



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

MAY/JUNE

2006-3

ADVISE FOR WARM WEATHER HIKING

by Elisabeth Wheeler

On an 80 degree day several SaddleBrooke hikers on the Golden Gate Loop hike near Old Tucson experienced heat related fatigue. The hike was 6.5 miles without shade. The following tips were elicited and expanded to prepare for warm or hot weather hikes.

1. Bring plenty of water and stay hydrated.
2. Carry a small spray bottle to spray yourself to keep yourself cool. A wet handkerchief or neck wrap would also be helpful.
3. Snack frequently, including something salty. Carry power gel or Gatorade type drink or powdered electrolyte mix for times of increased fatigue.
4. Wear wide brimmed hat for shade. Dress in layers, with wicking shirt next to your skin. If you use a long-sleeved shirt for sun protection un-button cuffs to increase air circulation.
5. Wear light-weight zip-off pants and synthetic socks.
6. Hike early in the day. Build up your tolerance for exercise in warm temps.

Be prepared for warmer days so your hiking will

remain a fun way to enjoy our desert!

THANKS TO PAST OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank Jim Strickler for the great job he has done as our president, Bob Wynne for all the time given as Vice-President, Sherry Jacobson for being our treasurer and Susan Robertshaw, Chief Hiking Guide. Thank-you, all four of you!

In addition, we want to thank Sue Berman who has been making the copies of our newsletters the past years. Thanks for all your time and travel, Sue!

NEW OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The following new officers were elected at the Spring Picnic on March 31st: President, Susan Robertshaw, Vice-President, Larry Dawson, Secretary, Kathy Gish, Treasurer, Jan Springer and Chief Hiking Guide, Elisabeth Wheeler.

In addition, Cheryl Straw will be our new Social Chairperson. Cyndee Jordan has volunteered to assist her. We thank both of you for volunteering.

NEW GUIDE

Please welcome Marv Rossof as a new Hiking Guide. He has frequently hiked with the club and will be

offering several hikes in this newsletter. You will probably enjoy Marv's humor and great smile.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Social Hour	May 17th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	June 14th	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	June 14h	4:00p.m.
Social Hour	June 21st	4:00 p.m.

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at both the SaddleBrooke and MountainView Clubhouses. They are also available on our web page at www.saddlebrooke.org.

Membership is \$5.00 a year. Send your completed application or renewal to Bob Perez at 65187 E. Desert Sands Court. **Make checks payable to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club.** (Blank applications are placed behind the Newsletters in the clubhouses or are available online at our web page).

NEWS WE CAN USE

New e-mail address: If you change your e-mail address please notify Bob Perez at azsun65@wbhsi.net so you can continue to receive the newsletter and other communications.

OFFICERS

President: Susan Robertshaw - 818-6727
jsrobertshaw@att.net

Vice-President: Larry Dawson - 825-3480
madmaryann2@aol.com

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Social Assistant: Cyndee Jordan - 825-4640

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 hike 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 at the end of the hike descriptions. Most include the entry and/or parking fees where required, however 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. 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.

Guest Policy: A SaddleBrooke resident, whether year-round or part-time, must be a club member in order to join a hike. On hikes with limited participants, members have priority over guests. Members must accompany their guest(s), and all guests

will be required to sign a Release Form prior to hiking (if under age 18, must be signed by parent or legal guardian). If the guest is younger than 16 years old, you must notify the guide who has sole discretion whether or not to allow minors on the hike.

HIKE RATINGS, PACE, AND SYMBOLS

Rating:

- A Hikes >14 miles or >3000 foot climb
- B Hikes >8 to 14 miles or >1500 to 3000 foot climb
- C Hikes >4 to 8 miles or >500 to 1500 foot climb
- D Hikes 4 miles or less and 500 foot climb or less

Pace:

Refers to the length of 2 steps, the speed you walk/hike, or to the average speed of a hike. When we denote the pace of a hike we are referring to the average speed. This means that from start to finish (excluding lunch) you can expect to be traveling at an average speed of () MPH. The average speed or pace of a hike is affected by speed and length of stride, number of rest stops, incline, type of terrain, and trail conditions. We use the following three categories to describe our hikes.

