



# Arizona Hiking & Travel Club

**December 2017**

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## **Friday, December 1 - Dixie Mine to Prospector to Bell (McDowell Regional Park)**

RATING: B- LENGTH: 8 miles ELEV GAIN: 1,400 Ft PACE: Medium  
CO-LEADERS: Barbara Weist - [weistb@aol.com](mailto:weistb@aol.com) - [480-529-4142](tel:480-529-4142) and Dennis Weist - [dgweist@aol.com](mailto:dgweist@aol.com) - [480-251-5965](tel:480-251-5965)

Meet at 7:30 am (start 7:45) at the Dixie Mine Trailhead in Fountain Hills at the far west end of Golden Eagle Blvd. (14631 Golden Eagle Blvd.) The weather is perfect for a hike and you know you're soon going to eat too many Christmas cookies. This is an in-and-out hike to the Bell Pass Trail via Dixie Mine and Prospector trails. This is a lovely hike with no hard uphill grind - just short climbs with breathers in between. There are expansive views, always chances to see wildlife and if we have time, a short diversion to something special. Bring plenty of water and electrolytes or snacks. Washroom facilities and water are at the trailhead. Dogs must be leashed. A \$2 fee unless holding a Maricopa County Parks card.

## **Saturday, December 2- Skull Mesa (Cave Creek)**

Rating: A LENGTH: 12 miles ELVE GAIN: 2,800 ft PACE: Medium  
LEADERS: Mark Miller - [623-640-5375](tel:623-640-5375) - [markm50@yahoo.com](mailto:markm50@yahoo.com) and Won Fogel - 414-659-5196

Meet at Spur Cross Trailhead in Cave Creek. Please contact hike leader for start time. We will be hiking to Skull Mesa on a seldom used trail to get to the base of the Mesa and then we will take Skull Mesa Trail #248 to the top of the Mesa. There we will take a snack break and enjoy the views of Cave Creek, Black Mesa and Cone Mountain. We will return on Trail #248 to the Cottonwood Trail #247, to Cave Creek Trail #48 and to the original trailhead. We will stop at Harold's in Cave Creek for lunch and beverages after the hike. Directions to the trailhead: from Cave Creek Road in Cave Creek turn north on Spur Cross Road and go about 5 miles to the trailhead.

## **Monday, December 4 - Mondays in the McDowells Exercise Hike: Quartz Trail Loop**

*This month we'll be hiking in the Southern Region of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, from the Lost Dog Wash and Sunrise Trailheads, located north of Shea at 124<sup>th</sup> Street and 145<sup>th</sup> Way, respectively (go to [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org) for further directions). Note that our meeting times will be a little later (7:30 am) due to the shorter days.*

RATING: B LENGTH: 10.0 mi. ELEV. GAIN: 1,300 ft. PACE: Medium  
CO-LEADERS: Dan Rothman - [dwr12@gmail.com](mailto:dwr12@gmail.com) - 480-773-5197 and Mark Miller - [markm50@yahoo.com](mailto:markm50@yahoo.com) - 623-640-5375

Meet at 7:30 am (start 7:35) at the **LOST DOG WASH TRAILHEAD**, located at 12601 N. 124<sup>th</sup> Street, about a mile North of Shea (go to [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org) for further directions). This is a fairly flat and easy hike, so we'll maintain a pace or around 2.5 to 3.0 mph, slightly faster than normal Medium. The route will be an inverted lollipop that includes the Ringtail, Old Jeep, Lost Dog Wash and Quartz Trails. The Quartz Trail, which is less used than many in the McDowells, is named for the extensive quartz deposits that we'll see along the way. It dead-ends in a box canyon, which will be our turnaround point. On the way back, we'll make a brief stop at the Taliesin West Overlook, with views down to Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and still-active school of architecture. Bring plenty of water, snacks, electrolytes and wear sturdy hiking boots.

**Wednesday, December 6 – Quest for Unusual Saguaro Hike (North McDowell Sonoran Preserve)**

RATING: B- LENGTH: 8.6 mi ELEV GAIN: <500 ft PACE: Medium

LEADER: Grace Chen - [858-663-5173](tel:858-663-5173) - [chenia@aol.com](mailto:chenia@aol.com)

Meet at 8:00 am (start at 8:15) at the GRANITE MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD, located in Scottsdale on N 136<sup>th</sup> Street, 2 miles north of Dynamite/Rio Verde Road. Please contact the leader for alternate meeting location. Back by special request we will go back to the Coyote Canyon and Soapberry Wash area to see the crested and Michelin man saguaros. We might extend the hike to see other interesting rock formations if the group wishes. So - grab your camera, bring a snack and plenty of water. We will be back with plenty of time for you to attend the Membership Appreciation Dinner!!

