



Arizona Hiking & Travel Club

February 2018

Thursday, February 1 – Martinez/Box Canyon – Florence

RATING: B- LENGTH: 8.0 mi ELEV GAIN: 1,100 ft PACE: Medium

Leader: Bud Tasch – arizbunzer@msn.com - 303-868-0216

Meet at 7:30 (depart at 7:45) at the Burger King on Power Road just south of Highway 60. This trail follows ATV and rugged jeep roads through a beautiful and narrow canyon with lichen-covered cliffs. In places the canyon narrows to 15 feet. Eventually, the route climbs to a higher ridge with views of Martinez and Box Canyons. ATV traffic should be minimal on a weekday. High-clearance vehicles are needed to access the trailhead.

Monday, February 5 - Mondays in the McDowells Exercise Hike- WestWorld Trail

This month we'll be hiking trails in Southern Region of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, starting from four different trailheads: WestWorld, Gateway, Tom's Thumb and Golden Eagle (in Fountain Hills). The hikes will range from easy to very difficult and the pace will vary accordingly.

RATING: B LENGTH: 11.0 mi ELEV GAIN: 600 ft PACE: Fast (2.5-3.0 mph)

CO-LEADERS: Dan Rothman - dwrr12@gmail.com - 480-773-5197 and Mark Miller - Mark Miller - markm50@yahoo.com - 623-640-5375

Meet at 7:30 am (start 7:35) at the **WESTWORLD TRAILHEAD**, located at 15939 N. 98th Street, at the intersection of 98th Street and McDowell Mountain Ranch Road (go to www.scottsdaleaz.gov/preserve) for further directions). This relatively flat and generally urban hike will take us from WestWorld to the end of the WestWorld Trail, near Cactus Road. The elevation gain will come on the way back, where we'll take a loop on the Taliesin and Quartz Trails. The pace will be brisk, but the trails are flat and generally smooth. Bring plenty of water, snacks, electrolytes and wear sturdy hiking boots.

Wednesday, February 7 – Massacre Grounds – Superstitions

RATING: C+ LENGTH: 5.4 mi ELEV GAIN: 1,100 ft PACE: Medium

LEADER: Jim D – hikingstickjim@yahoo.com

Meet at 9:30 am (depart at 9:45) at the Burger King, just south of US 60 at the NE corner of Power Road and Superstition Springs Blvd. OR meet us at the

Crosscut Trailhead no later than 10:15 am. The signed Crosscut TH is a half mile down First Water Road off Highway 88. The hike ends atop a cliff overlooking Massacre Grounds, the site where according to legend, Apache warriors slaughtered a party of Mexican miners. From there, we will have great views of the Superstitions, Goldfield Mountains, Four Peaks, Weaver's Needle, bizarre rock formations and towering hoodoos. Expect around 3.5 hours, which will include time for a snack. Bring water and sunscreen. Cost to non-members is \$5. Guests and new members should contact the hike leader prior to the hike.

Wednesday, February 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.

All About Desert Edibles

How have people in the desert survived off the land for thousands of years? Which desert plants are edible and when are they edible? Can you get water from a cactus? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this informative presentation by Ranger B from Utery Mountain Regional Park.

Monday, February 12 - Mondays in the McDowells Exercise Hike - Gateway Trails

RATING: B- LENGTH: 8.6 mi ELEV GAIN: 750 ft PACE: Medium (2.5 mph)
CO-LEADERS: Dan Rothman - dwrr12@gmail.com - 480-773-5197 and Mark Miller - markm50@yahoo.com - 623-640-5375

Meet at 7:30 am (start 7:35) at the **GATEWAY TRAILHEAD**, located at 18333 N. Thompson Peak Road (go to www.scottsdaleaz.gov/preserve) for further directions). This is a good hike for beginners and intermediate hikers. The hike itself is easy, fairly flat and moderately paced, and we'll always be within a couple miles of our trailhead. Nevertheless, the desert scenery is great and we may get lucky and see some wildflowers. We'll be exploring a number of the short trails located near the Gateway Trailhead itself, including the Bajada Nature Trail, Saguaro Loop Trail, Paradise Trail, Levee Trail, Crossover Trail, 104th Street Trail and Equestrian Bypass Trail. It's still the desert, though, so bring plenty of water, snacks, electrolytes and wear sturdy hiking boots.

