail is in Saguaro National Park and is well maintained but has some areas of loose rock. This trail is considered the prettiest trail in the Tucson's with an abundance of saguaro cacti. Trailhead parking is in the county so no passes or fee required. Bring snacks, water and a nice lunch for a break at the saddle. \$3 per person carpool fee. (40 miles)

Friday February 10 Alamo Spring/Lower Javelina Trails (Tortolita Mtns.) Pace: Moderate Level: C+, 6 miles, 1005ft
Hike Leader: Barb Brussell 572-4700 bbrussell@comcast.net Depart: 8:00 Est. time of ret: 12:30pm

This nearby hike follows the Alamo Spring Trail to the Spur junction, and then goes down to the wash by the Line Shack. We return via the Wild Burro Trail, except for taking the west leg of the Lower Javelina Trail. We'll get some good exercise, and have lots of nice views. No carpool fee.

Monday February 13 Blackett's Ridge (Sabino Canyon) Pace: Moderate Level: B, 6.2 miles, 1,635ft
Hike Leader: John Skillicorn 320-282-8463 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 3:00pm

You will be rewarded with one of the finest overlooks in all of Tucson. The trail starts at the Sabino Canyon Visitor's Center, has a moderate climb for the first mile. Then it gets steeper. We will take breathers. We will have lunch and a good rest at the top. Golden Age Passport or fee required, plus a \$4 per person carpool fee (50 miles).

Monday February 13 Ventana Canyon to Window **Pace: Fast** **Level: A+, 12.8 miles, 4,050ft**
Hike Leader: David Rogers 579-2585 **Depart: 7:00am** **Est. time of return: 5:30pm**
In Spanish, 'ventana' means window. It's also the destination of this very strenuous hike. We'll take the Ventana Canyon Trail with its fabulous rock formations and great vistas. There are sections of very steep climbing with high step-ups. Long pants suggested for the bushy vegetation. Bring plenty of water (you might want to stash some on the way up), and extra layers. \$4 per person carpool fee. (49 miles).

Tuesday February 14 Brown Mountain **Pace: Moderate** **Level: C, 4.8 miles, 400ft**
Hike Leader: Dave Seiller 744-9338 **Depart: 8:00am** **Est. time of return: 2:00pm**
You will enjoy great views of the Tucson and Roskrige Mountains and Avra Valley while hiking through desert pink and ochre rocks. The trail is well established with one short rocky climb. Our turn around point overlooks the backside of the Desert Museum. (Some may want to stop at the Red Rock Visitor Center in the Saguaro National Park after the hike. There is now an entrance fee for the Park, but your *Golden Age Passport* can be used.). Brown Mountain and the hike are actually in Tucson Mountain Park where no fee is required. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. \$4 per person carpool fee. (46 Miles)

Tuesday February 14 Ventana Canyon to Window View (Catalina's) **Pace: Moderate** **Level: B+, 8.9 miles, 2,400 ft**
Hike Leader: Daniel Nestor 744-4090 RNDN5020@gmail.com **Depart: 8:00am** **Est. time of return: 5:00pm**
With our winter snow and rain, the sound of water crashing over the rocks will accompany us most of the way to Maiden Pools. There will be excitement as we cross the creek 13 times. And vistas too! We'll get some great exercise, but at a reasonable pace. To challenge ourselves we are going an hour past the pools, and hopefully get a view of the "window". Bring at least 2 liters of water, energy bars, and lunch. \$4 per person carpool fee. (49 miles)

Wednesday February 15 Cochie Canyon Overlook (Tortolita Mtns) **Pace: Moderate** **Level: C+, 5.8 miles, 750ft**
Hike Leader: Sandra and Ernie Green 572-2353 **Depart: 8:00am** **Est. time of return: 1:00pm**
We will hike the Upper Javelina Trail clockwise, starting at the Ritz Golf Clubhouse end, and continue on the Wild Mustang trail. Then we take the Cochie Trail to a nice view area of Cochie Canyon, where we'll have lunch. We'll return via the Ritz Spur. We will take it easy up the climbs, and take rest breaks. This hike is a great combo of exercise and scenery. No carpool fee.

Thursday February 16 Bluff Spring Loop, Superstition Mts. **Pace: Moderate / Leisurely** **Level: B, 8.4 miles, 1,000ft**
Hike Leaders: Frank Price/ George Hammond 579-3296 **Depart: 7:30am** **Est time of return: 7:00pm**
Frank and George will again do this spectacular hike in the Superstition Mountains. From the Peralta trailhead we'll go clockwise up Bluff Spring Trail gaining most of our elevation as we connect with the Dutchman Trail to the high point at Miners Summit and continue on to complete this loop hike. We will have a moderate and a leisurely group. If there is enough interest, we can stop in Florence for dinner on the way home; let George know when you sign up. Bring plenty of water and a good lunch. Golden Age Passport required to park at Trailhead. Carpool fee \$13. (190 miles).

