



Arizona Hiking & Travel Club

September 2017

Sunday, September 3 – East Clear Creek

RATING: A LENGTH: 10.4 M ELEV GAIN: Less than 1,000 ft PACE: Medium

LEADER: "Missed The Turn" Mark--mnashley@yahoo.com

"Why don't he write?" Back from my solo hiker summer hiatus, I am ready to keep my streak of zero-member hikes intact! This time I offer a hike along East Clear Creek from Jones Crossing. I could not complete the recon in part due to the absence of a clear trail at the start and a water obstacle and weather in early August. Therefore, though we should be past the monsoon on this weekend, bring an extra pair of shoes for water crossings if the level remains high. We might also do a bonus hike on the right rim for canyon views and a shot of a tree growing out of a rock! Contact the hike leader by 8:00 pm the Thursday before the hike to work out a meeting place and time. In addition to spare shoes or socks, pack at least 3 liters of water and clothing to match a September hike at 7,000+, involving water obstacles. In addition, if there is a forecast of storms in the high country, this hike might be scrubbed as the canyon walls here quickly get steep and high.

Wednesday, September 6 – General Membership Meeting (6:45 pm)

Location: Granite Reef Senior Center, located in Scottsdale on Granite Reef Road just north of McDowell Road.

The Superstition Area Land Trust. Come join us at our September General Membership Meeting, as we look forward to the cooler weather just around the corner and kick off a wonderful series of fall speaker programs. Mark your calendars now for this meeting and the happy hour to precede it.

The Superstition Area Land Trust is a very important player in conserving the natural Sonoran Desert open spaces throughout our beautiful Superstition wilderness. As our metropolitan area spreads and becomes more densely populated there is more pressure on these natural resources. Charles Goff, president of SALT, has been very involved with efforts to keep this precious area available for our enjoyment. Come to our September meeting and learn about

enjoying this area, how it is maintained and financed to remain viable, and how you may very well be able to help the cause.

You'll also hear details about the club's new Adopt-A-Trail project (Black Mesa Trail in the Superstitions), including specifics regarding our scheduled November trail maintenance day and related activities.

Wednesday, September 13 - Cats Peak Loop Hike (Usery Mountain Regional Park)

RATING: C LENGTH: 3.5 mi ELEV GAIN: ~600 ft PACE: Medium

LEADER: Jim D - hikingstickjim@yahoo.com

Meet at 6:30 am (depart 6:45) at the CVS Pharmacy on the NW corner of Brown & Ellsworth Roads in Mesa (exit off the 202 Freeway and drive east on Brown Road).

I can also meet you at the trailhead if you pay \$6 or have a County parks pass, but email me for trailhead parking directions. We'll hike on the Vista, Blevins, Cats Peak Pass, Cats Peak and the Pass Mountain Trails. This is an enjoyable desert hike with great views from the top of two small mountains. Most of the hike is on smooth and wide trails with the two mountain areas having the usual rocky conditions. Try it... you'll like it. Hiking time will be around 2 hours, allowing for a few breaks. Bring hat, water and sunscreen. Please check the website or email the leader in case the hike is canceled due to rain. Cost to non-members is \$5. Only guests, new members or hikers that plan to meet at the trailhead need to contact the hike leader prior to the event.

Saturday, September 15th to Friday, September 28th, 2017

Bike and Barge along the Danube

RATING: Moderate Activities: Bike Riding, sightseeing, eating, and having fun!

LEADERS: Bev 480 415-7147, blkoslow@yahoo.com and Ray

BikeBargeEurope@aol.com

Sept 15, 2017-Sept 23, 2017 Bike and Barge along the Danube

Sept 24, 2017-Sept 28, 2017 Sightsee in Berlin, Germany

The first portion of our trip is a 4 country self-guided bike ride along the Danube River - which is the most popular European bike and barge trip being offered by our outfitter. Our hotel and restaurant for 7 nights and 8 days is our barge called the MS Normandy. Our days will be spent riding on well-marked bike paths along the Danube River through Austria, Germany, Slovakia, and Hungary. The bike paths will take us past castles, Danube National Park, the Hungarian Danube Bend, and the capital cities of Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest. Along the way, we will stop to see some local sights, perhaps do a little shopping, grab a snack, etc. before meeting our barge in the late afternoon/evening where we can unwind and socialize with other passengers before retiring to our double occupancy cabins

on the barge. Where will we get our meals, you ask? The Barge is also our restaurant where we will get three great meals a day (breakfast and dinners will be served on the barge, and we will have sack lunches while riding).

After the bike and barge, we're off to Berlin for an additional 4 nights and 5 days sightseeing, bike riding, taking a river cruise, visiting museum island, Checkpoint Charlie, The Holocaust Museum., The Brandenburg Gate, etc. Meals for this portion of the trip are NOT included in the overall cost.

