The Arizona Mountaineer

The Arizona Mountaineering Club

Spring 2018

Our Quarterly Newsletter

Hello fellow climbers and adventure seekers! Please enjoy the Spring 2018 edition of The Mountaineer. Inside will be various articles regarding stewardship around the valley and ethics for climbers on how to leave no trace and to minimize the disturbance to nature. A special thank you to everyone who sent in articles: Monica Miller, Scott McDaniel, Andrea Galyean, Scott Nagy, and Aaron Vix. The newsletter would not be possible without submissions, please consider submitting an article for the next edition. The next edition will be coming out in July. The deadline for submissions is July 16th. Article and picture submissions can be emailed to:

newsletter@arizonamountaineeringclub.net .



Looking forwards to reading and experiencing second-hand all of your adventures over the next couple of months!

Anna Dircks, Newsletter Editor

Photo Credit: Monica Miller

"Our **Mission** is to provide educational opportunities, climbing experiences, advocacy to protect our climbing resources, and stewardship of the Arizona Outdoors by promoting volunteerism and community engagement."

In This Issue:

- Queen Creek Clean Up
- ◆Trim Beardsley
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Queen Creek Clean Up and Climb

By Monica D. Miller



On Saturday April 7th, 2018 many AMC members gathered to care for a portion of Arizona Highway 60 that is adjacent to the pull off to Oak Flat camp ground (mile post 231-231.67). The club 1st started this commitment in 1996, according to my research. It is important to know the historicity of traditions. What you might asked is my research based on? Let me tell you about a book, entitled "The Rock Jock's Guide to Queen Creek Canyon, Superior, Arizona", by Marty Karabin, 1996. In this classic gem of a book you will find a photo on the introduction page 15 that references the AMC's 1st Adopt a Highway clean up. Hmm, I do believe I recognize Rogil Schroeter

and she verified Seth Henenessee, Bruce Robins, Debby Brown and Wayne Schroeter.

Now 22 years later our club continues to care for this portion of Highway.

Tiina Pearlman has taken the lead in the continued tradition since 2003 along with her husband John. I know many of our outing leaders over the years have set up the climbs at Pancake House. Frank Vers, has racked up many years of service to date as he set up the climbs for us on Saturday with his helpers. We encourage volunteers to assist to gain anchors experience under supervision.

The volunteerism and comrades found in the troops of the AMC is top shelf!

Now let's talk trash! I know everyone is aware of the plastic crises of trash

that our planet is facing. It is all over social media. But here is a challenge; are you getting involved in local clean ups? Are you and your family making commitments and changing your consumption behaviors in regard to plastics? Are you teaching and demonstrating leave no trace to your children and grandchildren?

Truly each one of us Saturday was touched on a deeper level of understanding of the effects of single serving plastics trash when you are walking the side of the highway picking up the pieces.

Let's all globally take care of our natural re-



sources. And continue to tend our beautiful treasures in the Superior, Arizona Queen Creek Area.

In closing reflections, let me share this powerful quote;

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has". - Margaret Mead

See you in the fall 2018 for the next AMC Queen Creek Clean up and climb! Belay on!



Trim Beardsley 2018 By Scott McDaniel

On March 10, 2018, over 230 volunteers from our local climbing and outdoor communities came together at the Beardsley Boulder Pile for the secondannual Trim Beardsley stewardship and climbing event. Through the duration of the cleanup, 1.5 tons of glass and trash was removed from the area, along with a considerable amount of graffiti. Following the cleanup, the crash pads came out, and stoke was high, as many volunteers stayed and enjoyed some of the area's great bouldering. It was an incredible victory for Beardsley, and an incredible victory for our community! A huge thanks to The City of Phoenix and REI for helping to put it on again, and a massive thanks to all of those who came out to take part!

Due to the vast amount of trash and graffiti that has long plagued the area, the Beardsley Boulder Pile has built a reputation amongst some as being less desirable than other Phoenix crags and climbing areas. Despite the "relics" (read: beer cans) left from generations past that can be found jammed in between and under boulders, and the broken glass that, in some areas, seems to almost be in competition with the terra firma, the Beardsley Boulder Pile holds special value to our community, and is an area well worth the efforts of preserving. The second and fourth (1984 and 1986, respectively)



Phoenix Bouldering Competitions were held at the Beardsley Boulder Pile, and over many decades, countless Phoenix-area climbers have sharpened their skills on the unforgiving granite (and have simultaneously cursed it).

