

February 2024 Hiking Schedule

Updates & changes in RED

NEW HIKES in GREEN

All hikes meet at the Welcome Center unless otherwise specified in the hike description.
Carpools can be arranged when the group meets at Welcome Center.

CANCELLED. Thursday, February 1, 2024 Wildflower Ridge Sweetwater Preserve [D+/4mi/400'/\$4/8:30am] This is NOT the WW Treatment Plant! Meet to carpool and hike this Pima County Park through saguaros/desert landscape with occasional suburban views. Hike Roller Coaster up to Wildflower Ridge, Spine, down Ocotillo Hill to Homestead, Lost Arrow, and Saguaro Vista trails back to cars. In February it will probably be too early yet for flowers! Georgene Porter, gvporter@live.com.

NEW HIKE. Thursday, February 1, 2024 Javalina/Lower Javalina Loop [C+/6mi/900'/\$3/8am] Park at Dove Mt. Trailhead and take Street Southwest to Upper Javalina Trail and take west 1/2 of Lower Javalina trail. Complete lower Javalina loop and return to vehicles via Wild Burro trail. Max Haegele, 43avocet@gmail.com.

Friday, February 2, 2024 Owl Head Buttes Foothills [C/7mi/600'/\$5/7:30am] Owl Head Buttes are at the north end of the Tortolita Mountains. We drive 4.8 miles on E Park Link Dr off Hwy 79, on a dirt road next to a windmill and corral on State Trust land. Hike 3 miles south on jeep roads to foot of the buttes. Good views of saguaro forest and the buttes. Return via same route. Sigrid and Dave Flatness, sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 3, 2024 Tortolita Flats Stroll [D/4mi/<200'/\$0/9am] Meet at Desert Oasis. Enter trail at Summerstar. We will stroll the bike paths/route to be determined. Hike on State Trust Land. Deb Wehrung, debwehrung@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 3, 2024 Honeybee Loop [C/7mi/400'/\$0/8am] Meet at Desert Oasis. Hike a series of trails leading to a windmill in the upper reaches of Honeybee Canyon. We return via different trails making it a loop. Bring a snack. Hike is on State Trust land. Tom Meyer, tmeyer80@msn.com.

Monday, February 5, 2024 Pontatoc Ridge [C+/5mi/1500'/\$3/7:30am] Meet at Welcome Center to caravan to parking lot on left side at the end of Alvernon Way. Hike up to end of trail and return. Good views of Tucson and Finger Rock. Steep for the last mile. LIMIT 8 for limited space at top. Phil Weinberg, phweinb@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 50 Year Trail [D/4mi/400'/\$2/8am] Meet at the Equestrian Parking Lot CSP at 8AM. Hike from the parking lot about 2 miles along the 50 Year Trail and return same way. Al Schmidt, alschmidt45@gmail.com.

RESCHEDULED to Friday, 2/16. ~~Tuesday, February 6, 2024 Oracle Ridge~~

~~[C/7mi/1350'/\$5/7:30am]~~ We will drive to American Flag Ranch (4600') in Oracle, about a 35-minute drive from SCOV. Take Cody Trail portion of Arizona Trail up to Oracle Ridge, passing High Jinks Ranch and moving with significant elevation gain from grasslands with agave and manzanita to oak woodland. At the ridge, we'll have a snack and look down on Biosphere 2. On the return by the same trail, we'll have great views of the San Pedro River Valley and Galiuro Mountains. Limit 12 hikers. Meg Gerken, meg_stuff3@icloud.com.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 Rock Wren, Little Cat Starr Pass Loop [C/8mi/1000'/\$4/8am]

Carpool to Richard Genser/JW Marriot Starr Pass Resort Trailhead. Walk a combination loop of trails with desert and mountain scenery (Rock Wren, Little Cat, Explorer, Starr Pass) to eat snack at "old car in ground" in Tucson Mountain Park. Georgene Porter, gvporter@live.com.

RESCHEDULED TO 2/21. ~~Wednesday, February 7, 2024 Exploratory Birding Trail over to~~

~~Alamo Canyon [C/5mi/400'/\$2/8am]~~ Meet at the Romero Ruins parking lot in CSP. Park pass or entrance fee required. Take a path along the Montrose Wash over to the Birding trail. Head up toward the northeast side of Alamo Canyon. There could be some bush whacking to get over to the designated trail. Then we'll head up to the flat rocks. Take a short snack break and head back the northeast side. Ken Percival, Knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com

RESCHEDULED TO 2/10. Thursday, February 8, 2024 50 YR trail area loop

[C/6mi/300'/\$2/8am] Meet at corral of end of Golder Ranch Rd at 8AM. Hike NE along 50 trail to Middlegate, thence south along the Sutherland wash to jeep trail, then a 2 mile seldom hiked loop south and return to corral. Hike is on State Trust Land. Jack Evert, jackevert439@gmail.com.

