



Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Dove Mountain Hikers

Hikes Planned for February - April 2012

DISCLAIMER: Dove Mountain Hikers is a group of friends who hike together. There are no hiking leaders and all those who participate are responsible for determining that they are adequately prepared to engage in such activities and that they do so solely at their own risk.

***Unless otherwise noted, all hikes which use the TORTOLITA trails emanating from the Wild Burro Trailhead will meet there; all other hikes/events will meet at the Dove Mountain Park near the tennis courts. Please RSVP early for any hikes you have interest in ...**

DO NOT HIT REPLY TO INQUIRE ABOUT OR SIGN UP FOR A HIKE. FIND THE ADDRESS FOR THE HIKE CONTACT AND EMAIL THEM.

Tuesday, February 7

Ironwood Forest National Monument

Road Clean-Up near the base of the West Silverbell Mountains

Hike Contact Gary Borax 744-5991 gcborax@yahoo.com

Depart 7:00am, Return about 1:00

We will meet at Dove Mountain Park at 7:00am and carpool from there. The carpool fee will be \$5.00. We could use four high clearance vehicles one of which will be mine. Let me know if you are able to drive. We should be getting back to Dove Mountain about 1:00pm. Bring a light lunch and we will consume it before we return to Dove Mountain.

Tuesday, February 7

TOWN OF MARANA Hike

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, Jen Ward from Marana Parks and Recreation Department will lead a 45 minute interpretive hike in the Tortolitas. Meet at the Wild Burro Trailhead by the Ritz-Carlton ... time dictated by the rising of the sun ... call Parks and Recreation for more information ... 382-1950.

Bring water, hat and sturdy shoes. Call 382-1950 for sign-up and more information.

Thursday, February 9

Highest Peak overlooking Wild Mustang Trail and Cochie Canyon

Jed's Peak

Level A, 8 miles, 2000'

Hike Contact: Gary Borax gcborax@yahoo.com 744-5991

Depart DM Park at 8:00am Return: 2:00pm

This is a loop hike. We will hike north up the Wild Mustang Trail to the highest elevation along the Trail. From here we will follow Jed's Route up to the Peak. Ed, David and I marked Jed's Route with Cairns last Spring. It leads up to the Connector Saddle. On the trek up to the Saddle, we reach the base of Jed's Peak. On two occasions, I've climbed up to the Peak and it's not easy. However, after two treks up to the Peak, we've found a better route that's not as difficult. As we hike up to the peak for lunch, we will build a few more Cairns to better mark the Peak Route. On the way back, we will continue on up to the Connector Saddle and hike down to the lower north end of the Wild Mustang past Dan's Crest and back to the TH via the Wild Burro Trail.

Bring water, snacks and lunch.

Friday February 10

Catalina Mountains (Joint Hike with the Sunflower Hikers)

Horse Head Loop Level B Hike 6 to 8 miles, 1200'+ elevation gain

Hike Contact Gary Borax 744-5991 gcborax@yahoo.com

Depart 8:00am, Return 3:00pm

This is a joint hike with the Sunflower Hikers. The DM Hikers have never done this hike before, so we will be intermingled with Sunflower under the leadership of Phil Hoffman. The hike is in the rolling hills of the Catalina's near Milagrossa and Agua Caliente Canyons at the 3000' to 4000' elevation. Since this is a joint hike with SunFlower, we will be limited to 10 DM Hikers).

Parking for this loop hike is at the side of the road on Avenida de Suzenu near the Catalina Hwy (same parking area as the Milagrosa hike – the lower end). We will begin the hike by going up the Milagrosa Trail and then leave it, descending into the canyon (short and moderately steep), cross and have lunch. Afterward, we will ascend the opposite slope, but not to the top and follow the mostly downhill ridgeline back to the cars. With the rain we have had, there is a chance that we will have to step in water in the canyon, so you might want to bring something to dry your feet.