Friday February 17 Trans Tortolitas - Two-direction Key Swap hikes **Levels: B+/A- and B-**
Catalina (North Side) to Ritz Parking- Pace: Moderate **Level B-, 8 Miles, 250 ft** **Hike Leader: Chuck Fish 651-815-3895**
Ritz Parking to Catalina **Pace: Steady** **Level B+/A-, 10 Miles, 1,200 ft** **Hike Leader: Dennis Davidson 744-9506**
Depart: 8:00am **Est. time of return: B+/A- Level 4:00 pm B- Level 2:00 pm**
High clearance vehicles are required to access the north east end of the Tortolitas near Catalina (preferably 4X4's). The drive to/from the Catalina trailhead is approximately 21 miles and takes about one hour The hike leader will ask you about your vehicle, ie, if you can drive and what type of vehicle.
Level B+/A- hike - Upper Javelina (North end) to Wild Mustang to end, Wild Burro Tank trail to Catalina.
Level B- hike - Wild Burro Tank to Alamo Spring, Wild Burro to Ritz Parking. Hike is mostly down hill.
The just 1-year old trail from Alamo Spring to Catalina- now named the Wild Burro Tank trail (was informally called the Goat Trail) is a very nice trail. We will visit the unusual "goal corral", and see lots of saguaros, rock formations, and peaceful desert settings. Groups will meet on the trail and swap car keys and stories. Be sure to bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. Carpool fee of \$3 per person will be collected from all hikers and will be given to drivers of vehicles driven to Catalina. No car pool fee is required for the cars driven to the Wild Burro Trail Head.

Monday February 20 Hutch's Pool (Sabino Canyon) **Pace: Moderate** **Level: B-, 8.2 miles, 1,440ft**
Hike Leader: Dave Seiller 744-9338 **Depart: 8:00am** **Est. time of return: 3:30pm**
Hutch's Pool is by far the largest pool in the Catalinas and will contain water all of the year. We will depart the Visitor Center on the first tram and start the climb from Tram Stop #9. Most of the 550 elevation gain occurs just above the tram stop. We'll then descend into Upper Sabino Basin and proceed up the West Fork of Sabino Canyon Creek to Hutch's Pools. Bring a lunch, snacks and plenty of liquid. If it is hot you may want to either swim or wade. A beautiful setting. There is a parking fee at Sabino Canyon so bring your Golden Age Passport. There's an \$8 Tram fee plus a \$4 per person carpool fee. (50 Miles)

Monday February 20 Wasson Peak via Hugh Norris (Tucson Mtns) **Pace: Moderate** **Level: B+, 9.8 miles, 2,100ft**
Hike Leader: Bill Ulrich 744-2169 **Depart: 8:00am** **Est. time of return: 4:00pm**
The Hugh Norris Trail is the longest and most popular route to Wasson Peak, the high point of the Tucson Mountains. The first half of the trail is one of the best maintained in Tucson. The trail follows the long ridge with views in every direction. The entire trail has a steady elevation gain along with a short section of steep switchbacks near the peak. Bring at least 2 liters of water, snacks and lunch. Golden Age Passport required. \$3 per person car-pool fee (40 miles).

Monday February 20 Arizona Trail- Segment #7 -- Las Cienegas Pace: Fast Level A, 13 miles, 2,000 ft Approx
Hike Leader: Stan Clark 329-8071 sdclark51@yahoo.com Depart: 7:00am Est. time of return: 6:00pm

Fourth in the Arizona Trail series begins from Lakes Road and heads northeast crossing several roads including Sahuarita road, goes under Highway 83, and crosses Old Sonoita highway. The trail passes under Interstate 10 and then climbs through Davidson Canyon ending at the newly dedicated Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead. This is an "Adventure" hike. Due to logistics sign ups need by Thursday Feb. 16. Estimated Carpool Fee \$5 (60 miles)

Tuesday February 21 Petroglyph Photo Hike- Catalina foothills (Sutherland wash) Level C, 6 miles, 300 ft
Hike Leader: Frank Price 579-8013 Pace: Moderate Depart: 9:00am Est. time of return: 3:00pm
Just in time before the Rattlers return. This is the hike for those interested in exploring and finding ancient Indian petroglyphs. We will hike into the Sutherland wash on 4-wheel roads and trails to this historic yet little visited area. Once there, we go off trail and search among the many rock field sites for the photo shot you want to send back home. Note this is **not** the Sutherland trail in the Tucson but the Catalinas. Bring at least 1 liter of water, snacks and lunch. Long pants are optional. \$3 per person carpool fee. (33 Miles)