**Wednesday, December 6, 2018 – Membership Appreciation Dinner (6:45 pm)**

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

**Membership Appreciation Dinner**

This event is currently full and reservations are no long being taken.

**Saturday, December 9 - San Tan Loop Hike**

Rating: B Length: 7.5 miles Elev Gain: 600 Ft Pace: Medium

Leader: Bev - [480 415-7147](tel:480-415-7147) - [blkoslow@yahoo.com](mailto:blkoslow@yahoo.com)

Meet on the SW corner of Baseline and Ellsworth Roads between Chase Bank and Wendy's at 7:15 am, depart at 7:30 am. We will carpool to the San Tan Mountains where we will do the longest hike in the park - The San Tan Trail! The terrain is mostly hard packed sand, with a few rocks scattered about. Along the way we will see what I think is the best crested Saguaro in the Phoenix area. The trail is wide and rolls up and down, although none of the 'ups' and 'downs' are that steep. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and salty snacks. Don't forget the sunscreen/hats as there isn't a lot of shade on the trail. There is a \$6 per car fee to enter the park.

**Monday, December 11 – Mondays in the McDowells Exercise Hike: Andrews-Kinsey Trail**

RATING: B+ LENGTH: 14.0 mi. ELEV. GAIN: 2400 ft. PACE: MEDIUM

CO-LEADERS: Dan Rothman - [dwr12@gmail.com](mailto:dwr12@gmail.com) - 480-773-5197 and

Mark Miller - [markm50@yahoo.com](mailto:markm50@yahoo.com) - 623-640-5375

Meet at 7:30 am (start 7:35) at the **LOST DOG WASH TRAILHEAD**, located at 12601 N. 124<sup>th</sup> Street, about a mile North of Shea (go to [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org) for further directions). Join us hiking the relatively new Andrews-Kinsey Trail, which connects the McDowell Sonoran and Fountain Hills Preserves. We'll leave from Lost Dog Wash

Trailhead and hike to the Sunrise Peak saddle, from where we'll connect to the A-K Trail and head off toward the West View Overlook in Fountain Hills. There are beautiful views along the way and at the Overlook of the McDowells, Four Peaks, Superstitions, Adero Canyon and Fountain Hills. The hike involves a lollipop loop, circling over and around the West View Overlook on the Western Loop and Promenade Trails. On the return, we'll take a short diversion on the north section of the Ringtail Trail. Those wishing to skip the loop and/or the diversion can make this into an easier 10-mile (1,800 foot EG) out-and-back hike. Bring plenty of water, snacks, electrolytes and wear sturdy hiking boots.

#### **Thursday, December 14 – Granite Mountain Hotshots State Park (Yarnell)**

Rating: B+ Length: 7.3 miles Elev Gain: 2,100 Ft Pace: Slow to Medium

Leader: Bud Tasch – [arizbunzer@msn.com](mailto:arizbunzer@msn.com)

Contact hike leader for meetup details. Retrace the steps of the 19 young men, as seen in the movie "Only The Brave", who faced-down a firestorm as they tried to save the town of Yarnell in Arizona's newest State Park to commemorate that fateful day in June 2013. The hike has no shade or much vegetation as it traverses a burn area. Nineteen granite placards line the route to memorialize each fallen firefighter. Say a prayer or otherwise pay your respects at their Alamo. We'll toast their memory afterwards at El Ranchero in Wickenburg. Because of limited trailhead parking, the group size is limited to 12 persons; so please RSVP to Bud at [arizbunzer@msn.com](mailto:arizbunzer@msn.com). Hike will be cancelled in case of rain.

#### **Thursday, December 14 – Happy Hour at Camelback Inn (Scottsdale)**

RATING: Fun and Delicious!! TIME: 4–7 pm HOSTESS: Grace Chen - [858-663-5173](tel:858-663-5173)

Let's welcome back the snowbirds and kick off another hiking season!! Come socialize with us at R Bar of Camelback Inn at [5402 East Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale](https://www.camelbackinn.com/locations/scottsdale). R Bar features handcrafted cocktails, house-made infusions and Camelback Inn's signature margaritas. We will delight in the spirit of the Southwest, enjoy a beautiful sunset and nightly live entertainment afterwards on the patio. The happy hour bites feature Salsa Tree & Guacamole, Chicken Quesadilla, Grilled Cheese, Hellfire Wings and Filet Sliders. Bring your friends! Come one, come all. Non-hikers are very welcome!!