Saturday, February 11 THIS DATE CANCELLED. RE-SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 17

Ironwood National Monument (Silverbell Mountains)

Silverbell Peak Level, A Adventure hike, 6 to 8 miles, 2000+'

Hike Contact: Gary Borax gcborax@yahoo.com 744-5991

Depart: 8:00am Return: 5:00pm

This is another "Bucket List" Hike. I've never done this hike before. There are no established trails, the venture involves cross country route finding and plenty of bushwhacking. I need to do additional research on the hike. When we look directly west from Dove Mountain, Silverbell Peak is the tallest peak in the Ironwood National. The Monument shows off large stands of Ironwood Trees and healthy stands of other classic Sonoran vegetation, including saguaro and cholla cactus, palo verde trees, and much more.

Bring water, snacks and lunch. Carpool fee is \$8.00 which includes a car wash for the driver's car.

Saturday, February 11

TOWN OF MARANA --- WILD BURRO TRAILHEAD DEDICATION

Contact: Tom Ellis 382-1950

Wild Burro Trailhead by the Ritz-Carlton Resort --- Trailhead dedication at 10:00 am

Several hikes in the Tortolitas will be featured. Watch for more information Bring water, snacks, hat and sturdy shoes. Call 382-1950 for sign up.

Wednesday, February 15 THIS HIKE CANCELLED ... WATCH FOR RE-SCHEDULE IN THE FUTURE

Peralta Trail in the Superstition Mountains, Apache Junction

Level B. Moderate 5 mile round trip. Elevation 1366 ft.

Hike Contact: Ralph and Chris Reis (desertreis@gmail.com) 520-405-5430

Depart : 8:00am. Return sometime after dinner.

The Peralta Trail is perhaps the most popular trail in the Superstition Wilderness, the loop begins by following the Peralta Trail through a lush green valley. After about a half-mile, however, the trail leaves the valley and begins a steady climb into the surrounding cliffs. For two-miles the trail creeps slowly up the mountain until suddenly making a turn and opening to a magnificent view of Weaver's Needle. This is where we will take our lunch/snack and relax. A turn around back down the same trail to continue the trip, however for the more hardy folks amongst us, the Cave trail offers an alternative route back if interested. The Cave trail is easy at first but does approach a steep ridge that one has to descend back to the parking area. We would car pool from Dove Mountain to Apache Junction via Florence. On previous trips to this hike we have always stopped for dinner on the way home. Carpool Fee \$5.00

Friday, February 17 - Ironwood National Monument

"Friends of Ironwood Forest" along with the Unitarian Universalist Church of NW Tucson - volunteer opportunities on the Monument.

Hike Contact: Gary Borax gcborax@yahoo.com 744-5991

Saturday, February 18

Wasson Peak via the Sweetwater Trail, Level B, 8.8 miles, 1,887 feet.

Hike Contact: Jim Phillips, jphil514@earthlink.net, 579-0239

Depart from Dove Mountain Park at 8:00 am, return 3:00 pm.

Wasson Peak is the highest peak in the Tucson Mountains at 4,687' and affords great 360 degree views. The peak will be our lunch spot. We'll follow the Sweetwater Trail to the King's Canyon Trail. This section of King's Canyon is described as fairly steep. The last .3 mile will be on the Hugh Norris Trail. There should be some good photo ops at the top.

Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Carpool fee is \$3.00.

NOTE: ALL TORTOLITA TRAILS ARE CLOSED FROM 2/20 - 2/26

Tuesday, February 21 - Ironwood National Monument

Photo Tour - Wildlife of the Ironwood Forest National Monument

Presentation 7:00pm at the Heritage Highlands Clubhouse

Presented by Lahsha Brown (Executive Director of the Friends of Ironwood National Forest) and Young Cage (Dove Mountain Resident and nature photographer).

The Ironwood Forest National Monument lies on the western horizon as viewed from the HH Clubhouse. This pristine 129,000 acres of undisturbed Sonoran Desert has no facilities nor paved roads but offers hiking, birding, nature photography, and abundant wildlife. Join us for an overview of IFNM with excellent wildlife photography by Young Cage. The talk is sponsored by the Friends of Ironwood Forest (FIF), a group of local volunteers that works with the BLM to preserve and protect the natural and historical resources of the Monument. Admission is free but a tax deductible contribution to the Friends is appreciated.