Friday, February 9, 2024 Gardner Canyon [B/14mi/1000'/\$10/6:30am]

Hike South on AZ Trail for 7 miles to Bear Springs through extensive oak forest with wonderful vista to the East and good looks of the back side of Mt. Wrightson. Limit 10 hikers. Dennis Potter, potterdennis49@gmail.com or 253-722-4296.

Friday, February 9, 2024 Dripping Springs [C-/5mi/500'/\$2/9am]

Meet at main trailhead in Catalina State Park. Park pass or entrance fee required. Take Canyon Loop Trail to Sutherland Trail. At the 2nd bench we hike to Dripping Springs. We'll take a short break, hike to the Green Rock overlook, and return the same way. Jorgy Jorgenson, launiebob@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 10, 2024 50 YR trail area loop [C/6mi/300'/\$2/8am] Meet at corral of end of Golder Ranch Rd at 8AM. Hike NE along 50 trail to Middlegate, thence south along the Sutherland wash to jeep trail, then a 2 mile seldom hiked loop south and return to corral. Hike is on State Trust Land. Jack Evert, jackevert439@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 10, 2024 Upper Javalina/Cochie Trail [B+/10mi/1500'/\$3/8am] We drive to Dove Mt. trailhead. Then take cutoff to Upper Javalina trail/WildMustang to Cochie trail. Follow Cochie trail to windmill and return by same route. Laurie Payne, PinkLaurie360@gmail.com.

HIKE IS FULL. Tuesday, February 13, 2024 B Hike at Slower C Pace! Wasson Peak via Esperanza Trail [B/8mi/1800'/\$6/8am] Carpool to Saguaro National Park West in the Tucson Mountains and park at trailhead on Golden Gate Road, hike up Esperanza Trail to Hugh Norris Trail, to the highest peak in the Tucson Mountains for lunch and return. Spectacular views. Georgene Porter, _gvporter@live.com.

HIKE IS FULL. Tuesday, February 13, 2024 Univ. of AZ History Hike [D/3mi/50'/\$6/8:30am] Meet at U of A (directions to follow), walk the grounds, and hear about UA's history and buildings. Limit: 15. Jim Williams. jaswilliams128@msn.com.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 Picacho Peak [B/6mi/2100'/\$8/7:30am] Carpool 37 mi to the trailhead. The route is steep and twisting with steel cables anchored in the rock where the surface is bare. Gloves are strongly recommended. A difficult but rewarding hike. Jake O'Neill, jakemponeill@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 New Member Orientation (D/3 mi/350'/\$2/8 am) Reservation required. This is a prerequisite hike for joining the SCOV Hiking Club. This hike meets behind the SCOV Welcome Center in the parking lot. Cary and I will give a bit of information about our club. We will then drive to Catalina State Park Equestrian Center. We will hike 1-1/2 miles up the 50 Year Trail and return. A State Parks pass is required or a \$7 entry fee at the gate. Bring sufficient water, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots; if you use walking poles bring them, as well as a good sun hat. Please contact Gayle Franklin at cactigal50@gmail.com. or Cary Roper at carybayley@gmail.com.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 It's Coffee Time Hike [D/4mi/50'/\$0/9am] Meet in Oro Valley Hospital front parking lot. The hike will follow a paved bicycle path to the coffee shop located in the Encantada apartment complex. Outdoor seating is usually available. The hike is limited to 10. Judith Maisch, jam4930@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 Dripping Springs Ramble [C/4+mi/500'/\$2/8am] Meet at the main trailhead in CSP. Park Pass or entrance fee required. Hike up the Nature Trail on Canyon loop, cut across plateau to Sutherland Wash cross over up to Sutherland Trail. Head up to 2nd

bench then over to Dripping Springs. There should be some water up there! Return on Sutherland trail. Enjoy a "sweet treat" after our hike!
Ken Percival, Knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 15, 2024 Tortolita Loop [C/6mi/300'/\$0/8am] Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot, hike Summerstar trail to bicycle trails in Tortolita flats and foothills, pass mysterious concrete triangular pillar on return. This hike is on State Trust land. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 15, 2024 Alamo Canyon Loop [D/4mi/300'/\$2/8am] Meet at Romero Ruins Parking Lot CSP 8AM. Hike the trail to the canyon precipice and cross over to south side. Continue east to flat rock amphitheater area with seasonal water. Return via south side route. Several short but moderately steep, rocky sections. Hiking poles suggested. Park pass or entrance fee required. Al Schmidt, alschmidt45@gmail.com.

ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR 2/6. Friday, February 16, 2024 Oracle Ridge [C+/7mi/1350'/\$5/7:30am] We will drive to American Flag Ranch (4600') in Oracle, about a 35-minute drive from SCOV. Take Cody Trail portion of Arizona Trail up to Oracle Ridge, passing High Jinks Ranch and moving with significant elevation gain from grasslands with agave and manzanita to oak woodland. At the ridge, we'll have a snack and look down on Biosphere 2. On the return by the same trail, we'll have great views of the San Pedro River Valley and Galiuro Mountains. Limit 12 hikers. Meg Gerken, meg_stuff3@icloud.com.

Friday, February 16, 2024 Jeffords Peak [B/7mi/1700'/\$3/7:30am] High point of the Tortolita Mountains. Park on Rail - X Ranch Road at mine gate, hike a jeep road to saddle and down to Wild Burro Canyon. Lots of tough bushwhacking up the canyon, and up ridges to the highest point in the range, a 4696' peak with 360 degree views. Return via the same route. Long pants, sleeves, gloves, and hiking sticks desirable. This hike is on State Trust Land. Doug Higgins, dahiggins@comcast.net.

Friday, February 16, 2024 Honey Bee Meadow/Tortolita Flats [D/4mi/200'/\$0/8am] Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot. Hike from there out to the Flats on dirt trails to a loop and back. Pretty desert hike and mountain views, Hike is on State Trust Land. David and Sigrid Flatness, sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 17, 2024 Terrenate presidio/Fairbank ghost town [C/5mi/300'/\$14/7am] Travel to Terrenate trailhead about 30 miles SE of Benson. Terrenate was one of the six northern-most Spanish presidios including those at Tucson and Tubac. The remaining ruins overlook the San Pedro River and are well placarded by the BLM. We will hike a couple miles to the presidio, explore the ruins, then drop down into the river valley, visit mining relics, and hike trails to a partially restored ghost town with a fun history. There will be a water crossing with water potentially knee deep. Come prepared; we will be crossing. We will drop a car at Fairbank to get back to our cars at the trailhead (there will be about a 20 minute wait at

each end). We will return to Oro Valley late afternoon. Due to the long distance, we will be car pooling. Jack Evert, jackevert439@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 18, 2024 Lower Javalina Loop/Sunset Flute Serenade [C/4mi/600'/\$3/2pm]

Drive to Dove Mt. Trailhead, hike up Wild Burro Canyon Trail to Lower Javalina Trail. This is a short, but challenging C hike. We will take our time circling Wild Burro Canyon on both sides and return, finishing half an hour before sunset. We will stay for the sunset flute serenade at the Ritz and enjoy a beverage before returning. Doug Higgins dahiggins@comcast.net.

Monday, February 19, 2024 Ridgeline/Wild Burro Key Exchange [B/11mi/up-1500' down - 500'/\$3/8am]

This hike is a key exchange between groups hiking from Rail-X Road and Dove Mountain Trailhead, using the Wild Burro Trail and Ridgeline Trail. The key exchange will occur midway in the hike. Tom Meyer Eastbound/Max Haegele Westbound. Part of this hike is on State Trust land. Max Haegele, 43avocet@gmail.com.

Monday, February 19, 2024 Lost Coyote and Honey Bee Canyon Loop [C/5mi/380'/\$0/8am]

Meet at Mountain View Plaza parking lot (across from Copper Center). Take Lost Coyote (Powerline) trail South to newer subdivision, then an Oro Valley trail to the Southern border of Honey Bee Canyon Park. Follow Honey Bee Canyon trail to restrooms and picnic area, then South through dam and return on Lost Coyote trail. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 Desert Oasis to Catalina Vista [D/4mi/200'/\$0/8am]

Meet at Desert Oasis. Hike up Chalk Creek to the main bike trail, thence down to Big Wash to Catalina Vista. Jack Evert, jackevert439@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 Sutherland Trail [C-/5mi/700'/\$0/9am]