Slow Pace – Average speed of hike < 1.5 MPH

Moderate Pace – Average speed of hike 1.5 to 2.5 MPH

Fast Pace – Average speed of hike > 2.5 MPH

Symbols:

+"and "-" after a rating. The plus and minus signs are used to show that a hike is harder or easier than the average hike in that rating category. It may have a plus sign added due to a loose rocky area or perhaps due to an unusually steep area. A minus sign might be added to a hike due to it having a very easy, smooth trail surface.

****" by a hike.** Hikes marked by a double asterisk are new additions to our club database or a new 'one time' hike.

++" by a hike. Hikes marked by a double plus are Orientation Hikes. Orientation hikes are encouraged for all "beginner" hikers and are intended for sharing information and for personal assessment of current physical fitness.

FITNESS WALKS - FIVE DAYS A WEEK

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club offers morning fitness walks five days a week. These sessions last about one hour and are suitable for walkers of all ability levels. They are a great way to start the day and a great way to meet other SaddleBrooke residents as you enjoy the fantastic views.

Bill Leightenheimer offers fitness walks Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at **6:30 a.m.** Meet at the parking lot of the fitness center of **SaddleBrooke Clubhouse**. You may contact Bill at **818-1953** or whlaz@robsoncom.net.

Dean Wilson and Michael Reale offer fitness walks Tuesday and Thursday at **6:00 a.m.** **Please note the new time beginning May 2nd.** Meet at the parking lot of the **MountainView Clubhouse**. You may contact Dean at **818-0299** or Michael at

825-8286.

Judy Barenkopf offers fitness walks every Tuesday and Thursday at **6:30 a.m.** Meet at the parking lot of at the **MountainView Clubhouse** on Tuesday and at the parking lot of the **SaddleBrooke Tennis Center** on Thursdays. You may contact Judy at **825-7077** or Mbarenkopf@aol.com.

NAME TAGS

A suggestion has been made that any person attending a hike might want to wear a nametag. We have so many new members; it would be a great way for the hiking leader and hikers to get to know the people in their group and to speak to them by name. Often we are introduced to people and quickly forget their names. If you choose to wear a nametag, you can pin it either to your shirt, hat or pack. Once again, this is not mandatory, only a suggestion.



HIKES OFFERED

****May 1-5 – Mon.-Fri. Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument. Ratings A-, A-, and A.** Clarence Dutton, geologist for the Powell Survey, described this area in 1880 as "... a sublime panorama...It is a maze of cliffs and terraces lined off with stratification, of rambling buttes, red and white domes, rock platforms gashed with profound canyons, burning plains barren even of sage—all glowing with bright colors and flooded with sunlight." This 1.7-million-acre preserve, established as a national monument in 1996, features great distances, enormously difficult terrain, and a remoteness unequaled in the lower 48 states. We will do 3 full-day hikes, focusing on canyons leading to the Escalante River. Characteristic of these hikes, accessed off the Hogback section of Highway 12 and Burr Trail, are arches, narrow canyons, riparian oases, waterfalls, and sculpted slickrock. There will probably be some spots of hiking through ankle- to knee-deep water. We will do the shorter hikes of Upper and Lower Calf Creek Falls if time permits. Overnight accommodations will be 4 nights at Calf Creek Campground. There are also motels in nearby Escalante town and Boulder. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

May 1 – Mon. We will drive 10.5-11.5 hours depending on the route, finalizing our approach on back roads, either on Cottonwood Road along the "Cockscomb" or on Skutumpah Road which passes through the cliffs that make up the Grand Staircase. There are easy, short, dry hikes through

slot canyons (Willis Creek Narrows or Cottonwood Canyon Narrows) off either of these roads that could be done on the way up. If we choose to do one of these hikes, we will arrive late in Escalante and stay that night at the Circle D Motel and eat at the Cowboy Blues restaurant. Leave at TBD; driver donation TBD.

May 2 – Tues. Boulder Mail Trail to Death Hollow.