Cost for Bike and Barge = \$1975 double occupancy. (Single Supplements are available for an additional \$400) Cost for Berlin portion of the trip is \$527. Airfare to/from the United States is additional. You are welcome to join us on either portion of the trip, or the whole thing.

The bike and barge is currently full, buy please contact Bev to put your name on the waiting list as cancellations do happen.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, October 4 – General Membership Meeting (6:45 pm)

Location: Granite Reef Senior Center, located in Scottsdale on Granite Reef Road just north of McDowell Road.

Critters! FAUNA OF THE DESERT. Who doesn't enjoy observing wildlife, perhaps as long as it does not get too close. At our October meeting, a speaker from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy will present a program about our unique desert animals. Bring perfectly behaved children. Bring perfectly behaved grandchildren. We have plenty of seats.

Wednesday, November 1 – General Membership Meeting (6:45 pm)

Location: Granite Reef Senior Center, located in Scottsdale on Granite Reef Road just north of McDowell Road.

England's Coast-to-Coast Walk. Did you think that England was flat? That it rains all the time? Learn otherwise as AHTC members Cat Colby and Dan Rothman take you on a 195-mile hike (or "walk" as the English call it) across the country from the Irish Sea to the North Sea. The famous Wainright Coast to Coast Walk passes through beautiful mountain peaks and waters in the Lake District; rolling river valleys and farmlands in the Yorkshire Dales; and expansive heather plateaus and scenic woodlands in the North York Moors. Along the route, you'll see postcard villages, famous historic landmarks, farms with seemingly never-ending stone walls, and stunning landscapes throughout. Not to mention the dramatic coastal cliffs on the west (St. Bees) and east (Robin Hood's Bay) ends of

the journey. Cat and Dan will describe the hike itself, including preparation and provisions, as well as the logistics regarding travel, lodging and dining. Come and join us for a great combination of travel and trekking.

Saturday, October 28 – Ned Surratt Memorial Hike (Phoenix Mountain Preserve)

RATING: C+ LENGTH: 6.8 mi ELEV. GAIN: < 800 ft PACE: Medium
CO-LEADERS: Dan Rothman dwrr12@gmail.com 480-773-5197 and
Tom Prose tprose@cox.net 602-595-7868

Meet at 7:30 am (start hiking at 7:45) at the 40th Street Trailhead of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, located one mile south of Shea Boulevard at the end of 40th Street. Join us for this hike on trails where Ned spent countless hours. The trails pass through scenic Sonoran landscape in the middle of Phoenix, but with no signs of the City to detract from the views. We'll head out southward from the trailhead toward Piastawa Peak on the Yates Trail (#8), then complete a moderately paced, clockwise loop on Trail #304, the Perl Charles Trail (#1A), and the Charles Christensen Trail (#100). Bring plenty of water, snacks, and wear sturdy hiking boots. There will be no guest fee for this hike, so feel free to bring friends as we remember Ned in his "backyard."

Thursday, November 9, 2017 - Tour of Tovrea Castle at Carraro Heights

RATING: Fun

LEADER: Regina Marie Miskewitz 602-448-0684 regina_miskewitz@yahoo.com

Meet at Tovrea Castle Visitor Center/Gift Shop at 8:45 AM. Address: 5025 East Van Buren, Phoenix, Arizona 85008. There is good parking. Tour starts at 9 AM and will be ~ 2-hours.

COST: \$15.00 a person. Contact the leader to reserve a place on this tour (limited to 12 individuals, first-come basis.) Payment is due as you reserve your spot, make checks payable to AzOTC.

Due to popular demand (the February 9, 2017 filled-up almost immediately after it was announced) we have added another tour date for this historic site visit here in the valley.

Have you ever wondered about the wedding-cake-like structure one sees when driving along the 202?? Then join us for a tour of Tovrea Castle and Cactus Gardens and get a first-hand look at the Castle and surrounding Cactus Gardens and Outbuildings as we learn about this unique and historic Phoenix landmark. Tovrea Carraro Society Docents will guide us back in time as they introduce us to the three families that homesteaded the land, designed and constructed the Castle and Cactus Gardens, and made the Castle their home while sharing interesting, fact-filled stories about the property and its history. We are able to bring water on the tour as long as it is in a closed container. Photography is allowed; Flash photography is not permitted within the Castle.

For those interested, after the Tour, we will enjoy an early-lunch at Gertrude's at the Desert Botanical Garden.

There are 24 spots, so please reserve early!!