Wednesday February 22 Hugh Norris Trail (Tucson Mtns) Pace: Moderate Level: C+, 5.4 miles, 1,000ft
Hike Leader: Rosemary Lemmon 579-9894 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 2:00pm
Here is a great opportunity for hikers who do not want to hike 10 miles to experience the Hugh Norris Trail. The first half of the trail is one of the best maintained in Tucson. At the start, we'll pass thru the huge saguaro forest, and some very interesting boulder shapes, and later we'll rest and have lunch in a fabulous boulder field at the top of a ridge. We'll climb the long ridge and take breaks to enjoy the views in every direction. Our target is to get to the Sendero Esperanza Trail junction, but if we get too tired, we'll turn around early. Golden Age Passport required. \$3 per person car-pool fee (40 miles).

Friday February 24 Canyon Pass Trail (Tortolita Mtns) Pace: Moderate Level: C+, 3 miles, 900ft
Hike Leader: David Rogers 579-2585 drogers5190@gmail.com Depart: 9:00am Est. time of return: 1:00pm
We've again made arrangements to hike this private trail in the Canyon Pass Community of Dove Mt- across from our North Gate. The trail winds around a ridge and then ascends 900ft to the highest point where the entire Dove Mt. Development can be viewed. Prospective hikers need to be aware that there is a somewhat steep ascent, and there are loose rocks to deal with on the descent. We take a leisurely pace, for infrequent hikers and for the many photo ops. There is a maximum of 20 hikers allowed. Repeat hikers are welcome. Bring a camera. No carpool fee.

Monday February 27 Upper Javelina/Cochie Trails (Tortolita Mtns) Pace: Moderate Level: B, 8miles, 1,450ft
Hike Leader: Bill Ulrich 744-2169 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 1:30pm
We follow the Upper Javelina trail (North segment), hiking above the Ritz resort to the junction with the Wild Mustang trail. We continue to the junction with the Cochie trail which we follow into Cochie Canyon, an undeveloped canyon with great views. We return using the same route. There are some good climbs but each is followed by a flat section of trail. No carpool fee.

Monday February 27 Wild Burro Loop (Tortolita Mtns.) Pace: Steady Level A, 14 miles, 2,400 ft
Hike Leader: Gail and Jim Githens 651-303-3932 ggithens3@aol.com Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 4:00pm
We hike the Upper Javelina, Wild Mustang, Goat Corral, Alamo Springs Trail, including the "work out" hill, and finish up on the Lower Javelina, and back to the parking lot. No carpool fee.

Tuesday February 28 Lower Javelina Loop Trail (Tortolita Mts.) Level: Leisurely Level: C-, 3.6 miles, 250 ft
Hike Leader: George Hammond, 579-3296 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 12:30pm
We'll start out on the west leg of this loop to enjoy the morning sun. This will be a relaxed paced hike allowing everyone to take breathers and enjoy the views. The hike begins at the new trailhead, follows Wild Burro, Lower Javelina, and Alamo Spring to make this a loop trail in a clockwise direction. We will get some nice views without too much climbing. Bring 2 liters of water, and energy snacks. No carpool fee.

Hike Rescheduled to Feb 28 from Feb 2

Tuesday February 28 Pontatoc Canyon Trail (Santa Catalina Mtns) Pace: Moderate Level: B+, 7.4 miles, 1,920ft
Hike Leader: John Skillicorn 320-282-8463 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 3:00pm
This hike takes us into Pontatoc Canyon on the front range of the Catalina Mountains. This time we will not go up the Pontatoc Ridge Trail to the old mine site. Instead we will go up the Pontatoc Canyon Trail leading to a high point for a good view of the natural canyon below. Bring water and lunch. \$3 per person carpool fee. (40 miles)

Tuesday February 28 "Celebrating the Completion of the Arizona Trail" Speaker: Sirena Dufault 6:30pm in the Ballroom
The Arizona Trail is now complete- an 817 mile continuous path from Mexico to Utah ready for hikers, bikers and equestrians. Join Sirena Dufault, Gateway Community Liaison for the Arizona Trail Association, as she shares photos and stories from the more recently constructed passages of the Arizona Trail. Sirena was here two years ago, and all enjoyed her presentation. We asked her to return with her new experiences. She will also be available to answer questions about planning your own Arizona Trail adventure!

Wednesday February 29 Alamo Spring and Wild Burro Trails Pace: Moderate Level: B, 7.5 miles, 1,500ft
Hike Leader: Carlene Rogers 579-2585 Depart: 8:00am Est. time of return: 1:30pm

We have an EXTRA day! It's LEAP DAY- Feb 29. For this nearby Wild Burro Canyon hike, we'll take the Alamo Spring trail to the spring, and back via the Wild Burro and the west leg of the Lower Javelina. Join us for some fresh air, good views, and some exercise. No carpool fee.