



# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

2010-5

### **Beautiful and Amazing Crestate Saguaro Cacti of Arizona with Bob Cardell and Pat Hammes SaddleBrooke Clubhouse, Coyote Room Wednesday, October 20, 7 p.m.**

Bob Cardell and Pat Hammes started a serious effort to locate and document crested saguaros in February, 2005. At that time Bob was president of the Southern Arizona Hiking Club here in Tucson and Pat was the club treasurer. Thus they were able to finance and well afford their aptly termed "Crest Quest".

Both Bob and Pat were, and still are, dedicated peak baggers. After they had climbed all the peaks on the club peak lists, they were in search of their next goal. Having noticed numerous crested saguaros during their peak bagging outings, they unconsciously started a friendly one-on-one competition; "I found one more than you did", "I'll find the next one", "I am one up on you" sort of competition. Thus was born their "Crest Quest".

They have now located, photographed and documented 1550 crested saguaros in Arizona. Their ultimate goal is 2000 of these beauties. Then they will find at least one more.



### **SaddleBrooke Hikers on the Arizona Trail**

By Larry Linderman

Hiking the entire length of the Arizona Trail is an ambitious goal, even for seasoned hikers. The Trail has been designated a National Scenic Trail by an act of Congress. It starts at the Mexican border and ends at the Utah border, twisting, climbing, descending, sometimes obscure as it meanders through 800 miles of the varied and always beautiful topography of Arizona.

Only five SaddleBrooke hikers have completed the Trail so far but several others are striving to be part of that elite group. For a week last June, 13 SaddleBrooke Hiking Club members covered the Trail from just north of Payson, Arizona to Interstate 40 on the outskirts of Flagstaff, a distance of 105 miles.

Some of the hikers spent the nights in their tents, some in motels and some in their campers. Those who camped enjoyed perfect evening weather around a campfire roasting hot dogs, tending to blisters and retelling their adventures to the group.



Special thanks have to go to hike planner Elisabeth Wheeler. Elisabeth has already hiked the entire Trail but she is helping her friend and former SaddleBrooke resident Kathy Martin finish those parts she still has to complete. Elisabeth generously

invited several others to come along. Every participant appreciates the meticulous planning that made this adventure a success.

For those Hiking Club members who think they might like to start racking up miles on the Trail, the Club intends to offer several sections as day hikes over the next few seasons. There are three Trail hikes in October.

### Hiking Club Fall Picnic

The Hiking Club fall picnic will take place on Friday, October 29th at Catalina State Park in the group picnic area. Entrance fee for the park is \$7 per car or a State Park Pass. The annual meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. before the picnic lunch.

Food will be potluck-plus chicken lunch at noon. The club will provide the chicken, all paper goods and eating utensils. You will need to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Please bring your own beverage.

Please call Marge Wong , 818-2561 by October 22<sup>nd</sup>. to let him know that you are attending and what you will bring to share.

### Hiking News

By Roy Carter and Frank Brier

The fall hiking season gets underway with over 45 hikes covering a wide variety of difficulties and terrain. The hiking doesn't get any better in Arizona than September and October. Hope to see everyone on the trail during this fantastic period.

Welcome to new guide Dave Sorensen, new to SaddleBrooke from southern Utah, who is leading a hike to Wilderness of Rocks. Welcome back to Michael Reale and Karen Gray, both great guides, back in the groove after some down time.

Note that several hikes are flagged with an "!". As indicated in the July/August newsletter and in subsequent emails, the newly revised Hike Database (posted on the club website) uses two symbols to denote special trail conditions. We highly recommend that you read the hike descriptions when so marked (unless, of course, you have hiked the trail before) to understand these conditions before calling to sign up. The flags and the associated verbiage are to help you choose hikes that would be appropriate and enjoyable to you. Any feedback regarding the Hike Database would be welcome.

### News You Can Use

Social Hour	Sept. 15th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Oct. 6th	2:45 p.m.
Guide Meeting	Oct. 4th	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour	Oct. 20th	4:00 p.m.

**Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at the SaddleBrooke and DesertView Fitness Centers. You may print copies from our web page at [www.saddlebrooke.org](http://www.saddlebrooke.org).**

### Awards

<b>50 Hikes</b>	Julie Davis, Ray Gearhard, Dick Krueger, Dave Maslin, Randy Park
<b>500 Hikes</b>	Philip Cotton, Jim Strickler
<b>750 Hikes</b>	Elaine Fagan

### Congratulations

<b>President</b>	Dave Hydeman; 825-7816; skate04retire@yahoo.com
<b>Vice-President</b>	Bill Leightenheimer - 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Ken Wong; 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Elizabeth Tancock - 825-7838; etancock@wbhsi.net
<b>Chief Hiking Guides</b>	Frank Brier - 818-0493; FrankBrier@aol.com Roy Carter - 818-3137; rvcarter@aol.com

### Volunteers

<b>Catalina Hills Cleanup</b>	Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
<b>Communications</b>	Ken Wong 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Programs</b>	Elisabeth Wheeler;818-1547 elisarick@wbhsi.net

<b>Membership Roster</b>	Bob Perez, 861-0967; azsun65@wbhsi.net
<b>Merchandise</b>	Sandy Businger, 825-9294; usbusinger@wbhsi.net
<b>Newsletter Copies</b>	Martha Hackworth, 818-2573; marthahackworth@comcast.net
<b>Newsletter</b>	Carole Rossof, 877-9262; crandmr@q.com
<b>Publicity</b>	Position Open
<b>Socials</b>	Beaver Simpson, 818-7839; wbsortho@aol.com
<b>Socials</b>	Pam Wakefield, 825-0309; pambw@live.com
<b>Socials</b>	Marge Wong, 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Statistics and Awards</b>	Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com
<b>Work Days</b>	Jim Strickler, 825-8735; sherabjim@wbhsi.net

### General Hiking Information

**Reservations:** Call the guide to make a reservation for a hike. Let the guide know if you would be available to drive and whether or not you have a 'park entry pass' for the area. If you are unable to go on the hike after making a reservation, call the guide to cancel. The guide will call if a hike is canceled.

**Arrival Time and Departure Area:** The time listed for the hike is the departure time. It is important to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before departure time. All hikes leave from the left front parking lot of the MountainView Clubhouse (just east of the tennis courts) unless otherwise noted.

**Medical Conditions:** Prior to starting the hike, inform the guide of any special medical conditions or medications you may need.

**Voluntary Driver Donations:** Voluntary driver donations are shown in the table of Hikes Offered. If there are two entries under driver donation, for example \$7 + \$2, the first is for the driver and the second for any required entry and/or parking fee. If a state park pass is used for entry, the second amount should be given to the pass holder (whether he/she is

the driver or not). Other persons in the vehicle who also hold park passes would not be responsible for the second amount. Note, that some hikes may require additional fees.

Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated. Since a driver may not have change, we would ask that, if you see two entries for the driver donation, you try to have the amounts for each. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView.

**Items to Bring:** Every hiker should carry identification and any medical alerts in a waterproof container. Always bring ample water (this can vary from a pint on a winter fitness walk to 3 or 4 quarts on a summer hike). On strenuous hikes or in very hot weather you may need to replace electrolytes (eat salty snacks, add electrolyte mix to water, or use sport drinks). A wide brim hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hiking stick or trekking poles are recommended in Arizona. Other suggested items include comfortable hiking boots, whistle, map, compass, tweezers, first-aid kit, and moleskin. Layered clothing works well due to possible changes in weather conditions. In addition, you should bring a snack or lunch depending upon the hike. High complex carbohydrates (nuts, trail mix, and etc.) are good.

**Choosing Hikes:** Hikes are more difficult than a walk in SaddleBrooke due to elevation change and our Arizona terrain. It is not unusual to encounter rocks, unsteady ground, and steep inclines. It is your responsibility to choose an appropriate hike that matches your physical abilities. The hike description is a great tool. Look closely at the length, elevation change, and comments in the description to determine if a hike is within your physical ability. If you aren't feeling "up to snuff" on the day of the hike, don't hesitate to cancel until a better day.

**Assumption of Risk:** When you joined the club, you were asked to sign a "Release of Liability". **We want to reinforce the fact that by signing the release you acknowledge that participation in the club's activities involves an inherent risk of physical injury and that you assume all such risks. Accidents can happen.** Learn about the risks and how to avoid them. Take an active part in protecting yourself and fellow hikers. We are an organization of volunteers who share their skills and love for the wilderness with one another.