Thursday, February 15 – Yetman Trail – Tucson (car shuttle)

RATING: B- LENGTH: 8 mi ELEV GAIN: 1,200 ft PACE: Medium
Leader: Bud Tasch – arizbunzer@msn.com – 303-868-0216

Meet at 8:00 (leave 8:15) at the south end of the Kohl's parking lot on the NE corner of Arizona Avenue and Willis in Chandler (just south of the Arizona Avenue exit off the **SOUTH 202** freeway (San Tan Freeway)). This hike in the Tucson Mountain Park, which involves a short car shuttle, starts below Gates Pass and finishes at Gates Pass. We will start at the Camino de Oeste trailhead, passing the ruins of the 1930's Bowen Ranch. We will then take a side trail to an overlook of Cat Mountain, before continuing up to Gates Pass and views of Saguaro National

Park. There is an optional lunch stop at Bud's favorite Mexican restaurant, Nana's Kitchen in Marana.

Friday, February 16 - Goldfields Hike Near Saguaro Lake

RATING: C LENGTH: 4 mi ELEV GAIN: 550 ft PACE: Medium

LEADER: Jim D - hikingstickjim@yahoo.com

Meet at 10:00 am at the Water Users parking lot (east lot) on the Bush Highway. The west lot is where Salt River tubers are bussed, just below the Stewart Mountain Dam. Turn into this lot and make an immediate left to reach the meeting place. Email me if you need a photo drawing of the Water Users area. Display a Tonto pass or a National Park senior pass on your vehicle. This is a scenic lasso hike on unnamed trails and sandy washes. Views from the highest hill include Saguaro Lake, Four Peaks, the McDowells, the Superstitions and the surrounding Goldfields. Trail conditions range from sandy to sometimes rocky trails. Hiking time will be around 2.5 hours. Bring water and sunscreen. Hiking sticks would be helpful. Cost to non-members is \$5. Only guests and new members need to contact the hike leader prior to the hike.

Saturday, February 17 - Barnhardt Trail to Chilson Springs - Mazatzals

RATING: B+ LENGTH: 12.4 mi ELEV GAIN: 1,912 ft PACE: Medium

Leader: Grace Chen - [480-767-1727](tel:480-767-1727) - chenia@aol.com

Meet at Wendy's in Fountain Hills on Shea Blvd just west of Highway 87 at 7:00 am (depart at 7:15). We'll carpool to the Barnhardt Trailhead and head up Barnhardt Canyon. This is a "climber" but the beauty is worth it! We'll start in desert scrub but as we gain elevation, we'll encounter Ponderosas and small Oaks. At mile 2.5, we'll encounter a highlight of this hike - a small seasonal waterfall nestled in a grotto just off the trail. Hopefully we'll have rain by then and the waterfall will be gushing! We'll view some promontories and ledges on our way to over 6,200 ft. Last year at this time, the flowers were beautiful and prolific! If we are fortunate, we might find some strawberry claret cups blooming. We'll reach the Mazatzal Divide Trail at mile 5.5 miles and will descend to Chilson Springs where we'll have lunch, then return to the trailhead via the same route. Bring 2 - 3 liters of water, hiking poles, electrolytes, rain gear, high energy snacks and lunch. No dogs or children please. Cost to non-members is \$5.

Monday, February 19 - Mondays in the McDowells Exercise Hike - Thompson Peak

RATING: A- LENGTH: 14.5 mi ELEV GAIN: 2,500 ft PACE: Medium (2.5 mph)

CO-LEADERS: Dan Rothman - dwr12@gmail.com - 480-773-5197 and Mark Miller - markm50@yahoo.com - 623-640-5375

Call one of the leaders for the meeting time and to make sure this is the right hike for you. It's difficult but very rewarding. We'll meet at the **GOLDEN EAGLE TRAILHEAD IN FOUNTAIN HILLS**, located 3 miles north of Palisades Boulevard on East Golden Eagle Boulevard. (The trailhead parking lot is located at the entrance to a gated community on Golden Eagle. If you'd like to carpool to it from Route 101 and Shea Boulevard in Scottsdale, contact one of the leaders.) The hike begins in McDowell Mountain Regional Park in Fountain Hills and passes into the McDowell Sonoran Preserve in Scottsdale. We'll take a loop along the Dixie

Mine, Coachwhip, Windmill, Bell Pass and Prospector Trails before ascending to Thompson Peak on a very steep but very good trail, paved near the top. The views are great all along the way, and fantastic from the peak. Bring plenty of water, snacks, electrolytes and wear sturdy hiking boots.

