

## SDS TUESDAY HIKING - 2023/2024 Season

Hikers meet at 8:30 on Tuesdays in parking lot by the 4th street mailboxes and carpool to hike location. (On cold mornings in December and January, We may delay start until 10:00)

### DECEMBER

12/5 Usery Mountain Regional Park (Park at end of Crismon) 3.5 mile easy, flat desert trail. 2.5 hours. Loop hike on Levee, Moon Rock, Blevins, Noso and Channel trails back to Crismon.

12/12 Blue Point Recreation Area - About 3 miles out and back easy hike along the salt River and then a trail which runs north to a rock oven which was used to cook down limestone to make coke fuel. Park at the Blue Point parking area which is just east of the Salt River bridge on Bush Highway. Last year we saw wild horses right by the parking lot

12/19 Pickett Post Loop Trail - 4 mile easy hike out and back on part of the Pickett Post Loop Trail. We will start on Arizona trail and then take part of the trail that loops around Pickett Post mountain along Arnett Creek.

12/26 Salt River - Phon D. Sutton Hike - 4.6 mile easy out and back hike on trail near the Salt River. Park just off Bush Highway west of the road going into the Phon D. Sutton Recreation Area. The hike is along the Salt River out to and back from the Phon D. Sutton Recreation Area. Might see wild horses in this area.

### JANUARY 2024

1/2 - Wild Horse Trail Off Usery Pass Road - 4 miles out and back with about a 500 foot gradual decent in elevation on the way out and then ascent on the way back. Park on west side of Usery Pass Road not too far north of the Bulldog Canyon Trailhead.

1/9 Willow Springs/Bulldog Canyon Trail head off Hwy 88 - 3- 4 mile moderate difficulty desert trail with some elevation change. We will do an out and back straight west rather than turning north to loop around the Willow Springs Basin Tank. (3 hours)

1/16 Hawes Trails off Power Road near CAP canal - Moderate hike with 350 ft. elevation change. 4.0 miles out and back on Ridge and Granite trails to the North leg of Saguaro Trail.

1/23 Hackberry Springs from First Water Road - 5 mile easy/moderate hike with some elevation change.

1/30 Butcher Jones Recreation Area Plus Picnic Lunch - 5 mile easy, very scenic hike around southeast shore of Lake Saguaro to Burro Cove. It is a little rocky in places. Weenie roast/picnic after hike. Collection to be made for cost of food.

### FEBRUARY HIKES

2/6 - Three Bears Rock Formation - This location offers 2 hikes.

*One group* will hike out and back 5.2 miles total on the Dutchman's Trail from the Peralta Trail head to junction with Coffee Flat trail. Easy to moderate desert trail with quite a bit of traversing up and down through washes and about 600 ft. elevation change.

The *second group* will continue north on the Dutchman trail and do a 10.0 mile loop around to hook up with the Bluff Springs Trail. 6.5 hours.

February hikes continued next page

## FEBRUARY HIKES continued

2/13 EJ Peak (Lone Mountain) - Moderate out and back 2.3 mile hike with 760 foot gradual climb up Lone Mountain and then descend on the way back. Park at Bulldog Canyon Trailhead on Usery Pass Rd. An optional hike from this trailhead with less difficulty would be to take the Maricopa Trail which leads toward Pass Mountain.

2/20 San Tan Mountain Regional Park in Queen Creek - We will start at the visitor center and do the Moonlight Trail out to end and return via Stargazer and San Tan Trails. 3 miles. Easy to moderate hike with some elevation change. The visitor center has a small zoo with some desert creatures.

2/27 Praying Hands rock formation starting from 1<sup>st</sup> Water Trail head road. Take Jacob's Crosscut to Treasure Loop Trails

- Option 1: Treasure Loop Trail only. 4.0 mile moderate difficulty with about 500 ft. elevation change. 2.5 hours. Take Jacob's Crosscut trail from 1<sup>st</sup> water road to Treasure Loop and circle back to Jacob's Crosscut.
- Option 2: Treasure Loop Trail plus path to Praying Hands. 4.5 miles with 900 ft. elevation change. Hike north half of Treasure Loop and then take path up to Praying hands and return on south half of Treasure Loop.