#### **Friday, December 15 – Lost Goldmine Trail**

Rating: B- Length: 11.7 miles Elev Gain: 230 Ft Pace: Slow to Medium

Leader: Catherine Schuyler - 480-984-4709 - [cschuyler@q.com](mailto:cschuyler@q.com)

Meet at the Burger King, 10025 E. Southern Avenue at Crimson Road at 8:00 am (start 8:15). The Lost Goldmine Trail runs 5.85 miles east from the *Hieroglyphics - Lost Goldmine Trailhead* in Gold Canyon to Peralta Road. It passes through a rolling bajada in Barkley Basin on the southwest edge of the Superstition Wilderness. Hat, sunscreen, snacks, poles and water for your needs. This is a very scenic hike. There is a lot of cactus. Non-members, please call the hike leader.

#### **Saturday, December 16 – Weaver's Needle Loop Hike (Superstitions)**

RATING: B+ LENGTH: 12.5 mi ELEV GAIN: ~2,500 ft PACE: Medium

LEADER: Don Mowry - [dgmowry@gmail.com](mailto:dgmowry@gmail.com) - [480-209-7963](tel:480-209-7963)

Meet at 6:45 am (depart at 7:00 am) at the Holiday Inn on the SW corner of Country Club and US 60. This hike offers great views of Weaver's Needle from all directions. We'll hike counterclockwise up the Bluff Springs Trail and connect with the Terrapin Trail. There are two good climbs: Bluff Springs and up the Peralta at the Dutchman crossover. Wear zip-off long pants due to some cat's claw bushes on the Terrapin Trail. Bring 3-4 liters of water, electrolytes and food. No dogs or children please. Bring raingear. Non-members - please call the leader before the hike.

**Monday, December 18 – Mondays in the McDowells Exercise Hike: Sunrise/136<sup>th</sup> Street Spur Trails**

RATING: B+    LENGTH: 6.6 mi.    ELEV. GAIN: 1300 ft.    PACE: MEDIUM

CO-LEADERS: Dan Rothman - [dwrr12@gmail.com](mailto:dwrr12@gmail.com) - 480-773-5197 and

Mark Miller - [markm50@yahoo.com](mailto:markm50@yahoo.com) - 623-640-5375

Meet at 7:30 am (start 7:35) at the **SUNRISE TRAILHEAD**, 12101 n. 145<sup>TH</sup> WAY, located at the east end of Via Linda Road (go to [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org) for further directions). We'll climb the east end of the Sunrise Trail to Sunrise Peak, from where there are beautiful views of the McDowell Mountains, Four Peaks, and most of the Valley. We'll then begin our descent on the west end of the Sunrise Trail, but cut off on the seldom used 136<sup>th</sup> Street Spur Trail. The 1.6-mile descent on this trail is steep and rocky with a few sections of scrambling, which is why the hike is rated more difficult than its mileage or elevation gain would suggest. At the bottom, we'll have a walk on sidewalks of about 1.5 miles along Via Linda Road back to the trailhead. Bring plenty of water, snacks, electrolytes and wear sturdy hiking boots.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018 – General Membership Meeting (6:45 pm)**

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

**Danube River Bike & Barge Trip**

What path does the Danube River follow through Europe? And what are the major cities and sights a person can see while following the River - by bike?! Join long-time AHTC member Bev Koslow as she takes you on a virtual tour down the Danube from Passau to Budapest. See what 16 club members experienced in September 2017 as they pedaled through Germany, Austria, Hungary and Slovakia along the Danube. Enjoy the ride through capital cities, quaint villages, wineries, castles, abbeys, Cold War memorials, etc. Finally, top the trip off with Oktoberfest in Munich -- what a party!!! If you are looking for something special to do for your next adventure, or want to know what AHTC trips are like, join Bev as she recaps this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

## 2017 AHTC Officers

President: **Mark Miller** 623-640-5375  
E-mail: markm50@yahoo.com

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**

### Member Representatives

**Mark Ashley** 480 661-5963  
E-mail: mnashley@yahoo.com

**Don Mowry** 480 209-7963  
E-mail: dgmowry@gmail.com

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

### Past President

**Dan Rothman** 480-991-1647  
Email: dwrr12@gmail.com

### Webmaster

**Greg Cravener** 480 797-2450  
E-mail: gcravener@gmail.com

### Database Administrator

**Don Mowry** 480 209-7963  
E-mail: dgmowry@gmail.com

### Membership Meeting Program Director

**Diane Luce** 602-321-3836  
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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> each year, good through December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.