## Hike Elevation, Ratings & Pace

**Elevation Change:** Three indicators are used in the hike descriptions to convey hike difficulty as it relates to elevation change.

- **Net Elevation Change** is the change in elevation obtained by subtracting the starting elevation from the elevation of the destination, in feet. This estimate may be obtained from USGS maps or a global positioning system (gps). If no destination is listed, which may be the case for loop hikes or point-to-point hikes, net change is defined as the difference between the trailhead elevation and the highest elevation reached during the hike.
- **Accumulated Gain** is the sum of all upward stretches of a hike as recorded by a gps device over the course of the entire hike. Accumulated elevation gain is generally a more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation.
- **Accumulated Loss**, another measure of hike difficulty, is the sum of all downward stretches of a hike. Accumulated elevation loss is useful for some downhill hikes and is usually obtained with a gps device

**Ratings:** Ratings are based on the following round trip distances and accumulated gains in elevation over the course of the hike. The hike rating is determined by one (or both) of the two values being exceeded. For example, if a hike exceeds the criterion for distance but not for corresponding elevation, the rating would be set for distance.

<u>Hike Rating</u>	<u>Distance (Mi.)</u>	<u>Accumulated Gain in Elevation (Ft.)</u>
A	>14	>3000
B	8 to 14	1500 to 3000
C	4 to 8	500 to 1500
D	<4	< 500

**Pace:** Pace is described in terms of average speed in miles per hour (MPH) over the course of a hike from start to finish (excluding lunch). Average speed is affected by speed and length of stride, number of rest stops, incline, type of terrain, and trail conditions. The following four categories are used to describe pace in the hike descriptions:

<u>Pace</u>	<u>Average Speed (MPH)</u>
Leisurely	<1.5
Slow	1.5 to 2.0
Moderate	2.0 to 2.5
Fast	>2.5

## Fitness Walks - Five Days A Week

Maintain your fitness or get into better shape by joining us for a morning fitness walk. Enjoy the company of other hikers while perusing SaddleBrooke. The sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. No advanced signup is required to participate in these walks.

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at **6:00 a.m.** and beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> hikes will start at **6:30 a.m.** from the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. If you have any questions please contact Martha at: 818-2573, or Bill at: 825-5756.

Judy's Tuesday and Thursday walking group will start the Fitness Walk at **6:00 a.m.** We start our walk on Tuesday at the Mountain View Parking lot. On Thursday we begin our walks at the SaddleBrooke Tennis parking lot. We walk for an hour and complete about 3 or 4 miles according to where we walk. Most of our walks are touring SaddleBrooke and the few times we leave the premises it is discussed amongst the walkers. We leave exactly at **6:00 a.m.** until mid September. We will then begin at **6:30 a.m.**, and wait for no one. For more information call Judy at 825-7077 or e-mail at: mbarenkopf@msn.com

## Hikes Offered

The hikes for the next two months are listed in the table on the following pages. Any symbols are explained immediately below the table, and trail descriptions follow the table.

Please remember to call a few days ahead of time to ensure the guide has time to plan hike logistics.