Photo Credit: Joey Jarrell

This year's event, in addition to tripling the volunteer turnout of the first year (75 volunteers),

saw a huge increase in the engagement of our community. Ape Index, AZ on the Rocks, Black Rock Bouldering Gym, Focus Climbing Center, and Phoenix Rock Gym all played massive roles in the event as team leaders for each of the five 'sectors' that the project area was divided into. Local business and organizations, including 32 Shea, Arizona Hiking Shack, Crafted Climber, and Keep It Wild, made awesome and incredible contributions. North Valley Baptist Church brought out a ton of support, along with letting us make use of their parking lot again for event parking.

In addition to community outreach, a major focus of Trim Beardsley 2018 was graffiti removal.

Anyone familiar with the area knows that this is no short order. The majority of graffiti around Beardsley has been there for decades, and dozens of large boulders in the vicinity of (and including) the Monkey Lust and Pencil Thin boulders were completely coated in a light brown cover-up paint by the City of Phoenix, years ago, in an effort to conceal the murals upon murals of paint that covered them (please note that this is no longer the City's standard operating procedure for "removing" graffiti).

I reached out to Natural Restorations, an amazing, local non-profit organization headed by husband and wife team, Justin and Nicole Corey. Along with the City of Phoenix, we began to put a plan in order. When we made a trip out to do a test run on Pencil Thin boulder, the plans we had initially made quickly went awry. Removing the cover-up paint revealed another seemingly impenetrable layer of different kinds (and colors) of paint, including the much

-dreaded latex paint, which is incredibly difficult to remove. The cost and labor estimation for the graffiti removal quickly grew from this test run, and we ultimately decided to start a fundraiser so that we could effectively tackle this obstacle. Out target goal for the fundraiser was \$2,500, and in only six days, we exceeded that target goal!



Photo Credit: Joey Jarrell

Natural Restorations uses biodegradable chemicals for their graffiti removal, in conjunction with a portable power washer that sprays water at 2600psi (strong enough to remove the paint, but light enough so as to not damage the patina of the rock underneath). Though my initial plan was to have much of the graffiti removed from the boulder pile by the day of the event, I quickly realized how much work goes in to removing the graffiti (and particularly the cover-up paint). The graffiti removal at Beardsley is an ongoing project, and one that will take many more return trips until it reaches completion. There will be a break from the work through the summer months, and work will resume again in the cooler fall temps. Natural Restorations is looking for volunteers to help with these efforts (please see information at the bottom of this article for contact information).

Moving forward, my plan is to organize some smaller-scale, Adopt A Crag cleanup days out at Beardsley in the upcoming fall and winter, leading up to next year's Trim Beardsley event. With focus and dedication, I believe that this crag can be rejuvenated and transformed, and enjoyed thoroughly by many more generations of Phoenix climbers. Stay tuned for more details regarding this!

None of the efforts at Beardsley would be possible without one underlying thread, however: our awesome community! From raising the money for the graffiti removal, to working tirelessly hand-in-hand to painstakingly remove the pesky, infamous shards of glass, organizing this event over the last two years has proven to me, and hopefully to many others, that our community is capable of incredible collaboration, and creating an enormously positive impact on our climbing areas. It is my hope that we see more of this great impact happening in the coming months and years, both at the Beardsley Boulder Pile, and beyond.

Hope to see you next year at Trim Beardsley 2019!

For more information about Natural Restorations, please visit:

http://www.naturalrestorations.org/

For more information on volunteering for graffiti removal, and for any questions regarding Trim Beardsley (and future events), please send an email to: trimbeardsley@gmail.com

NATURAL DESTORATIONS

NATURAL DESTORATIONS

Photo Credit: Nicole Corey

A Climber's Guide to Outdoor Ethics: Or, How Not to be the Jerk Who Gets Us All Kicked Out By Andrea Galyean

Hey, do you own your own crag? Yeah, me neither. Kind of a bummer, but at least we have plenty of public land to climb on. The catch is that we don't own public land. No, let's rephrase that: we ALL own public land, so we (collectively) have to share it. And not just with hikers and bikers, but often with loggers and miners and ranchers, too. And, of course, with the plants, birds, and animals who live in the great big outdoors. This is why land managers — like park rangers and BLM supervisors — make rules about who can do what in those places.

