

# FRIENDS

Jan - Mar 2019



## Outdoor, Hiking, and Camping Club

Visit our web site  
[www.friendshiking.com](http://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 fifteen 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](mailto:mail@friendshiking.com)

Webmaster:  
Randy Baker 602-616-9491  
[moovyoaz@friendshiking.com](mailto:moovyoaz@friendshiking.com)

Rich Flammang 623-980-9614  
[modelacoupe@att.net](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2019 planning meeting) and March 4<sup>th</sup>

## 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](http://www.friendshiking.com), for updates.

**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN Hike/Optional Rappel and BBQ - Phoenix**Leader: Garth Newby ([GarthKevin@hotmail.com](mailto:GarthKevin@hotmail.com))

Phone: 623-451-8023

**RSVP to hike leader by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018****Location provided at RSVP and will meet at 9:00 AM**

We will be meeting near the trailhead at a location close to the intersection of Coral Gables and Seventh Streets. This in-city hike will provide a wonderful opportunity to see panoramic views of the city of Phoenix, courtesy of Lookout Mountain. Specifically, we will be following the Circumference Trail (#308). We will also be following the trail (#150) that goes to the summit of Lookout Mountain, which has a pretty steep elevation change – hence the Moderate hike rating. There will be options to extend the hike length, for those who are interested, e.g. hiking the false peaks.

For the first 6 interested club members to RSVP I will hold a basic introductory rappelling class. I'll cover safety, clipping-in, belaying and descending. Then we will do several short practice rappels the highest 20-ish feet. So, come gain some knowledge and have fun. After the hike, we will be holding a BBQ at the hike leader's house. Please bring something to BBQ and something to share with your fellow hikers. This hike will be a fun chance to end 2018 and start 2019 with some variety and lots of pretty scenery, so we look forward to seeing you there.

**Sat, Jan 5**

Length: 5 miles approx.

Rating: Easy/Moderate

Elev Change: +/- 700 ft

**TORTOLITA MOUNTAINS TRAVERSE - Marana**Leader: Randall Baker ([moovyoz55@friendshiking.com](mailto:moovyoz55@friendshiking.com))

Phone: 602-616-9491

**Please RSVP with the hike leader by Jan 10 by phone or email****MEET in the iHOP parking lot at 5020 E Ray Road (NE corner of 50th Street & Ray, west of I-10) at 7:00 AM**

The Sonora Desert vegetation in the Tortolita Mountains is a hiker's paradise. From magnificent desert vistas to rustic ruins and ancient pictographs, hikers in the Tortolitas have many options to explore. The gateway into the mountains is the Wild Burro Trail, where the plush trailhead facilities await at the Ritz Carlton Dove Mountain. Flush toilets, running water in the sinks, hand soap and water faucet outside. There's even a shortcut trail on our return to the bar.

Our route will be a combination of Wild Burro, Alamo Springs, and possibly Wild Mustang Trails. All of the trails involve elevation changes and some have some steep, rocky sections to keep us honest, and views to keep us smiling. For more information see the Tortolita Mtn Trail index at [https://hikearizona.com/traildex.php?ID=43&SUB\\_ID=2638&u=30618](https://hikearizona.com/traildex.php?ID=43&SUB_ID=2638&u=30618)

**Sat, Jan 12**

Length: +/- 9.5 mile loop

Rating: Moderate plus

**WILD HORSE TRAIL/USURY SUMMIT LOOP Day Hike and BBQ - East Valley**Leader: Craig Barnett ([craigbhikin@cox.net](mailto:craigbhikin@cox.net))

Phone: 602-509-7532

**RSVP with hike leader for additional information****MEET in the south end of the Home Depot Parking Lot, US-60 & Power Road at 7:00 AM**

The plan is to combine two trails in the Usury pass area, and some off trail hiking. After the hike the plan is to take advantage of the park and have a cookout BBQ/Dutch Oven cookout. *Note: This is a Sunday hike*

**Sun, Jan 20**

Length: 8 miles

Rating: Moderate

**BALLANTINE TRAIL TO CABIN Day Hike - Mazatzal Mountains**Leader: Chris Maglanes ([az2all@hotmail.com](mailto:az2all@hotmail.com))

Phone: 602-818-7221

**RSVP is appreciated****MEET in Target parking lot at 16825 E Shea Blvd Fountain Hills (south side of Shea, 1 mile west of SR 87) at 8:00 AM**

The trailhead is on the East side of the Beeline highway, route 87 just past mile marker 210. This trail takes you by some interesting rock formations. After arriving at Boulder Flat we will turn left and take a short trail up to an old cabin then after a break head back. If anyone is interested, we can stop by Phil's Filling Station in Fountain Hills for something to eat.

