

FRIENDS

Jan - Mar 2017



Outdoor, Hiking, and Camping Club

Visit our web site
www.friendshiking.com
for current hike updates and
upcoming events



Thanks for the support from all our FRIENDS for making this club a success!

Welcome to Friends Outdoor, Hiking, and Camping Club. For over 21 years, we have been adventuring into some of Arizona's most beautiful wilderness areas. In fact, we would like to think that we offer the most comprehensive selection of outdoor activities in Arizona. Our hope is to be the catalyst that gives people that "boost" that we all need to get out there and really SEE Arizona; meeting some new friends in the process. Each newsletter outlines hikes for a wide range of abilities from easy to strenuous. If you would like more detailed information on a hike, give the hike leader a call. If you are currently a Friends member, or interested in learning more about the club, please join us on a hike or at one of the monthly meetings.

Club Contacts

Kurt Sedler 602-339-8780
mail@friendshiking.com

Webmaster:
Randy Baker 602-616-9491
moovvoaz@friendshiking.com

Rich Flammang 623-980-9614
modelacoupe@att.net

Monthly Meetings

Friend's Outdoor, Hiking and Camping Club Meetings are held at Boulders on Broadway (530 W. Broadway Road, Tempe, AZ 85282). Anyone interested in finding out more about the club is welcome to join us for our monthly meeting.

MEETINGS START AT 7:00 PM

Dates are: January 9th (note special date), February 6th (2nd Quarter 2017 planning meeting) & March 6th

Membership

An annual membership in Friend's Outdoor, Hiking, and Camping Club is only \$15.00 per person. Non-members are always welcome on hikes (\$5.00 charge) or at the monthly meetings (free). The current club membership is about 60, made up of people from 26 to 50+, married and single, ranging from artists to engineers. Children are welcome on most hikes, please bear in mind to match the hike & youngster appropriately. Well behaved dogs are also welcome, again, please match the hike & dog appropriately. To join by mail: please send your membership check to: Friend's Hiking Club c/o Kurt Sedler – 50 East Myrna – Tempe, AZ 85284; including your name, address, and email address.

Hikers Responsibilities

Please know your limits and be sure you are capable of doing the hike that you attend. If you commit to attend a hike, please keep your commitment. Please ask the Hike Leader any question you may have prior to the hike. Please be prepared physically and gear-wise whenever you hike. Water, sunscreen, hat and jacket are a good starting point for your gear list.

Website

From time to time, details of a particular hike may change after the newsletter has been printed. e.g. Forest closures due to drought / fire danger. We will make every effort to alert club members via email, however, prior to attending a hike please check our website, www.friendshiking.com, for updates.

PASS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Day Hike & BBQ - Usery Mtn Recreation AreaLeader: Randy Baker (moovyoz@friendshiking.net)

Phone: 602-616-9491

MEET at Usery Mtn Recreation Area trailhead, 9:00 AM

The trail is a pleasant loop around the perimeter of Pass Mountain the Usery Mountain Recreation Area, with 700 ft. of mostly gradual elevation change. From the trail, there are awesome views of the Superstition, Goldfield, Mazatzal, and Usery Mountains, and an excellent overview of Fountain Hills and the Verde River. Bring something to BBQ, your favorite beverage and a dish to share...let's start 2017 off by putting our best "boot" forward.

Sat, Jan 7

Length: 7.2 miles

Rating: Moderate minus

Elev. Change: 800'

FLATIRON Day Hike - Superstition MountainsLeader: Stephenie Russey (coyote.howls@hotmail.com)

Phone: 480-390-9972

MEET at TRAILHEAD, 8:00 AM:

Directions to Trailhead: US60 to Idaho Rd, go north 2.25 miles to SR88, the Apache Trail. Turn NE (slight Right) on SR88 and go about 5.5 miles to Nodak Rd. It is the turn for the Mining Camp Restaurant, so look for the signs. Follow the signs, turn left into the parking and park at West end. This is NOT a beginner's hike. Show and Go, no RSVP required.