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike <sup>a</sup>	Hike Rating <sup>b</sup>	Pace	Leave Time (a.m)	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
9/1	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast	6:00	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$0
9/3	Fri	Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook	C		7:30	Howie & Elaine Fagan	818-9555	\$4
9/8	Wed	Romero Pools	C		7:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
9/8	Wed	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		6:30	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$2
9/10	Fri	++King Canyon to Mam-a-Gah Picnic Area	D		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$6
9/12	Sun	Josephine Saddle with Roger's Rock	B	slow to moderate	7:30	Karen Gray	818-0337	\$10
9/13	Mon	Marshall Gulch/ Radio Ridge Loop	B		6:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$10
9/15	Wed	SBHC Social Hour MV Club House			4:00 p.m.			
9/16	Thurs	Esperero Trail	B		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
9/20	Mon	Josephine Saddle/ McBeth Springs	B		6:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$10
9/22	Wed	Romero Pools	C		7:00	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$2+\$2
9/22	Wed	Deer Camp/ Baby Jesus Loop	C		6:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$2
9/24	Fri	Wilderness of Rocks	B		6:30	Dave Sorensen	777-1994	\$10
9/26	Sun	Marshall Gulch Aspen Loop Trail	C	slow to moderate	7:30	Karen Gray	818-0337	\$10
9/27	Mon	Blackett's Ridge	B		6:00	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$4
9/28	Tues	++Linda Vista Loop	D		6:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
9/28	Tues	Window Rock	A		5:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
9/29	Wed	Canyon Loop, Birding and Nature Trail	C		7:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike <sup>a</sup>	Hike Rating <sup>b</sup>	Pace	Leave Time (a.m)	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
10/2	Sat	Josephine Saddle	B		7:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$10
10/4	Mon	Panther Peak	C!		6:00	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$5
10/5	Tues	**Arizona Trail: Top of Mt. Lemmon to Romero Pass to Sabino Basin to Prison Camp	A		6:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	\$10
10/5	Tues	**CDO/Big Wash Walk	D		6:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
10/6	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast	6:30	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	0
10/6	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting			2:45 p.m.			
10/6	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting			4:00 p.m.			
10/7	Thurs	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Philip & Kathy Cotton	825-2243	\$4
10/8	Fri	Romero Falls	A		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2+\$2
10/8	Fri	Sweetwater Preserve	C		7:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$5
10/11	Mon	Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop	C!		6:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$5
10/12	Tues	Pusch Ridge to 1St Overlook	C!		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
10/13	Wed	Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon	A		6:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$4
10/14	Thurs	Rams Creek Basin	C		6:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
10/14 & 10/15	Thurs & Fri	Arizona Trail: Lone Pine TH to Roosevelt Lake	A		6:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	\$17
10/15	Fri	Phone Line Trail - Round Trip	B		7:00	Kathy Cotton & Virginia Brier	825-2243	\$4
10/18	Mon	Pusch Peak	B!		7:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
10/19	Tues	Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam	C		6:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$3
10/19	Tues	Cathedral Rock	A!		5:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
10/20	Wed	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		7:00	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$2
10/20	Wed	Romero Pools	C		7:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
10/20	Wed	SBHC Social Hour, MV Club House			4:00 p.m.			

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike <sup>a</sup>	Hike Rating <sup>b</sup>	Pace	Leave Time (a.m)	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
10/21	Thurs	Quantrell Mine	C		6:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$14
10/22	Fri	++Linda Vista Loop	D		8:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$2
10/22	Fri	Mule Ears via Charouleau Gap	A!		7:00	Dean & Cheryl Werstler	825-9057	\$1
10/25	Mon	Biscotti and Hot Chocolate Social at Romero Pools <sup>d</sup>	C		8:00	Virginia Brier	818-0493	\$2+\$2+\$1
10/26	Tues	**Charouleau Gap Road from Lago del Oro Road to CDO River	C		7:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$1
10/27	Wed	King Canyon Loop	C		7:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$6
10/27 & 10/28	Wed & Thurs	Arizona Trail: Canelo Hills West and Canelo Hills East	A		6:00	Larry Linderman	818-1977	TBD
10/28	Thurs	Hidden Canyon Peak	B		7:30	Walt Shields	Call after 10/18 818-3439	\$2
10/29	Fri	Buster Springs/ Buster Mountain – Warm up hike for the Picnic <sup>f</sup>	B		7:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$2+\$2
10/29	Fri	Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail – Warm up hike for the Picnic <sup>f</sup>	C		7:30	Dave Hydeman	825-7816	\$2+\$2
10/29	Fri	SBHC Picnic - Catalina State Park			Mtg. – 11:30,			
10/31	Sun	Arizona Trail: American Flag TH to Tiger Mine TH	C		7:30	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$3

a – New hikes not yet included in the Hike Database are indicated with “\*\*\*”. Orientation hikes, recommended for the beginning hiker, are indicated with “++”.

b – Hike ratings are based on round trip distance and accumulated elevation gain, where available. Ratings flagged with a “!” indicate special trail conditions that might be of concern to some hikers. Please read the hike description before deciding whether to sign up.

c – Pace is moderate unless otherwise stated.

d – Virginia will bring the biscotti and hot chocolate.

e – These hikes will start at 7:30 a.m. from the easternmost trailhead in Catalina State Park.