Yeah, rules suck. So, let's focus on ethics: the guidelines we use in making decisions for ourselves. Because if climbers practice thoughtful outdoor ethics, those land managers will be less inclined to make rules against climbing on public land. Right? Right.

Most of what we think of as outdoor ethics are — or ought to be — common sense: don't trespass and don't litter. But for both environmental and social reasons, there's more to the story...

You're probably familiar with the Leave No Trace campaign, which launched in 1994 with seven basic principles for reducing human impact on recreation areas. More recently, the Access Fund incorporated those ideas into "The Climber's Pact."

The Access Fund Climber's Pact

- Be considerate of other users
- Park and camp in designated areas
- Dispose of human waste properly
- Stay on trails whenever possible
- Place gear and pads on durable surfaces
- Respect wildlife, sensitive plants, soils, and cultural resources
- Clean up chalk and tick marks
- Minimize group size and noise
- Pack out all trash, crash pads, and gear
- Learn the local ethics for the places you climb
- Respect regulations and closures
- Use, install, and replace bolts and fixed anchors responsibly
- Be an upstander, not a bystander

Let's break it down.

Be considerate of other users. Golden Rule redux: The outdoors is a shared space, so be aware of how your behavior affects everyone else. Leave the boom-box at home and dial down the crux-induced swearing. When you're on a trail, remember that downhill traffic yields to uphill. Don't hog the best lunch spot or the popular routes. Related: If you need to leave webbing for a rap anchor, try to match the color of the rock, especially if it's visible to other visitors. There is a place in the world for hot pink nylon, but a granite face is not it.

Park and camp in designated areas. Should be self-explanatory (and yet...) Blocking roads or driveways will tick off neighbors — who will complain to land managers, and driving or camping on virgin terrain destroys plants, erodes soil, and can quickly destroy a nice spot. Keep campfires contained to existing fire rings, and don't hang your hammock off trees. Related: if your van needs parking three spaces, you need a different van.

Dispose of human waste properly. Yes, we're going there. It's a serious problem, and dog poop is just as bad. Human or canine, it's full of nastiness that shouldn't be left for someone to step in or for rain to wash into the watershed. Blech. Carry bags to pick up the dog poop and pack it out. (Pro tip: an empty peanut butter jar will contain the stink until you get to a trash can.) For your own business, use a toilet or latrine if possible, or go at least 200 feet from any waterway. Avoid urinating on plants (the salt is bad for them) and aim for a flat rock where it will dry out quickly. For #2, either bury it in a cat hole (4-6" deep in the desert, 6-8" deep elsewhere) or pack it out using a GO Anywhere, Restop, or similar disposal bag. And if you think carrying your own poo is gross, imagine how the rest of us feel about finding it.

Stay on trails whenever possible. Trails consolidate the damage that thousands of feet can do to the land. Cutting switchbacks, walking side-by-side on a narrow trail, and creating alternate paths kills plants and speeds erosion. If there's no trail, walk on durable surfaces like rock, sand, or dry grass, rather than living plants or cryptobiotic soil.

Place gear and pads on durable surfaces. You can also minimize your impact by placing gear on rocks and gravel rather than trees and shrubs. If you need to move your pad, pick it up — don't drag it. This is all easier, by the way, if you keep everything consolidated rather than flinging your junk around like toddler in a tantrum.

Respect wildlife, sensitive plants, soils, and cultural resources. Be a steward of the great outdoors. Don't touch or climb on petroglyphs or pictograms. Don't feed or harass wild animals (and don't let your dog chase them). Avoid using fragile trees as anchors and, if you must use a tree, pick a sturdy one and use webbing rather than rope or cord. If the bark is delicate, pad it with something soft. And don't rip plants out of the rock, even if they're growing in your thankgod hold.



Clean up chalk and tick marks. True fact: you can climb without chalk. You can certainly climb with less chalk. Not only does it make a visible mess, but squirrels and lizards don't need magnesium carbonate all over their tootsies. Use minimal amounts, clean it up if you spill it, and bring an old toothbrush to dust off the traces on the way down.

Minimize group size and noise. Larger group = larger impact. You bring more cars, more gear, and more disruption to the wildlife and other users. You even have to walk farther to find a private place to pee. So do what you can to reduce impact: carpool, split up into groups of six or fewer, and keep the volume low. If you must travel en masse, be extra-considerate of other users by giving them priority on trails or routes and/or offering to let them use your top-rope or rappel set-up.