The most beautiful views to be seen from the top on Flatiron at 5400 ft above the valley.

This is not an easy hike so bring plenty of water and some food to nibble on at the top as you will need an energy boost. There is a lot of scrambling, climbing and loose rocks. Plan on at least 5 hours to complete the hike. *1800 ft in one mile almost vertical

Sat, Jan 14

Length: 6 miles R/T

Rating: Difficult

Elev. Change: 3,800' total *

COFFEE FLAT TRAIL - RANDOLPH CANYON Loop Day Hike - Superstition MountainsLeader: Kurt Sedler (kurt.sedler@cox.net)

Phone: 602-339-8780

MEET at South end of the Home Depot Parking Lot - SEC of US60 & Power Road, 8:00 AM**Note that low vehicles should not be used to access the trailhead.**

This pleasant loop offers about half of the hike on-trail (Coffee Flat) with a section of off-trail. Randolph Canyon is relatively easy going for an off trail hike in the Superstitions and amounts to some pretty standard boulder hopping and generally dry creek bed walking. Jack Fraser picked a beautiful spot to build his cattle ranch - in a canyon passed by the Coffee Flat Trail. A saguaro forest covers the sun-drenched side of the canyon, and classic Sonoran desert scrub fills in everywhere else. The trail rambles pleasantly over the rumpled terrain, then shifts from non-committal to demanding a bit of your attention. It crunches along the packed sand in the canyon bottom, then tumbles down boulder-strewn channels. It ducks under willow-choked passages, then climbs up mounds of slick rock. It brushes past towering walls with ridge lines chewed by erosion and windows pouring in sunlight.

Sat, Jan 21

Length: 9.7 mile loop

Rating: Moderate

QUARTZ PEAK Day Hike - Sierra Estrella Mountain RangeLeader: Chris Horan (chrishoran@hotmail.com)

Phone: 602-515-6764

Please contact leader if you are interested in being involved before January 14th at chrishoran@hotmail.com or 602-515-6764

We can consolidate into high clearance vehicles for the 30 miles to the trailhead; the last 9 miles are on dirt roads. Join us as we hike the 6 miles (3 miles out and 3 miles back) to the top of Quartz Peak. We will gain 2472 feet over the 3 miles to the summit. As we climb, more and more shiny mica crystals and white quartz will appear along the trail, culminating in the snow white stone that is Quartz Peak. From "60 Hikes Within 60 Miles" by Charles Liu, "Superbly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Quartz Peak is one of the finest desert hikes in the Phoenix area". The Quartz Peak Trail offers us views of the desert, Sierra Estrella Wilderness, Butterfly Mountain, Quartz Peak and panoramic views of the valley below us. Make sure to bring plenty of water for the hike and drinks for after. There is no water at the trailhead or anywhere on the trail, but restrooms are available at the trailhead.

Sat, Jan 28

Length: 6 miles R/T

Rating: Difficult

MORMON TRAIL to GERONIMO TRAIL Day Hike - South MountainHike Leader: Don Mantell (dirkbag@aol.com)

Phone: 516-810-8024

MEET at Mormon Trailhead, 8610 S. 24th Street, 8:00 AM**RSVP to hike leader by February 1st**

Join us on a 6 mile hike comprised of the Mormon Trail, Hidden Valley, National Trail, Buena Vista Lookout and Geronimo Trail. The Mormon trail will start us off climbing to the National Trail where we will take a detour through Hidden Valley and back on the National Trail to the Buena Vista Lookout which is a great spot to see the views and catch a snack. From the Buena Vista Lookout we will begin our descent on the Geronimo Trail which will just skirt the Heard Scott Pueblo before ending near 20th Street. From there it is a short jaunt back to the Mormon Trailhead. Depending on the interest, we may head to a local eating and drinking establishment for refreshments.