**Sat, Jan 26**

Length: 8 miles out &amp; back

Rating: Moderate

Elev Gain: 1650 feet

**TOM'S THUMB Day Hike - North Scottsdale**Leader: Brian Carlson ([bacarson333@gmail.com](mailto:bacarson333@gmail.com))

Phone: 602-818-9349

**MEET at Trailhead, 23015 N 128th St at 8:00 AM****(Access via 128<sup>th</sup> street and Dynamite or Happy Valley Road and 118<sup>th</sup> Street)**

Offers access to many important features such as Tom's Thumb, Windgate Overlook, Gardener's Wall, Sven Slab, Mesquite Canyon and the Windmill Trail. Explore the Marcus Landslide Trail here to learn all about the 2nd largest landslide in Arizona. Tom's Thumb was the first of our trailheads on the north side of the McDowell Mountains. Please note, there is NO WATER available at the Tom's Thumb Trailhead. Ensure you bring enough for your hike! <https://hikearizona.com/decoder.php?ZTN=733>

\* If anyone is interested, we can turn this into 11.5 mile loop (Tom's Thumb, Wingate Pass and East End). Let me know!

\*\* Accumulative Gain is 1400 ft

**Sat, Feb 2**

Length: 9 miles \*

Rating: Moderate

Elev. Gain: 990 ft \*\*

**DOUGLAS SPRING Day Hike - Rincon Mountains**Leader: Kim Hemmersbach ([hemmersbachkim@gmail.com](mailto:hemmersbachkim@gmail.com))

Phone: 480-343-4509

**Show and Go****MEET in iHOP parking lot at 5020 E Ray Rd, Phoenix (NE corner of 50th Street & Ray Road, west of I-10) at 7:00 AM**

This hike will take us through classic Sonoran Desert as we climb to Douglas Spring, a seasonal water source and a designated campsite is found there. Approximately 2 miles in on the trail, we will take a spur trail (only a 0.4 mile round trip) to Bridal Wreath Falls which is reported to always have some sort of water no matter what time of year but winter months will promise more water. Douglas Spring is our destination and then will turn around and retrace our steps back to Douglas Spring Trailhead. We will go for food and refreshments after the hike. \* **NOTE: The date may be incorrect in the *printed* newsletter, but is corrected in *this pdf* file & FHC calendar.**

**Sat, Feb 9 \***

Length: 11 miles out &amp; back

Rating: Moderate

**RANDOLPH - FRASER CANYON LOOP Day Hike - Superstitions**Leader: Kurt Sedler ([kurt.sedler@cox.net](mailto:kurt.sedler@cox.net))

Phone: 602 339 8780

**MEET in the south end of the Home Depot Parking Lot, US-60 & Power Road at 7:30 AM**

This hike will include a bit (3-ish miles) of off-trail hiking in a scenic canyon in the central Superstitions to the confluences of Fraser and Randolph Canyons and the intersection of Red Tanks #107 and Coffee Flats Trail #108. Don't fret though, this 'off-trail' section of Randolph Canyon is relatively easy going for an off trail hike in the Superstitions and amounts to some pretty standard boulder hopping and dry? creek-bed walking. The remaining hiking is on-trail, although cat-claw sometimes demands small detours (bring gloves/clippers). This is a pretty area and not to be missed!

**Sat, Feb 16**

Length: 9.3 mile loop

Rated: Moderate-ish

**SUNSET VISTA TRAIL Day Hike - Picacho Peak**Leader: Dave Kinzer ([dkinz@hotmail.com](mailto:dkinz@hotmail.com))

Phone: 480-612-5323

**Show and Go****MEET in iHOP parking lot at 5020 E Ray Rd, Phoenix (NE corner of 50th Street & Ray Road, west of I-10) at 8:00 AM**

Come enjoy the wildflowers as we hike to the top of Picacho Peak. This trail is relatively easy for the first couple of miles, then switchbacks to the top for a glorious vista of the surrounding desert and distant mountains. Color and cardio! Cable assisted scramble to reach the summit for a bit of challenge, gloves come in handy so bring a pair! Likely stop for refreshments on the way home.

**Sat, Feb 23**

Length: 5.7 miles

Rating: Moderate ++

Elev. Change: 1838 ft

**WHITE CANYON Day Hike - Superior**Leader: Chris Horan ([chrishoran@hotmail.com](mailto:chrishoran@hotmail.com))

Phone: 602-515-6764

**RSVP to Hike Leader before Feb 24<sup>th</sup>****MEET in the south end of the Home Depot Parking Lot, US-60 & Power Road at 7:30 AM**

A spectacular canyon in the Sonoran Desert carved through layers of white and tan volcanic tuff. The main canyon is deep and narrow and there is usually running water and a nice swimming hole. We will also ascend a short, steep side canyon with waterfalls and pools, topping out in an area of bare rock and scenic overlooks. There is no trail in the canyon and most of the hike will be boulder-hopping and bushwhacking, but it is well worth the effort. Watch out for loose rocks and rattlesnakes, and don't have any heart attacks. If the route is unclear, follow the blood trail from my previous visit. I would encourage you to watch the movie "U Turn" part of which was filmed in the White Canyon. Drive in on the Battle Axe Road approximately 9.5 miles south of Superior (off SR 177) until it dead ends at a spring. Then we will walk for about a mile along old roads to get to the "real" trailhead.