Pack out all trash, crash pads, and gear. This includes banana peels, apple cores, the tiny tab off your GU gel, the previously-discussed poo, and any abandoned Gatorade bottles you find along the way. Try to leave the place better than you found it. Also, there's been a recent trend of boulderers stowing their crash-pads at various crags, as if the outdoors was a giant locker room. I assume these are not people I know.

Learn the local ethics for the places you climb. While basic LNT guidelines will cover most scenarios, it still pays to do some research on Mountain Project or a recent guidebook to learn what to expect in a new-to-you area. Is bolting accepted or not? How soon can you climb after a rain? Should you lower or rap off single-pitch climbs? Also, while adventure-climbing is awesome, gathering enough beta that you don't get in over your head is even more awe-

some. Excess bolting, rowdy behavior, and backcountry rescues all look bad for the climbing community.

Respect regulations and closures. This is **HUGE**. Before you go anywhere, find out what agency (eg: city park, national forest, BLM) manages the area you're planning to climb in, and check the rules. Then follow them.

This means stuff like: climbing only during permitted hours: leashing dogs where required; paying any entry fees; obeying fire bans; signing the waiver for Queen Creek Canyon; and not using power drills — or drones — in designated wilderness areas like the Superstitions.

It also means not climbing at all in a closed area. Long-term closures may preserve archaeological sites or address public safety concerns, while temporary closures may be posted to protect raptors and other wildlife during breeding season.

After all, falcons, eagles and other birds nest on rocky, exposed cliffs. We climb on rocky, exposed cliffs. You see the conflict. Human presence near a nest can easily stress the birds, leading to abandoned eggs or dead chicks. But once the chicks are fledged and hunting on their own, the closures are lifted and we can get back to our somewhat-less-critical activities. Generally, the whole process — from parents selecting a nest to the family moving out lasts from February/March to June/July. So if you're climbing during that time, call the managing agency or check their website to make sure your planned route is in the clear (Mountain Project usually — but not always — reflects closure alerts).

Use, install, and replace bolts and fixed anchors responsibly. Okay, so there's no closure, and you're allowed to place bolts. Great. But please do it responsibly. Get legit training in how and where to bolt safely, use the right tools, and be thoughtful about your placement. People's lives are literally hanging on your skills. And even non-fatal accidents will get the (negative) attention of land managers. Check accessfund.org for bolting resources, or consider donating to the American Safe Climbing Association (safeclimbing.org), which funds bolt-replacement around the country.

Be an upstander, not a bystander. This might be the hardest part. Climbers are a diverse group with a lot of different priorities and approaches. But other people don't see it that way. They hold us all accountable for the screw-ups and the litter and the noise and the chalk-coated walls. So the rest of us need

Noodsy

to work double-time to improve our image. Be a good steward, of course, but also be a good ambassador. Go out of your way to be nice to other users. Seek out rangers and say hello. Be the pleasant-but-firm person who reminds fel-

low climbers that we're all on public land. Do what you can to cultivate an impression of "those friendly climbers who take care of this place," not "that bunch of [censored] [censored]s who shouldn't even be out here."

Remember: Public land managers can revoke climbing access at any time.

So even if you don't care about plants, animals, or your fellow outdoor-lovers, you could at least try not to be the jerk who gets us all kicked out.

For more information on Leave No Trace and The Climber's Pact, check out Int.org and accessfund.org/learn/the-climbers-pact.

Basic School Outdoor Rocking Climbing Class Review: A Students Point of View By Aaron Vix

My girlfriend Tricia and I recently had the opportunity to attend AMC's Basic Outdoor Rock Climbing class last month. Tricia had been climbing indoors for about six months and been on outdoor rock a few times and I had some experience out on rock, ice, and glacier. Given that she and I had varying levels of experience, we were curious to see how the class would go for both of us.

I'm happy to say we were both taken back by how comprehensive and thorough this course was. It was unbelievable as to how many knowledgeable volunteers there were to help us through the hands on practice and actual climbing. Naturally, Tricia and I worked through the course and its stations together. With the virtually one-on- one instruction, the instructors were able to easily accommodate in the event we were learning the concepts at different rates. If extra time was left over at the stations, the instructors were very eager to offer "bonus" pointers, facts, tips, etc.