Meet at the main trailhead at Catalina State Park. Park pass or entrance fee required. Hike the Canyon Loop Trail to Sutherland Trail. Stop at lunch rocks for a break and return the same way. Jorgy Jorgenson, launiebob@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 Panther Peak [B/5mi/1125'/\$3/7:30am]

This hike is a hidden gem in Saguaro Park West. Steep social trails with intermittent bushwacking up a ravine lead to a saddle which has a huge boulder field you can explore. Then it is straight up a trail to the peak. Return same route. [See picture](#). Tom Meyer, tmeyer80@msn.com.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 Exploratory Birding Trail over to Alamo Canyon [C

/5mi/400'/\$2/8am] Meet at the Romero Ruins parking lot in CSP. Park pass or entrance fee required. Take a path along the Montrose Wash over to the Birding trail. Head up toward the northeast side of Alamo Canyon. There could be some bush whacking to get over to the designated trail. Then we'll head up to the flat rocks. Take a short snack break and head back the northeast side. Ken Percival, Knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com

Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Dripping Springs [C-/5mi/500'/\$2/8am] Meet at the Main Trailhead CSP 8AM Hike the Sutherland Trail to Dripping Spring trail spur and proceed east toward Green Rock about 2miles. Park pass or entrance fee required. Return same way. Al Schmidt, alschmidt45@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 22, 2024 Vistoso Trails Natural Preserve [D/3mi/200'/\$0/9 am] Three mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Natural Preserve. A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course. Beautiful mountain views and opportunities to view wildlife. Kevin Kopp, kkopp.eyes@comcast.net.

Thursday, February 22, 2024 Phonline Trail Out and Back [B/10mi/1400'/\$4/8am] Hike up to Phonline Trail in Sabino Canyon, which parallels tram road with outstanding views of canyon, follow it to tram stop 9, and return. Laurie Payne, PinkLaurie360@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 22, 2024 Amerind Trails Texas Canyon [C/6mi/600'/\$12/8:30am] Hike in the unique geology of Texas Canyon near the Dragoon Mountains. We drive to the Amerind Museum (exit 318, Dragoon Rd) on private property. Trail fee is \$10 for 62+. Bring lunch as we'll eat on the trail. Return to SCOV in the afternoon or visit Whitewater Draw (sandhill cranes) in the late afternoon, stay in Willcox and join Fort Bowie hike the next day. Doug Higgins, dahiggins@comcast.net.

NEW HIKE. Friday, February 23, 2024 Breakfast Walk [D/3mi/>50'/\$0/8am] Meet in front of Walmart at the Market Place and walk the loop trail to Denny's for breakfast. Return on same loop trail. Bob and Leslie Esparza (520) 825-8271, rlsuncity@yahoo.com.

Friday, February 23, 2024 Fort Bowie National Historic Site [C/5-6mi/600'/\$14/7am] SCOV day hike leaves Welcome Center at 7 am. and will meet overnight hikers in Willcox at approximately 8:30 am. Hikers then will drive I-10 east to Exit 362. Drive south on Apache Pass Road to trailhead. Hike the Overlook Trail to Fort Bowie and return to cars via the Apache Spring Trail. This area has much interesting history and geology, so this outing will be a tour as much as a hike. Bring a lunch as we will eat on the trail. Doug Higgins, dahiggins@comcast.net.

Friday, February 23, 2024 High Jinks Ranch [C/4mi/800'/\$5/7:30am] Hike from American Flag trailhead in Oracle, south on Arizona Trail to High Jinks Ranch house. Be aware of the elevation even though it is only 4 miles. Previously owned by Buffalo Bill Cody and is a national Historic Site. Sigrid and Dave Flatness, sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com.

Friday, February 23, 2024 Thursday, February 22, 2024 Bridal Veil Falls via Esperero Trail [B/13mi/2500'/\$4/7am] Hike 0.7 mi. up paved road to trailhead, and begin climb (steeply in places), past Cardiac Gap and Geronimo Meadow to Bridal Veil Falls and return. Dennis Potter, pottedennis49@gmail.com. or 253-722-4296.

Saturday, February 24, 2024 Tortolita Loop [D/4mi/200'/\$0/8am] Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot, hike Summerstar trail to bicycle trails in Tortolita flats toward the phone line. Loop

back east on bike trails and return. This hike is on State Trust Land . Ken Percival, knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com.