2017 AHTC Officers

President: **Mark Miller** 623-640-5375
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Vice President: **Cathy Schuyler** 480 984-4709
E-mail: cschuyler@q.com

Treasurer: **Felix Puskaritz** 480 981-3612
E-mail: felixpuskaritz@msn.com

Secretary: **Jeri Anderson**

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Don Mowry 480 209-7963
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E-mail: 2lucelatrek@gmail.com

Public Relations Committee Chairperson

Larry Ashcroft 602-789-9548
E-mail: ashcrofbks@yahoo.com

Activity Committee Chairperson

David Thompson 201-315-3530
E-mail: david@dlthompson.com

Coordinators

The following are Volunteer Activity Coordinators. Contact them if you need information or help arranging your activity. Please coordinate your activity schedule through the appropriate Volunteer Activity Coordinator.

Hiking: **Bonnie Tasch** 303 868-7360
E-mail: azcograygirl@gmail.com

Adopt-a-Highway: **Marilyn Schrab** 480 473-2565
E-mail: marilyn.redbird@gmail.com

Bicycling: **Karl Weinrich** 602 667-3243
E-mail: kfw300@gmail.com

Social: **TBD**

All activity write-ups MUST be submitted to the proper Activity Coordinator for review and approval before they are sanctioned events. Activities can be submitted to Activity Coordinators by e-mail. They are submitted to an Activity Coordinator, not to the Webmaster.

**Visit us on the web at
www.azotc.com**

Activity Rating Guide

AHTC activities are gauged by the following chart. Please consider the rating below and also the pace prior to signing up for an activity. "MEDIUM" (or unlisted) hikes have a pace of 2.0 - 2.5 mph. A "FAST" pace is greater than 2.5 mph. A "SLOW" pace is less than 2.0 mph.

Hike Ratings

Rating	Miles	Elevation Gain
A+	20+	4,000+ ft.
A	16-20	3,000-4,000 ft.
A-	14-16	2,500-3,500 ft.
B+	12-14	2,000-2,500 ft.
B	10-12	1,500-2,000 ft.
B-	8-10	1,100-1,500 ft.
C+	6- 8	800-1,100 ft.
C/D	2- 6	400-800 ft.

Bicycle Ride Ratings

- A** 30-50 miles on flat terrain or 20-35 miles with hills. Road may have heavy traffic.
- B** 15-30 miles on flat terrain or 10-20 miles with hills. Roads may have traffic.
- C** 10-15 miles on flat terrain, or 10 miles with hills. Quiet streets or bike paths.

Equipment for A & B rides consists of a lightweight bicycle with multiple gearing, water bottle, tire pump, extra tube, repair kit, helmet and riding gloves. We also suggest bike shorts. Riders will not be left by the wayside, but are expected to be self-sufficient. A buddy system is in effect for the last two riders. Equipment for C rides consists of a bicycle in good, safe repair, water bottle, tire pump, extra tube, repair kit, and helmet. C rides will have a leader and a "sweep".

Members, please pay attention to the activity rating given a hike or bike ride. The ratings were designed to give participants an indication of the difficulty of an activity in advance. Some hikes and bike rides sponsored by AHTC are arduous and can be dangerous for less experienced members. It is extremely important that members wear suggested clothing and carry required equipment (hiking boots, helmets, gloves, etc.). If you have any questions or doubts about the difficulty of the activity or your ability to participate safely, please contact the activity leader. We want everyone to have an enjoyable and safe time on AHTC sponsored activities.

Consumption of alcohol during an AHTC bike or hike activity is prohibited.

REMEMBER! A free membership can be earned by leading 8 activities per calendar year. Sign up 3 new members in a calendar year and earn a free AHTC tee-shirt.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – ARIZONA OUTDOOR AND TRAVEL CLUB

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

How did you find out about AHTC? _____

The annual membership fee is due on December 31st each year, good through December 31st the following year.

New Member

The prorated amounts listed below are for new members only

<u>Join Date</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>
Prior to 3/31	\$20.00	\$30.00
4/1 to 6/30	\$15.00	\$22.50
7/1 to 9/30	\$10.00	\$15.00
10/1 to 12/31	\$5.00	\$7.50

Renewal Member

Individual Membership — \$20/year Family Membership — \$30/year

Change of Address

I would like to lead/co-lead an activity: Yes

Interests: Hiking Biking Backpacking Camping Canoeing Travel 4x4

Other

I/We, intending to be legally-bound members of the Arizona Hiking & Travel Club™ (AHTC), do hereby, for myself, my family, and my heirs, release all rights and claims for personal injuries or damages I/we incur while participating in AHTC-sponsored activities.

Applicant: _____ Other family member: _____

Date: _____

Mail to: AHTC, PO Box 21951, Mesa, AZ 85277

Guest Policy

We welcome guests! Please give us a try! We encourage guests to participate in activities (rules and space permitting). Non-members are charged \$5 for all activities that are free to members. Selected activities are open to members only. For paid activities, non-members will be assessed an additional fee based on the cost of the activity. Guests must always call activity leader in advance, sign a liability release and be aware of the ACTIVITY RATING.