## MARCH HIKES

3/5 Maricopa Trail/Pass Mountain - We split into 2 groups with one group parking at Meridian Trail head and other group starting at Bulldog Canyon Trail head on Usery Pass Rd. - 5 mile moderate/difficult hike with 500 ft. elev. change when hiking from Bulldog Canyon Trail head and 700 ft. climb coming from the Meridian Trail head. The group starting at the Bulldog Canyon Trail head will hike the Maricopa Trail to the Pass Mountain trail, go left and hike the Pass Mtn. back to the Meridian parking lot. The Meridian group will hike to the Pass Mtn. trail, turn right, climb to the saddle, stay on the Trail, turn right on Maricopa trail and proceed to Bulldog parking lot. Groups exchange vehicle keys in the middle.

3/12 Siphon Draw/Jacobs Crosscut - 3-4 mile out and back starting on Siphon Draw trail and then go south on Jacobs Crosscut trail. Park off of Mckellips Blvd. east of old Mining Camp restaurant.

3/19 - Hieroglyphics Canyon - 2 Options

- 1) The first option is moderate difficulty, 3 mile hike up the foothills of the Superstitions from the Gold Canyon side. The hike has a gradual 600 ft. elevation change going out and down hill coming back. There are Native American Hieroglyphics etched on rocks at the end.
- 2) The second option for the more adventurous hikers will continue past the Hieroglyphics boulders and do a very difficult climb to the ridge of the Superstitions. This harder hike has a 2600 foot elevation change, 6 hours, 9 miles.

3/26 Superior To Claypool Tunnel - This is a moderate difficulty hike with 4.6 miles out and back with 708 foot gradual ascent out and then descend on the way back. We drive east to Superior on Hwy. 60, exit at AZ 177/Ray Road. Go left which becomes South Magma Ave. Trailhead is just past W. Heiner Dr. and is called the Magma Ave trailhead.

April 2 Broadway Cave/ Monument Canyon - 3.6 miles out and back difficult hike. Moderate climb until last ¼ mile which has a 500 ft. climb. 1000 feet total elevation change. Park at east end of Broadway just before entrance into Superstition Highlands housing development.

**APRIL - No more official hikes scheduled. More April hike options on next page.**

## Options For Additional April hikes

- West South Mountain - Start at Buena Vista Lookout at west end of South Mountain. Easy 4 mile hike out and back on National Trail.
- Bulldog Saddle with north loop around to Pass Mountain Trail- Moderate hike with 675 feet elevation change. 3.5 miles, 3.5 hours
- Goldfield - 5 mile easy hike with about 100 ft. elevation change.
- South Mountain hike to explore old gold mines. Start from Central Ave.
- Silly Mountain - Easy to moderate hike with approximately 200-300 feet elevation change. 1.5 to 2 hours. Palo Verde trail to Superstition View trail to Old Baldy trail to Crest Trail to Old Mine trail to Brittlebush Trail.
- Deer Tanks Trail - 5.3 mile easy to moderate hike out and back. Park at the north end of Idaho Road and hike north into the Goldfield mountains. To extend to a 8-9 mile hike, at Phon D, Sutton jeep road (Road #FR 10), take the road East to the Junction with Cactus Road. Go left on Cactus road which circles back south to Bulldog Canyon Gate. Pick up walking trail which heads west along McDowell back to cars.
- South Mountain Trails - 3.4 miles difficult trail out and back with about 918 ft. elevation change. Mormon Trail from 24<sup>th</sup> street Trail head to National Trail to Hidden Valley Trail and loop back to Mormon Trail.