Sat, Feb 4

Length: 6 miles

Rating: Moderate

WHITE CANYON WILDERNESS Day Hike & optional Car Camp - near SuperiorLeader: Paul Hiegel (improve_homes@gmail.com)

Phone: 623-243-2009

Sat - Sun, Feb 11 - 12

Length: 8 - 10 mile loop

Rating: Moderate to Strenuous

MEET at South end of the Home Depot Parking Lot - SEC of US60 & Power Road, 7:00 AM

This is a car camp or day hike for those that do not prefer to sleep out. It is an easy drive on a dirt road to where we will be camping but you will need to carpool if you do not have a high clearance vehicle up to the trailhead. This is not a designated trail. We will be hiking up through a canyon. The canyon starts out with surrounding peaks jutting up 1000 feet above the canyon floor. It is mostly dry except when there has been rain. There are many rock boulders to traverse. Like in most desert canyons. The views are beautiful and the desert is pleasant in February. Come join me on the outdoor adventure. This is why we live in Arizona

GARDEN VALLEY LOOP Day Hike - SuperstitionsLeader: Randy Baker (moovyoz@friendshiking.net)

Phone: 602-616-9491

Sat, Feb 18

Length: +/- 6 miles

Rating: Easy +

Elev. change: +/- 450'

MEET at South end of the Home Depot Parking Lot - SEC of US60 & Power Road, 8:00 AM

Starting from the First Water Trailhead, we will head north on the Second Water Trail, looping back past perennial Hackberry Springs. Nearby there is fresh water flowing from the cliff face, which explains why there are ruins nearby to explore. We will finish the loop following First Water Creek south, passing through the historic First Water Ranch. After the hike we will BBQ, so bring something to burn, and grog to drink.

BULL BASIN Loop Day Hike - Eastern Superstition MountainsLeader: Stan Backenstoss (sbackenstoss@gmail.com)

Phone: 480-620-3775

Sat, Feb 25

Length: 9.5 miles

Rating: Moderate+

Elev. Change: 2,600'

MEET at South end of the Home Depot Parking Lot - SEC of US60 & Power Road, 7:00 AM

Show and Go, no RSVP required. This hike has it all!! Join us for a beautiful loop hike that takes you through some of the least traveled trails in the far eastern Superstition Wilderness. See graves, waterfalls, riparian creekside walks, ranches, old corrals, canyons, lush grassland mesas and more.

POWERS CABIN & MINE Backpack - Galiuro WildernessLeader: Garth Newby (GarthKevin@hotmail.com)

Phone: 623-451-8023

Fri - Sun, Mar 3 - 5

Length: See below *

Rating: Moderate

Elev. Change: +/- 1,900'

MEET at South end of the Home Depot Parking Lot - SEC of US60 & Power Road, 7:00 AM**RSVP** to hike leader by Friday, February 17th

Come take a walk back in time to the Powers Cabin and Mine located in the Galiuro Wilderness. This cabin and mine area was famous for the shootout between the Powers family and law enforcement. The Powers were wanted for dodging the draft.

Friday, we will begin our hike on the High Creek trail located in the Bonita area. The High Creek (#290) trail is only 1.7 miles long and easy going. From there, we'll drop in to Rattlesnake Canyon via Rattlesnake trail (#285) for 3.5 miles. Then, we will reach Hold Out Springs trail (#285A) which will be our destination for the evening and the weekend. The Hold Out Springs is active and a reliable water source.

The descent into and out of the canyon will account for all of the elevation gain and loss. This is the shortest way to see and enjoy the cabin.

Saturday, we'll saunter up to the original Powers Cabin and Mine plus we will have plenty of time to explore the surrounding area. For those who have unspent energy, you can hike the ~7 miles to Powers Garden to explore.

Sunday, we'll hike back out the way we went in. Lunch will probably be in order after our climb out of the canyon.