## Hike Descriptions

**Arizona Trail: American Flag Trailhead to Tiger Mine Trailhead. Rating C.** From the American Flag Trailhead, the route proceeds in a northerly direction across National Forest and State Trust Land, crossing Webb Road and continuing to Oracle

State Park. After traveling through the park and reaching Hwy # 77, the route goes under the hwy, and then follows Tiger Mine Road for the last 1.5 miles. The beginning and end of the route are fairly level; the middle section has a series of ups and

downs on an old, rocky jeep road. The hike may be done in the reverse. A car shuttle will need to be arranged. Hike 7.7 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 320 feet; accumulated gain 425 feet; RTD 41 miles.

**Arizona Trail: Canelo Hills West and Canelo Hills East. Rating A.** The hike involves an early drive to Patagonia and a return home late the next day. On the first day, we drive to Canelo Pass and hike 16 miles from Canelo Pass to Patagonia. The accumulated gain is 1035 feet and the starting elevation is 5340 feet. The trail goes gradually downhill for the first 7 miles, is fairly level for 5 miles, and then slightly climbs before going downhill the last 5 miles. Hikers will stay the night in a Patagonia motel. On the second day, we will hike 14 miles from Parker Canyon Lake to Canelo Pass. The starting elevation is 5700 feet and the net elevation change is 840 feet; accumulated gain is 2350 feet. We will traverse these trails from east to west to better enjoy the diverse vistas of grass hills, oak savannas, mesquite groves and riparian canyons. Hike 30 miles over two days; trailhead elevations (see above); net elevation changes (see above); accumulated gains/losses (see above); RTD 230 miles (some dirt).

**Arizona Trail: Lone Pine TH to Roosevelt Lake. Rating A.** The route follows the Arizona Trail from the Lone Pine Trailhead on FR 648 at Pigeon Spring south to the trailhead at Roosevelt Lake. This is one of the most scenic sections of the entire Arizona Trail through the breathtaking Four Peaks Wilderness Area. Hike 19.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5620 feet; net elevation change 2370 feet; accumulated gain 3560 feet; accumulated loss 7040 feet; RTD 240 miles.

**Blackett's Ridge. Rating B.** The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blakett's Ridge Trail branches right and continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits

before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1689 feet; accumulated gain >1735 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Buster Spring / Buster Mountain. Rating B.** The hike involves a moderately difficult bushwhack for the adventurous fit hiker. The hike starts at the Alamo Canyon Trailhead shortly turning off to the left on a diminishing trail in Catalina State Park. Hikers proceed to Buster Spring (el. 4150 feet), which was rebuilt by the U.S. Forest Service in 1994 and is a reliable source of water year round. From the spring, hikers will climb to the summit of Buster Mountain (el. 4595 feet). The Buster Mountain summit offers magnificent views of upper Alamo Canyon and the tremendous cliffs and outcroppings there and around Table Mountain. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1895 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Canyon Loop, Birding and Nature Trails. Rating C.** Starting at the main trailhead in Catalina State Park, this hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We first hike the Nature Trail which has panoramic views, and then continue onto the Canyon Loop Trail. We will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail prior to returning. If the group is really ambitious, we will swing through the Canyon Loop Trail the opposite way we came for a total of 6.7 miles. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 370 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Cathedral Rock. Rating A!.** The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center and continues up to the Cathedral Rock Saddle (el. 7006 feet). Hikers then bushwhack following cairns northwest to the "Notch" and then over to the "Bucket" of the south tower which is the most accessible of the three summit towers. This is a long, difficult hike with several "mantel" crossings and fantastic views. The trail up is very steep, and the trip down will be difficult. Hike 16.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 5100 feet; accumulated gain 6040 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**\*\*CDO/ Big Wash Walk. Rating D.** The hike will start at a parking area in the Oro Valley Market Place near the Chase Bank. We access the path here, then cross over Canada del Oro River via the new footbridge and continue along the wash on a paved path that goes along the Big Wash. The trail goes behind several stores, and behind the old Steam Pump Ranch property. The group will turn around near the Home Depot, and return via the same route. There are lovely cliffs across the wash at one point. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation \_\_\_ feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD \_\_\_ miles.