**Sat, Mar 2**

Length: Up to 10 miles

Elev. Change: Varies

Rating: Moderate +

**WHISKEY SPRING/BLUFF SPRING Backpack - Superstitions**Leader: Craig Barnett ([craigbhikin@cox.net](mailto:craigbhikin@cox.net))

Phone: 602-509-7532

**RSVP with hike leader for additional information****MEET in the south end of the Home Depot Parking Lot, US-60 & Power Road at 7:00 AM**

This will be a moderate back pack taking Peralta trail (104) to Whiskey spring trail (238). We will back track along Whiskey Spring trail to the Peralta (104) and turn right and head to Bluff Spring (235) back to Peralta trail head.

**Sat - Sun Mar 9 - 10**

Length: 12 to 14 miles

Rating: Moderate

**CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR ANY HIKE CHANGES...[www.friendshiking.com](http://www.friendshiking.com)**

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

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION - Phoenix**Leader: Don Mantell ([dirkbag@aol.com](mailto:dirkbag@aol.com))

Phone: 516-810-8024

**RSVP to Don by March 13<sup>th</sup>. Address and time will be provided**

I will be throwing my annual party featuring traditional corned beef and cabbage with assorted Irish beverages.

Dress in your favorite Shamrock attire and BYOC (bring your own chair). *Note: This is a Sunday event***Sun, Mar 17**

Length: Not far

Rating: FUN!

**IDAHO PASS LOOP Day Hike - Goldfields**Leader: Stan Backenstoss ([sbackenstoss@gmail.com](mailto:sbackenstoss@gmail.com))

Phone: 480-620-3775

**Show and Go****MEET in the south end of the Home Depot Parking Lot, US-60 & Power Road at 8:00 AM**

This is an easy hike in the southwest area of the Goldfields. Great views of the Goldfield mountains, cool rock formations, and the potential for discovering our beautiful spring wildflowers await us.

**Sat, Mar 23**

Length: 5 miles

Rating: Easy +

**BASSETT PEAK VIA ASH CREEK Day Hike & Car Camping - Wilcox**Leader: Garth Newby ([GarthKevin@hotmail.com](mailto:GarthKevin@hotmail.com))

Phone: 623-451-8023

**RSVP to hike leader by March 8, 2019****MEET in the IHOP parking lot at 5020 E Ray Road (NE corner of 50th Street & Ray, west of I-10), 9:00 AM**

We will depart Friday and head down to Wilcox to refuel and have lunch. Then, we will head out to the camp site. For those of you who can't get Friday off or you're into glamping, Wilcox is fairly close and has motels.

Nestled half-way between the popular Santa Catalinas and the towering Pinalenos Mountains lie a seldom-visited gem - the Galiuro Mountains. Even though it's only around 100 air miles from Phoenix, it takes approximately 5 1/2 hours to get there from Phoenix due to its remote location - but it is worth the effort. The area has such a variety of scenery such as, oak, pine, cactus, aspen and more. The trail starts out at the end of FR 660 and heads up the North Fork of Ash Creek. A sign marks the beginning of the trail. This part of the trail is heavily wooded and stays on fairly level ground for the first 2.5 miles or so. At the midway point of this hike, you will come to an isolated but beautiful stand of about 30 aspen fed in part due to Upper Ash Springs. At this point, you will bear right across the Ash Creek and follow the trail up the north side of the canyon out of the riparian area and into the high desert leaving the aspen behind you. Here the trail gets steeper, but it's not too bad. Along the way, you will see interesting rock formations and volcanic formations. You will also have a great view of 7650' Bassett Peak. After about 4 miles you will come to the ridgeline of the Galiuros. From here, we start heading south along the ridgeline on the East Divide Trail. To your left will be outstanding views of the Pinalenos and the Santa Catalina/Rincon Mountains to your right. After about 1 mile on the ridgeline, the trail will start to switchback on the north face of Bassett Peak. After the hike we'll return to our camp site for a cold one and some food. We will head home on Sunday.

**Fri - Sun, Mar 29 - 31**

Length: 12 miles out &amp; back

Rating: Moderate +

Elevation: +/- 2750 ft

**Help keep the Club on its feet!****Attend the next planning meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> with suggestions of trails to explore and areas to visit. Interested in leading a hike?****Your participation is welcomed!**

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*Friends Hiking, Camping, and Outdoor Club*C/O Kurt Sedler  
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