Also, having been through previous classes, schools, private guides, etc, I felt

the value of this course was incredible. Between the number of days and hours this course was scheduled, and the fact that the instructors' emphasis and focus was that every person had ample opportunity at each station to learn the concepts was a testament to their commitment to us getting the

most out of the course. As such, Tricia and I can say we walked away from this course as much more knowledgeable and confident

climbers.

Lastly, the fellow students and instructors were all so helpful, friendly, and fun. We would highly recommend this course!



Basic School Outdoor Rocking Climbing Class Review: The Leaders Point of View By Scott Nagy

The AMC successfully wrapped up yet another installment of the popular Basic Outdoor Rock Class. We had another fantastic group of enthusiastic students numbering 29 - some traveling to class from Tucson and Chino Valley! Unlike one year ago when the temperature soared to 97 degrees, this year the weather was perfect. There was only one weather related scare on the second climbing day when the instructors phoned in a Queen Creek weather report of hurricane force winds and blizzard conditions. Fortunately, Mother Nature cooperated and the storm passed, leaving us with blue skies and perfect climbing conditions after only a brief delay. After two days of grueling full-body workouts learning self-rescue skills the class culminated with graduation climbs at The Hand, Crying Dino, Sven Tower III, The Praying Monk, Chimera, Time Zone Wall and Pancake House followed by the usual awesome party at MG's House - THANKS MG!

I'd like to thank the AMC for making my job as ORC Lead Instructor very enjoyable and rewarding. Over the years they have honed the class into a well

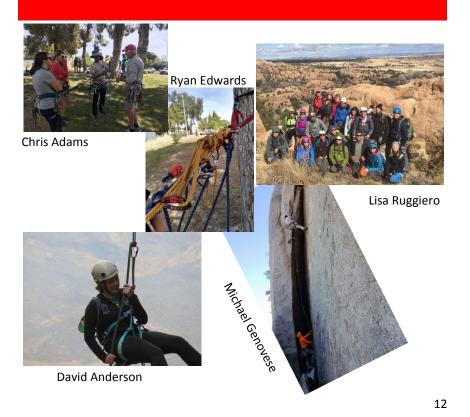
oiled machine. From registration to the curriculum to the outdoor locations to the well established relationships with North Mountain Visitor Center, the City of Scottsdale and Phoenix Rock Gym - this class is hard to beat. And let's not forget the class's most important asset - the volunteers! The instructors and grad-climb leaders take the class to the next level - thank you! I hope to see this class's students back in the fall to assist with the next ORC. There's no better way to keep your skills sharp than to teach others.

I'm looking forward to Anchors Class, followed by summer and it's many outdoor adventures, and ultimately the fall activities of Lead Class, the Grand Canyon Clean-Up and, of course, fall Basic ORC!

Climb safe,

Scott (one of them)

Out and About Photos and Memories





The Arizona Mountaineering Club

<u>Schools:</u> The AMC conducts several rock climbing, mountaineering and other outdoor skills schools each year. Browse the AMC website and meet up calendar for information on schedules and classes.

<u>For More Information:</u> Website: http://arizonamountaineeringclub.net/ Mail: Arizona Mountaineering Club, 4340 E. Indian School Rd., Ste 21-164, Phoenix, AZ 85018.

<u>AMC Land Advocacy Committee:</u> The Committee works to maintain public access to climbing areas. If you know of areas that are threatened with closures or climbing restrictions, please notify the Land Advocacy representative Erik Filsinger at *smorefil@aol.com*.

<u>Newsletter:</u> The Arizona Mountaineer is published quarterly by the AMC. The newsletter depends on contributions from its members so PLEASE send us your articles, gear reviews and/or photos. Submit to newsletter@arizonamountaineeringclub.net. Digital photos should preferably be in JPG format with a 300 dpi (or greater). Articles can be in any standard word processing format.

AMC Rental Equipment: rentals available for the following items: MSR alpine snowshoes, ice crampons, ice axes (70 and 90cms), snow shovel, avalanche kit (probe and shovel), curved ice tool (pair). For now, please contact Erik Filsinger at smorefil@aol.com.

President's Corner: Governance, Leadership and You! By John Furniss

The annual AMC election for officers and directors was held at the January Member's Meeting and, unless you were there, the outcome may still be a mystery as has been pointed out at the February and March meetings and other events. The time to solve the mystery is now, but first some background.