Wednesday, February 21 - Bootlegger to So and No Diablo Trails (McDowell Sonoran Preserve)

RATING: B LENGTH: 11.4 mi ELEV GAIN: 200 ft PACE: Medium
CO-LEADERS: Dennis Weist - dqweist@aol.com - [480-251-5965](tel:480-251-5965) and Barbara Weist - weistb@aol.com - [480-529-4142](tel:480-529-4142)

Meet at 7:30 am (depart at 7:45) at the Granite Mountain Trailhead in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve at [31042 N. 136th St. Scottsdale](#), just north of Dynamite Road - [City of Scottsdale - Trailheads](#). We did this hike last June on a hot, sunny morning and we had a good turn-out and a great time and want to do this again in cooler temps. This gorgeous hike has stunning mountain views to the east and great rock formations along the hike and the best cactus display around; this trail just slides by. It is a lollipop hike through the Black Diamond bike trails on the North and South Diablo trails. These are easy for hikers but you can see why they warn those on bikes. Bring plenty of water, snacks, hat, etc. No water or toilets at trailhead.

Saturday, February 24 - Daisy Mountain - (near Anthem)

RATING: A- LENGTH: 10 mi ELEV GAIN: 2,700 ft PACE: Medium
CO-LEADERS Mark Miller - markm50@yahoo.com - [623-640-5375](tel:623-640-5375) and Won Fogel - wonita214@gmail.com - [414-659-5196](tel:414-659-5196)

Contact one of the hike leaders for meetup details. Driving north on I-17 past Anthem, Daisy Mountain appears as the tallest peak to the east. This is a seldom hiked trail by people of the valley. We will start at the trailhead at Anthem, proceed through several miles of gently and attractive Sonoran Desert landscape, then begin our ascent of the mountain. The climb is fun but challenging, especially considering that the trail builders did not believe in switchbacks. The views from the top of Daisy Mountain are great, with 360-degree views of the Superstitions and Goldfields to the southeast, Skull Mesa and Elephant Mountain in the Cave Creek wilderness and Phoenix to the south. From the top we'll continue along the ridgeline with even more great views of Anthem and New River before descending and re-ascending on a double lollipop loop.

Monday, February 26 - Mondays in the McDowells Exercise Hike - Lookout Trail

RATING: A- LENGTH: 9 mi ELEV GAIN: 1,200 ft PACE: Fast (2.5 – 3.0 mph)

CO-LEADERS: Dan Rothman - dwr12@gmail.com - 480-773-5197 and Mark Miller - markm50@yahoo.com - 623-640-5375

Meet at 7:30 am (start 7:35) at the Tom's Thumb Trailhead located at 23015 N. 128th Street (go to www.scottsdaleaz.gov/preserve) for further directions). The Lookout, located on a high ridge off the Tom's Thumb Trail, offers great and

unobstructed views across the McDowell Mountains, Verde River Valley and McDowell Mountain Regional Park. To get there, we'll first hike a few of the trails near the Tom's Thumb Trailhead, then ascend the Tom's Thumb Trail to the Lookout Trail. On the way down, we'll complete our last hikes from Tom's Thumb TH by covering a few of the short access trails near the parking area. Bring plenty of water, snacks, electrolytes and wear sturdy hiking boots.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday February 22 - AHTC Adopt-A-Trail Event

Rating: Varies but rewarding!