Monday, February 26, 2024 Full Moon Golf Course Hike [D/3+mi/100'/\$0/6:15pm] Meet between the golfpro shop and the Views Restaurant. We will walk one of the nine-hole courses under the full moon. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Flashlights are recommended. Limited to 15 hikers. JudyMaisch, jam4930@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 Spring Picnic, Catalina State Park, Flycatcher area, 11:30am

HIKE IS FULL. Tuesday, February 27, 2024 Hole in the Rock [D/4mi/350'/\$2/9am] Meet at CSP Flycatcher Group Picnic area, or arrange your own carpool. Hike from picnic area on horse trails to the Hole in the Rock and back to the picnic area. Millie Sparling, milliesparling79@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 CSP Northwest Loop [C/8mi/700'/\$2/7am] Meet at Welcome Center. We will start on the 50 Year trail and then follow mostly "outer" trails in the northwest section of the park. This is a seldom hiked area of the park. We'll visit and snack at an old homestead. Bring plenty of fluids, snacks, and gear for any weather. We'll be back at the picnic grounds by 11:30am Doug Higgins, dahiggins@comcast.net.

NEW HIKE. Tuesday, February 27, 2024 Picnic Hike: Bridle Trail [D/3mi/50'/\$2/9am] Meet behind the Welcome Center at 9am. We will start the hike from Flycatcher picnic area at Catalina State Park, going to the equestrian center, back past the picnic area to the main trailhead, and then return to the picnic area for a total of 3 miles. Very little elevation gain. Bob and Leslie Esparza (520) 825-8271, rlsuncity@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 Linda Vista Outer Loop [D+++/3mi/400'/\$2/9am] Carpool or meet at Linda Vista trailhead. A loop hike on rocky hiking trails at foot of Pusch Ridge with views of Oro Valley. Don't let low mileage/elevation fool you! This hike involves climbing up and down large rocks for over half the loop! Go to picnic afterwards. Georgene Porter, gvporter@live.com.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 Canyon Loop/Birding Trail CSP [D/4mi/250'/\$2/9am] Meet at main trailhead or if you need a ride to CSP let us know. At CSP, we hike the Birding Trail and then the Canyon Loop Trail. Sigrid and Dave Flatness, sigrid.daveflatness@gmail.com.

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 Superstitions: Dutchman/Bluff Springs Loop [B/10mi/1600'/\$14/7am] This loop route skirts the base of the Superstition Mountains passing a variety of pleasant and, possibly, poppy/lupine-covered vistas across open desert country and then climbs over Miners Summit and drops back into the backcountry. From the Peralta trailhead, we follow the Dutchman trail passing beneath Miners Needle to Miners Canyon. We

meander up a rocky area to Miners Summit where we continue on the Dutchman trail and descend into a tributary of Bluff Spring Canyon. We then cross a wash [most probably dry] and meet the Bluff Spring trail. We follow the Bluff Spring trail past the Terrapin trail for the remainder of the rather steep downhill 2.3 miles back to the trailhead. Doug Higgins, dahiggins@comcast.net.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 Fifty-Year Trail "In and out" [C/6mi/600'/\$2/8am] An easy hike along an old jeep road leaving from the Equestrian Center to park gate and return. Jack Evert, jackevert439@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 New Member Orientation (D/3 mi/350'/\$2/8 am) Reservation required. This is a prerequisite hike for joining the SCOV Hiking Club. This hike meets behind the SCOV Welcome Center in the parking lot. Cary and I will give a bit of information about our club. We will then drive to Catalina State Park Equestrian Center. We will hike 1-1/2 miles up the 50 Year Trail and return. A State Parks pass is required or a \$7 entry fee at the gate. Bring sufficient water, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots; if you use walking poles bring them, as well as a good sun hat. Please contact Gayle Franklin at cactigal50@gmail.com. or Cary Roper at carybayley@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 Baby Jesus/CSP key exchange [B/9mi/1500'NB, 1000SB/\$2/8am] Meet behind Welcome Center. Start for SB is Golder Ranch Rd corrals. Start for NB is a route along Sutherland (CSP) cutoff to Baby Jesus. Indicate if you want northbound/Kurt Shulz or southbound/Max Haegele. Max Haegele, 43avocet@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 [C/6mi/700'/\$2/8am] Meet at the main trailhead in CSP. Hike Canyon Loop trail, to Sutherland Trail to the flat rocks in Cargondera Canyon, and have a short snack break. Return by the same route. Ken Percival, knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com