If you want more information regarding the trails, here is an informative link:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/coronado/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=25460&actid=50>

* Length: Approximately 11 miles RT to the Hold Out Springs, plus an optional day hike on Saturday to Powers Cabin/Mine with approximately 6 miles RT.

COON CREEK RUINS Day Hike - near GlobeLeader: Dave Kinzer (dkinz@hotmail.com)

Phone: 480-612-5323

Sat, Mar 11

Length: 7.5 miles

Rating: Moderate

Elev. Change: 579'

MEET at South end of the Home Depot Parking Lot - SEC of US60 & Power Road, 7:00 AM

Show and Go, no RSVP required. Day hike near Coon Creek to some ruins. Drive up Cherry Creek road to the trailhead. Pretty easy hiking along forest roads, followed by some mild bolder hopping along the creek, and finally a scramble up the scree to view the ruins. Refreshments follow the hike at a restaurant TBD.

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR ANY HIKE CHANGES...www.friendshiking.com

COCHISE STRONGHOLD Day Hike & Car Camp - Southeast ArizonaLeader: Rich Flammang (modelacoupe@att.net)

Phone: 623-980-9614

MEET in the I-Hop parking lot, NE corner of 50th St & Ray Rd, west of I-10, 10:00 AM

RSVP to hike leader by March 10th. NOTE: This is a Friday departure. Should you choose to just come for Saturday hike and night, that can be arranged. We will secure the group campsites for Friday and Saturday nights. Located on the eastern slopes of the Dragoon Mountains, the Stronghold campground is also the beginning of Cochise Trail. Named for the Chiricahua Apache chief, Cochise Stronghold is an alluring and mysterious place. On Saturday, we will embark on a 6 mile (there and back) journey through salmon tinted granite domes and rock wilderness. We will hike this trail past Cochise Springs, upward to Half Moon tank and into Stronghold Canyon until we reach Stronghold Divide, our turnaround point. Note: If you wish to come up for Saturday's hike, plan on leaving the Valley in enough time to arrive at the campground by 9:00. Other day hikes available for Friday. This is a great little campground so if you haven't been before, plan on joining us this time. Cost of the camping will be determined based on the number of campers/nights (total cost is \$80)

Fri - Sun, Mar 17 - 19

Length: 6 miles R/T

Rating: Moderate minus

Elev. Change: 1,100' (gain)

ELEPHANT HEAD OFF TRAIL Day Hike - South of TucsonLeader: Kurt Sedler (kurt.sedler@cox.net)

Phone: 602-339-8780

MEET in the I-Hop parking lot, NE corner of 50th St & Ray Rd, west of I-10, 7:00 AM**Note that high clearance vehicles are necessary to access this trailhead. 140 mi. one way from I-HOP**

There are some famous peaks in the Santa Rita's, south of Tucson...Wrightson, Hopkins. None have the mystique of Elephant Head. The almost impossibly steep monolith crashing out of the western Santa Ritas into the desert seems to defy logic. Was this a place of sacrifice or violent deaths? Nobody knows for sure. But with old names including Picacho del Diablo and Cerro de los Muertos, one must wonder. It turns out there is a way to the top requiring some trail hiking and class 3 scrambling with a very short class 4 move right before the summit. A nearby prehistoric ruin and a somewhat hidden riparian section round out the trip.

Sat, Mar 25

Length: 7-ish miles R/T

Rating: Moderate+ to Advanced

Elev. Change: 1,500' (gain)

**Remember to carpool when possible and share the cost of the drive!
Thanks to all hikers who are willing to drive!**

Help keep the Club on its feet!

**Attend the next planning meeting on February 6th
with suggestions of trails to explore and areas to visit**

**Interested in leading a hike?
Your participation is welcomed!**

Friends Hiking, Camping, and Outdoor Club

C/O Kurt Sedler
50 East Myrna
Tempe, AZ 85284