**\*\*Charouleau Gap Road from Lago del Oro Road to CDO River. Rating C.** The group will park off of Lago del Oro Rd. and hike the Charouleau Gap Road to the Canada del Oro River, then return by same route. If this distance is too short, and the group is amenable, we can hike some on the other side of the river before returning. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation \_\_\_ feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD \_ miles.

**Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop. Rating C.** The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike easterly toward Deer Camp, and then take the Middle Tank Connecting Trail to the Baby Jesus Trail which leads back to the trailhead. The area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 993 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

**Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail. Rating C.** From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 460 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Esperero Trail. Rating B.** The hike reaches a saddle known locally as Cardiac Gap, which overlooks Esperero Canyon. We'll warm up by hiking from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot, through the Cactus Picnic Area and over a few small foothills to "the Gulch". The hiking is initially steep.... then it gets much steeper. We'll have lunch at the saddle (el. 4400 feet) while viewing the falls below, and return to the Visitor Center. Depending on season, there may be water in the falls. Extra drinking water is recommended. Hike 7.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 1700 feet; accumulated gain 1898 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Extended Fitness Walk. Rating C/B.** The walk begins at the SaddleBrooke parking lot and travels one of several routes in and around SaddleBrooke. Carry at least one quart of water. Hike 7.5 to 10 miles; elevation change 500 to 600 feet. Hike duration is 2.5 to 3 hours. Optional breakfast at the Road Runner Grill (need credit card as cash is not accepted).

**Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook. Rating C.** The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike covers level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs up the canyon. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up and coming down, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. From the overlook, hikers will enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, Finger Rock, and the steep Finger Rock Canyon, then return. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain >1000 feet; RTD 44 miles.

**Hidden Canyon Peak. Rating B.** The hike begins past the Golder Ranch Road gate in the Fifty-Year Trail area. This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti along the way. From the big rock scenic overlook in Hidden Canyon, we will bushwhack to the top of Hidden Canyon Peak and return via the same route. Hike 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 970 feet; accumulated gain 1240 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

**Josephine Saddle / McBeth Springs. Rating B.** Starting in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains), the hike proceeds up the Vault Mine Trail to the Agua Caliente Trail. We then follow the Agua Caliente Trail to the Josephine Saddle, with a side jaunt to McBeth Springs. The trail is very steep in spots. The return is via the Super Trail. Hike 9 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1790 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 130 miles.

**Josephine Saddle. Rating B.** The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Hikers will rest at the Saddle and return via the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse, going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1890 feet; RTD 130 miles.

**Josephine Saddle and Rogers Rock. Rating B.** The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. We then go down the Super Trail for about a mile and take a turnoff for Rogers Rock and travel about 0.25 miles to the rock. The top provides a wonderful view and is an excellent place to eat lunch. The return is down the Super Trail to the parking lot. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike, 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1700 feet; RTD 130 miles.

**King Canyon Loop. Rating C.** The hike begins from a parking area across from the Desert Museum and proceeds up the Kings Canyon Trail to the Sweetwater Saddle. The return is either down the trail to the Mam-a Gah picnic area or down an old mining road to the wash, then along the dry wash where petroglyphs can be viewed. The wash is interesting and wildlife can sometimes be seen. Bring a camera, lunch, water, and hiking stick if you have one. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 1398 feet; RTD 73 miles.

**King Canyon Trail to Mam-A-Gah Picnic Area. Rating D.** The hike proceeds along an old 4WD road (King Canyon Trail) to where a trail crosses the canyon going up to Mam-A-Gah picnic area. The picnic area is named for the “deer dance” of the Tohono O’odham Indians. We return by hiking down the canyon, viewing petroglyphs along the way. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation \_\_\_ feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 73 miles.

**Linda Vista Loop. Rating D.** The Linda Vista Trailhead and parking lot is one block east of Oracle Road on Linda Vista Blvd. The hike proceeds into the foothills of Pusch Ridge and is an excellent introduction to desert hiking. The trail gradually ascends to provide excellent views of Oro Valley. Poles may be helpful for rocky steps-up and steps-down. The trail passes through a riparian area and ascends to a rocky outcropping which is a good place for a snack break. There are magnificent saguaros throughout the drainage from Pusch Ridge. Hike 3 miles (mileage may be extended by doing an extra loop – ask the guide); trailhead elevation 2680 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 28 miles.