CO-LEADERS: Mark Miller - markm50@ [yahoo.com](mailto:markm50@yahoo.com), 623-640-5375 and Nancy Spence - nancyactpar@ [cox.net](mailto:nancyactpar@cox.net), 480-357-0996

Our segment: Black Mesa Trail in the Superstitions Mountains. The trail originates two miles from First Water Trail Head and extends for three miles. We will be rimming brush and cacti back from the trail using tools provided by the forest service. The event will start at 8:00AM at First Water Trail Head, where there will be an orientation and sign in. From there we will hike to the Black Mesa Trail where we trim the center section of the trail, then we will have trimmed the entire trail this hiking season. Bring and/or wear: long sleeve shirt, sturdy gloves and hat. Also bring 3 liters of water, snacks and a lunch to enjoy while working. We have had great success with hard working people. Join us for this opportunity of exercise, camaraderie, contributing and getting dirty while improving our own hiking trail.

Saturday, March 10 – Granite Mountain Hotshots State Park – Yarnell

RATING: B+ LENGTH: 7.3 mi ELEV GAIN: 2,100 ft PACE: Slow to Medium
Leader: Bud Tasch – arizbunzer@msn.com – 303-868-0216

Meet at 6:30 am (depart 6:45 am) at the I-17 and Bell Road Park-n-Ride. Retrace the steps of the brave 19 young men 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 at a local watering hole in Wickenburg afterwards. Limited to leader plus 11 due to limited parking at the trailhead. RSVP to Bud (info above). Hike will be cancelled in case of rain.

Thursday, March 22 – Parson Spring - Cottonwood

RATING: B- LENGTH: 8.0 mi ELEV GAIN: 800 ft PACE: Medium
Leader: Bud Tasch – arizbunzer@msn.com – 303-868-0216

This hike enters the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, following Sycamore Creek through a lush riparian habitat. Bring water shoes for 5 creek crossings which may be needed if higher than anticipated creek levels rule out rock-hopping. The trail ends at the springs, bubbling up from the stream bed. This hike will be

cancelled in case of rain. A high clearance vehicle may be needed to access the trailhead. Call for leader for meeting time and place.

June 19 – 27 HIKE THE DOLOMITES, ITALY!

Co-Leaders: Barbara: <mailto:weistb@aol.com>

Dennis: dgwest@aol.com

Travel Consultant/Member: Amy - a.wasserman@cruiseone.com

Have you been hearing about the Dolomites and eager to see them? June one of the driest months, would be a perfect time. The wildflowers should be in full bloom and the remaining snow only on the highest peaks.

After arriving in Venice, Italy we spend a night and in the morning, we are transported to the beautiful mountain town of La Valle, where we stay for 3 nights before transferring to the quaint town of Canazei for the remainder of our journey.

Each day will be private AHTC hikes, guided by locals, into the surrounding area of the famously dramatic Dolomites. Most days will offer hikes of varying distance/elevation gain and difficulties. There will be something for everybody! The most difficult hikes may range in distances of 7 to 10 miles past snow-capped jagged peaks, glacier lakes, small villages and farmland. **Note elevation clarification: Each day hikers have an opportunity to choose from an easier or more challenging hike. The elevations noted on the Website Trip Itinerary for each hike are a total of up and down for each day. Please contact a trip leader if you would like further clarification.** For anyone interested in just relaxing instead of a hike it will be easy to enjoy the local color of the towns; coffee shops, spa services, cable cars to ride and shopping. Or, take a short guided hike of a mile or 2 near town.

Inclusions are all breakfasts, transfers and most lunches and some dinners. Cost per person is \$2,351 double occupancy. Airfare to/from the US is not included.

The trip is limited to 14 AHTC members. Sign-ups will begin January 8 at 8:00am through January 31 by emailing Amy at a.wasserman@cruiseone.com. A \$500 deposit (via credit card) will be required at the time of sign up.

For more detailed information on hikes, FAQs, terms and conditions, inclusions/exclusions and the payment/cancellation terms, please go to; <https://tailormadeadventure.com/dolomites> . **PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION BEFORE SIGNING UP!** After you sign up, a copy of the cancellation terms will be emailed to you along with information on trip insurance.

Please don't hesitate to contact any co-leader with questions.

2018 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
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Membership Meeting Program Director

Diane Luce 602-321-3836
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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.