The Arizona Mountaineering Club was founded as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Arizona in 1964. The AMC is considered a 501(c)(7) tax exempt entity under the category described as "social clubs organized for pleasure, recreation, and other non-profitable purposes." The club's mission statement appears frequently on the front page of this newsletter. The by-laws lay the foundation for the club's governance and operations and defines a Board of Directors made up of officers and directors to lead the club. The officers are the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, each elected annually, and four directors elected for one- or two-year terms. The immediate past-President may also serve a director for one year and, if not available, one additional board member shall be elected for a period of one year.

The results of this year's election and those returning appear below:

President—John Furniss

Vice President—Andrea Galyean

Secretary — Jerry Smit

Treasurer — Kristin Russel

Director, Past President – David A. Sampson

Director -Bill Fallon

Director - Stan Pak

Director – John Hulson (continuing)

Director - Deborah Roether (continuing)

So, the mystery is solved! Feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or suggestions on how to make the AMC best fulfill its mission.

The AMC relies heavily on volunteers in a broad range of roles to operate effectively and there are a few other changes of note. Lisa Ruggerio is taking responsibility for our Elections Committee, replacing Danny Gonzales who served in that role for the last four years. Ernie Babich is stepping down after two years leading our Membership function and will transition the member-

ship administration to John Furniss while the board looks at how best to staff this critical function going forward. Our thanks to Danny, Ernie and Lisa for their service to the club.

There are plenty of opportunities to support the club, both short-term and long-term. Please contact any member of the board to discuss how best to get involved. Our general email address is: con-tact@arizonamountaineeringclub.net.

Warm Regards,

Furniss

AMC Upcoming Events

By Deborah Roether

AMC PROGRAM CALENDAR – Member meetings are the 4th Monday, 7-9 p.m. of every month. **Please look for date exceptions listed in the details of the event on Meetup.** Check out the AMC website or the AMC Meetup calendar for details.

March - Ian Berko and Ben Watson presented on Liberty Ridge, Mt Rainier- We had a great turnout of 60 people in attendance (including the speakers). I noted more feedback and comments on this presentation than ever before:

"Awesome!"

"Best program so far"

" Fabulous talk!!"

Ben Watson replied on Meetup to the above comments: "Thanks everyone!

For anyone interested, Eli and I do our best to piece together a few meetup nights throughout the year to share on recent climbs/trips by our local aspiring climbers/alpinists, open to everyone!

We maintain a Facebook page for our local AAC chapter here:

We maintain a racebook page for our local AAC chapter here

https://www.facebook.com/groups/aac.centralaz

You can sign up for our email list here:

http://americanalpineclub.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe? u=f5498e7501eeeb5a4d76dac4c&id=cff0cf50b6"

April- Heidi Wirtz is a yogi, philanthropist and one of the country's few prominent female adventure climbers. She has been climbing for over 25 years, and has pioneered new routes up unclimbed big walls and mountains and pushed the limits of female exploration. She is known in the United States as Heidi Almighty for her bold and technical climbing as well as speed ascents in Yosemite Valley.

Heidi Wirtz will be teaching a Yoga to Climbing clinic Sunday, April 22nd at Black Rock Bouldering Gym. Please see the Meetup calendar for details. We still have a couple of spot open!

May - Elaina Arentz, our May presenter had to cancel and our new presenter is Titiana Shostak-Kinker. She will be presenting "Free" a short film about women climbers, filmed and produced entirely by women as well.

AMC Club Members – Please feel free to suggest potential member meeting topics and presenters to Deborah Roether, Program Chair. She can be contacted at deborahlreother@gmail.com

Highlighted Scheduled Events

Outings listed in this section are not AMC sanctioned outings. Any AMC member can list an event he or she is planning and which is open to other AMC members. The member does not have to be an approved AMC Outing Leader.

<u>Tuesdays North Mountain hikes after work</u> - Rogil Schroeter (623) 512-8465

<u>Wednesdays Ape Index Gym Climbing</u> - Rogil Schroeter (623) 512-8465

Want to get outdoors?

Go to the AMC Meetup for a complete list of outings and activities.

Up-to-date information and registration will be available. http://www.meetup.com/Arizona-Mountaineering-Club/