**Marshall Gulch / Aspen Loop. Rating C.** The hike starts at the Marshall Gulch Picnic Area and goes up the Marshall Gulch Trail to the Marshall Saddle. From the Saddle, we turn left down the Aspen Trail and head back to the picnic area. After about 0.25 miles on the Aspen Trail, there is a large rock that provides a great spot for a break or lunch. Hike may be done in reverse. Hike 3.7 miles; trailhead elevation 7440 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 130 miles.

**Marshall Gulch / Radio Ridge Loop. Rating B.** The hike begins from the Marshall Gulch Picnic Area along the Marshall Gulch Trail, and proceeds along the Aspen Trail to Radio Ridge and over to the Lemmon Rock Lookout for views and lunch. The return is back down Aspen Draw Trail, through Turkey Run to Summerhaven. Hike 9 miles; trailhead elevation 7440 feet; net elevation change 1900 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 130 miles.

**Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon. Rating A.**

Starting from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way, this rocky trail climbs steadily and follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail passes Linda Vista Saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball," and onto the Pima Canyon Trail. A half mile further and hikers arrive at the top of Mt. Kimball. The return hike is down the same trails. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 4138 feet; accumulated gain 4148 feet; RTD 44 miles.

**\*\*Mt.Lemmon (via the Sutherland Trail) from Sutherland TH off Golder Ranch Road. Rating A.**

From Golder Ranch Road, a side road leads to the pole line road. The Sutherland Trail joins the pole line road and follows the pole line road for about 2.5 miles on the north side of Cargodera Canyon to its end. Here the route leaves the powerline and crosses the canyon to the south side. It then climbs very steeply about 400 feet into a saddle. From the saddle, the trail drops slightly to the south, crosses a minor drainage, and then climbs up the crest of the ridge. Two miles of switchbacks take hikers up the ridge and to some fine views of the north side of the front range of the Catalinas. After a short brushy section, the trail rejoins the powerline road for the next 0.5 mile to the Canada del Oro Trail. At this point, the group will turn right and hike 2.3 miles to the summit of Mt. Lemmon. Transportation to the top will need to be arranged. This is a very difficult, all day hike. Hike 11 miles, trailhead elevation 2700 feet, net elevation change 6400 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 131 miles.

**Mule Ears via Charouleau Gap. Rating A!.**

This is a difficult hike to a prominent point on the Samaniego Ridge with outstanding views in all directions. The hike starts from the Rocking Horse Ranch parking area near Unit 21, crosses the CDO Wash and proceeds along Charouleau Gap Road, FR # 736 (a 4WD jeep road) to the gap. The group will turn right (south) onto the trail and climb up a steep hill for 1.5 miles. Eventually, the trail levels off and continues along the ridge with moderate up/down hiking over to Mule Ears. This section was devastated by fire and is sometimes overgrown with

sticker bushes. Dress defensively. Route finding skills are needed. We lunch at a spot on the edge of cliffs just north of Mule Ears which affords a view of the Reef of Rocks. The return is via the same route. Hike 17.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3170 feet; net elevation change 3891 feet; accumulated gain 4210 feet; RTD 5 miles.

**Panther Peak. Rating C!.** The hike begins near Saguaro National Park – West off Picture Rocks Road, with the first mile on old mining roads. Then, a steep, difficult climb begins and you may need to use your hands to climb the trail. The use of gloves, long pants, and a hiking stick is recommended. There are outstanding views from the top; Picacho Peak is visible to the north. The return is via the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2280 feet; net elevation change 1160 feet; accumulated gain 1250 feet; RTD 60 miles.

**Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C!.**

The hike begins at the Peppersauce Campground on the northeast side of the Catalinas. The trail follows old Mt. Lemmon (Oracle Control) Road up to the Nugget Canyon turnoff. We will stop to see Peppersauce Cave. Bring a flashlight. We then travel up the canyon, follow jeep roads, view an old mine, then come down Peppersauce Canyon. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills, but there are numerous stream crossings involving boulder hopping during periods following significant precipitation. This is a strenuous hike for this level due to a steep incline in one area and loose rocks in another. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 53 miles (dirt).

**Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating B.**

The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. There are three options for the return: the tram road, the same trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended

stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain 1375 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Pima Canyon to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dam. Rating C.** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small first dam as we enter the beautiful, rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain 977 feet; RTD 42 miles.

**Pusch Peak. Rating B!.** From the trailhead at the east end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds up the northwest side of Pusch Ridge to the top of Pusch Peak, which provides fantastic 360-degree views of Tucson, Oro Valley, and points north. The first 1.5 miles of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 1.5 miles is difficult and strenuous with stretches of slippery footing, rock scrambling, and exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. Along the final 1.5 miles, the trail passes four man-made dams and numerous excellent overlooks with views north, west, and south. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2620 feet; net elevation change 2641 feet; accumulated gain >2700 feet; RTD 28 miles.

**Pusch Ridge to 1st Overlook. Rating C!.** From the trailhead at the east end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds part way up Pusch Ridge to a great overlook. The first mile of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 0.5 miles is difficult with stretches of slippery footing, rock scrambling, and exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. The trail passes four man-made dams. The overlook provides excellent views north and west. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 2620 feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain >1100 feet; RTD 28 miles.

**Quantrell Mine. Rating C.** The hike starts from the Agua Caliente Trailhead (see driving directions to Elephant Head) and involves a scenic trek through a historic and legendary mining area of the Santa Rita Mountains. Hikers will lunch at the head of Chino Canyon at the Quantrell Mine and enjoy magnificent views down the canyon, as well as that of the mythical giant rock sculpture known as Elephant Head. You will not be berated if you have visions of Jesuit gold, Teddy Roosevelt, and Apache sacrifices. This trail is good with no steep sections. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 800 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 154 miles (dirt).

**Rams Creek Basin. Rating C.** From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision, we hike up a wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are great views of Rancho Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere along the way. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 780 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles.

**Romero Pools. Rating C.** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Romero Falls. Rating A.** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where Romero pools are located. The falls are about 30 feet high and consist of water flowing down a

steeply sloped rock face, and are a very unique feature in southern Arizona. The falls are located about 2.6 miles past the Romero pools and about 0.6 miles (and a little less than 500 feet additional elevation gain) past Romero Springs. The springs and falls are located in a very scenic section of the canyon, and have been known to attract quite a bit of wildlife. Lunch will be at the falls. The return is via the same route. Hike 11.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 2420 feet; accumulated gain >3140 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C.** The trail for this hike is gradual and passes through a mesquite thicket with 100-year old saguaros, Arizona poppies/morning glories in season, and eventually reaches an area of many, many petroglyphs. Per the book *Paradise Found* by Kathy Alexander, there are over 1400 petroglyphs in the area. Some rock scrambling is necessary to reach most of the petroglyphs, but nothing very difficult. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3240 feet; net elevation change minus 205 feet; accumulated gain 309 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

**Sweetwater Preserve. Rating C.** The trailhead is at the end of Tortolita Road, one mile off El Camino del Cerro. The 703-acre preserve is in the Tucson Mountains (this is not the Sweetwater Trail which leads to Wasson Peak.) There is a system of trails within the park made in 2008 by a crew of Piima County trail builders. It consists of 12 distinct loops and paths that interconnect so they can be linked together. Each trail is 0.5 to 1.5 miles in length, for 10.4 miles total. A map of the area may be found on the website ([www.sdmb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html](http://www.sdmb.org/trail-Sweetwater.html)). Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change <1000 feet; accumulated gain <1000 feet; RTD 60 miles.

**Window Rock. Rating A.** The hike follows the most direct route up Ventana Canyon. The hike is difficult and steep, and involves lots of difficult climbing. The hike begins at the Ventana Canyon Resort parking lot past the employees' parking lot. It follows that trail past Maiden Pools until it reaches the Esperero Trail # 25, which is used for two miles to reach the Window. Ventana Canyon offers some of the best canyon views in southern Arizona. Views from the Window are fantastic, including such landmarks at Mt. Kimball, Cathedral Rock, and the Montrose Canyon drainage area. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 3840 feet; accumulated gain 4200 feet; RTD 54 miles.