

Happy New Year, Artists:

Holidays are over and now we have a bit more time to paint. Days are getting a bit longer; sunrises range from 7:25 - 7:14 a.m. Our starting time on location is 7:45 - 8:00 a.m. If you come later, that's o.k. except for Bulldog Canyon. We need to open the gate to let people inside.

Please let me know if you are attending by Monday 7:00 p.m. If there are no r.s.v.p.s, I will not be there. In inclement weather, use your own judgement. I don't paint in fog or rain.

January 4 CASTLE HOT SPRINGS ROAD & LAKE PLEASANT

From the intersection of Carefree Highway and Cave Creek Rd.

West on Carefree Highway

Find mile marker #19 on Carefree Highway. This is approximately 10 miles west of I 17. Castle Hot Springs Road is at, or very near, mile marker #19.

North on Castle Hot Springs Rd.

Drive past the entrance to Lake Pleasant. Stay to the left.

Follow Castle Hot Springs Rd. about 7 miles.

There will be a small triangular area with a tree and mailboxes before the road turns to the right.

Park it and paint.

If you want to carpool, meet in front of Fry's on the south side of Carefree Highway, just past Home Depot. There is a Starbucks inside.

F.Y.I. Our favorite Starbucks moved to 5310 E.Carefree highway across the street from its old location near Fry's. The new location has a very small parking lot for leaving vehicles.

January 11 CAVE CREEK: HUNT'S PROPERTY

Come to the intersection of Cave Creek and Spur Cross.

North on Spur Cross to Ocotillo (a very short distance)

Left (west) on Ocotillo to last driveway on the right, just past the private road sign.

Right into drive and large gravel parking area.

Park and paint.

The Hints have generously allowed us to paint on their property.

Please leave no trace

January 18 BULLDOG CANYON

Route A. From Fountain Hills:

From the intersection of Shea and 87 go North. This is a left turn if you are going east on Shea. Follow 87 about 8 miles to Bush Hwy.

Turn right (east) on Bush Hwy., (overpass exit) and proceed past the Marina and the cliffs (Water Usage Area).

Just past the bridge, on the left side, is a parking area, a gate, and a large sign. This is the entrance to Bulldog.

Route B. From the south or the west.

Take Route 202 east to Power Road.

From the intersection of 202 and Power Road, turn left (north).

Power Road becomes Bush Highway. Follow this to the entrance, a gravel parking area on the right. If you go over the bridge you went too far.

You need Bulldog permits if you plan to drive in. You should get them anyway. This is a free 6 month permit with gate codes. Permits for Bulldog are available online (Tonto National Forest) or from the ranger station at 5140 E. Ingram St., Mesa Az. 480.610-3300

Walkers and passengers do not need Bulldog permits, but drivers must have them. All persons entering should have a Tonto pass.

I hope to see you there. Please r.s.v.p. positive only. We need to know if you will be there so that we are not waiting in vain.

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January 26 McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Gateway Trailhead

18333 E. Thompson Peak Parkway.

From the west or the south:

The Gateway Trailhead is located at 18333 E. Thompson Peak Parkway, one half mile north of Bell Road . Come to the intersection of Bell and Thompson Peak Pkwy. Go north on Thompson Peak Pkwy. The park is on the east side of Thompson Peak Pkwy.

Coming from the north:

Come to the intersection of Legacy and Pima. Go east on Legacy to Thompson Peak Pkwy. South (right) on Thompson Peak Pkwy. to the site.

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