Saturday, February 25

North end of Tucson Mountains

Bag Panther and Safford/Sombrero Peak on same hike

Level: A/Adventure hike, 5.5 miles, 2000'

Hike Contact: Gary Borax gcborax@yahoo.com 744-5991

Depart: 7:00am - Return: 4:00pm

Panther Peak and Safford Peak (some people call it Sombrero Peak) are clearly visible from Dove Mountain. The trek to each peak, hiked separately, is approximately 5.4 miles with a 2150+ feet elevation gain for Panther and 3.5 miles with a 1500 feet elevation gain for Safford. Much of the trek, on each hike, is off trail following routes with loose rock and in some instances requires climbing. On a number of occasions

Wednesday, March 14

Sendero Esperanza trail to Wasson Peak, possibly returning via the Hugh Norris trail with a short shuttle back to the Sendero Esperanza trailhead.

Level: B- (option 1); B (option 2)

Mileage: 8 (option 1); 10 (option 2)

Elevation gain: 1700' either way

Hike Contact: Kathy Church carpediemkath@yahoo.com

Meet at Dove Mountain Park at 8am Return by 2pm (Kathy will meet you at the trailhead).☺

The first part of the Sendero Esperanza trail is easy walking in soft sand with a slight incline, just enough to get us warmed up. After about thirty minutes we begin climbing well-maintained switchbacks to the top of a ridge where we'll join the Hugh Norris trail. We'll turn left on Hugh Norris and follow it east toward the summit of Wasson Peak. The climbing is gentle on a well-groomed trail with gradual switchbacks and built-in steps. Despite the mountain trickery of a false summit we'll finally reach the top of Wasson peak where the views of Tucson, Dove Mountain, and Marana are outstanding. Hopefully there will be wildflowers on view. After lunch at the summit we can return the way we came (option 1) along the Sendero Esperanza trail, or (option 2) we can descend six miles west on the Hugh Norris trail and shuttle ourselves back to the cars at the Sendero Esperanza TH, about a fifteen minute drive away. Kathy prefers option 2. Please indicate which option you prefer when you sign up for the hike, majority rules.

Saturday, March 17

Ironwood National Monument (Silverbell Mountains)

Silverbell Peak Level, A Adventure hike, 6 to 8 miles, 2000+'

Hike Contact: Gary Borax gcborax@yahoo.com 744-5991

Depart: 8:00am Return: 5:00pm

This is another "Bucket List" Hike. I've never done this hike before. There are no established trails, the venture involves cross country route finding and plenty of bushwhacking. I need to do additional research on the hike. When we look directly west from Dove Mountain, Silverbell Peak is the tallest peak in the Ironwood National. The Monument shows off large stands of Ironwood Trees and healthy stands of other classic Sonoran vegetation, including saguaro and cholla cactus, palo verde trees, and much more.

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Tuesday, March 20

TOWN OF MARANA Hike

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Monday, April 16 to Friday, April 20 New date

Backpacking the Grand Canyon

Hike Contact: Kathy Church carpediemkath@yahoo.com

This is a backpacking trip. I have two permits for three nights in the Grand Canyon and am looking for one person to share the adventure. We'll depart Marana on Monday, April 16th and stay at a hotel* on the South Rim. On Tuesday we'll descend the South Kaibab trail nine miles into the canyon and spend two nights at Bright Angel campground. Wednesday is a rest day in the canyon or a possible visit to Ribbon Falls. On Thursday we'll ascend five miles to Indian Garden, an elevation gain of 1180'. Camp at Indian Garden. On Friday take the Bright Angel trail to the South Rim, a four mile hike with an elevation gain of 3000'. Drive home on Friday April 20th. Cost for each person is \$100 each (\$20 for the permit, \$35 for gas, and \$45* for the room). If you're interested please contact Kathy at carpediemkath@yahoo.com

*either gender is okay with me; but if you're not comfortable sharing a room we can each get our own for about \$90 per person, bringing the total cost to \$145. A lower-cost option would be to stay in Williams and drive an hour into the canyon on Tuesday morning, saving us about half of the hotel bill.

PICTURES PICTURES PICTURES

A reminder that many pictures from previous hikes are posted on the Dove Mountain Hikers Picasa site (see link below). You are welcome to visit anytime and click on any of the listed albums.

<https://picasaweb.google.com/115885587566357224840>

In addition, older hike pictures for hikes prior to 2011 are stored on the following site:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/DMHikingClub>