Rating A-. The trailhead is reached off Hells Backbone Road out of Boulder. The Boulder Mail Trail was established in 1902 as a mail route between Escalante and isolated Boulder Town. A telephone line, traces of which are still visible today, provided Boulder with outside communication through a switchboard in Escalante. This cairned route traverses vast stretches of Navajo Sandstone slickrock, deep sand, and steep canyon walls. For 2 miles we descend to Sand Creek, follow the west banks of the creek, and then climb steeply out of the canyon. We continue to climb steadily over slickrock, reaching Slickrock Saddle Bench after 4 miles where we will view mountain peaks and ranges in all directions. At mile 5 we reach the rim on the rugged Death Hollow gorge with its dramatic soaring cliffs and white Navajo slickrock domes. At the foot of this plunging 750-foot descent, some of which traverses the brink of a 600-foot cliff, we reach the canyon floor (Poison ivy is abundant!) and will hike downstream a mile or so, with some wading probable. We will return by the same route. This hike is very exposed and can be quite hot. There is rock scrambling in Sand Creek & Death Hollow. Hike 14 miles; elevation change 980 ft. (Cumulative gain=2,000 ft. & cumulative loss=2,000 ft., includes 750 feet descent/ascent down into and out of Death Hollow). Starting elevation 6,770 feet.

May 3 – Wed. Egg Canyon to Laminar Arch Loop.

Rating A-. We will take Lamp Stand Road off of Burr Trail to reach the mouth of Egg Canyon where we will walk on high colorful benches, through deep brushy ravines, and through a petrified forest. We will hike on and off old mining tracks about 4 miles down to The Upper Gulch, then hike up The Gulch about a mile to Indian Trail Gulch. We will then make our way for about 1.5 miles on cow trails up this very brushy side canyon to seldom seen Laminar Arch. Near the arch, the vegetation thins out and the canyon is very beautiful with towering red walls of Wingate above. Continuing .25 mi. down a right fork is a sandstone spring. We will return back down The Gulch, past Egg Canyon, through an unnamed side canyon to eventually join our original track back to the parking area. Hike 14.5 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 6,250 feet.

May 4 – Thurs. Big Horn Canyon/Harris Wash Loop with Tunnel & Zebra Slots. Rating A. Big Horn Canyon, a tributary of Harris Wash is a rarely explored part of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The canyon cuts into Navajo sandstone rock layers that display an unusually wide range of colors, textures, and formations. The canyon consists of slot-like channels of varying narrowness mixed with wider, flat sections. Before it reaches Harris Wash, the canyon has a half mile of narrows, some of which is just 2 feet wide and angled away from vertical, so it must be traversed sideways. Just before Harris Wash we will reach the junction with the West Fork of the canyon which we will follow a short way to an unnamed slot. We will then hike an easy route of about 4 miles through Harris Wash to Tunnel Slot which is filled by a pool of water most of the year. We then backtrack slightly to find our exit drainage from Harris Wash down which we shortly find Zebra Slot. This spectacular narrow slot which also requires wading, possibly hip deep, is known for its unique pattern of pink and white stripes. We will climb out of Zebra slot to the

rim and follow washes and small canyons, crossing a “staccato” rock stretch to return to the trailhead. Hike 15.3 miles; elevation change 890 feet; starting elevation 5,830 feet.

May 2 – Tues. American Flag Trail. Rating C. This hike begins on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. We take the American Flag Trail to Oracle Ridge where we have interesting views to the west. We then hike south to a saddle below Apache Peak where we will have lunch and then return. Hike 8 miles; we will hike through an area affected by the Aspen fire; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Sandra Sowell, 818-0995.

May 2 – Tues. Mt. Lemmon/Catalina Camp Loop. Rating B. The hike starts at the Mt. Lemmon fire station and follows the Oracle Ridge Trail, past some of the largest Alligator Juniper trees in the Catalinas, to Dan's Saddle. Then we will hike west down to the old Catalina Mining Camp and snoop around the abandoned cabin. After lunch by the stream bed, we'll hike up the Red Ridge Trail to the road. We will be in towering pines for part of the hike out. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 2000 feet; starting elevation 8000 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

****May 3 – Wed. Alamo Canyon to the Water Tank. Rating C.** This hike begins at the Romero Ruins trailhead. Elevation change is gradual. We will hike from the ruins through Alamo Canyon. There maybe water at the canyon. We will then go around, down and up and down again to a non-used large water tank. Trail is rocky in some areas. We can return one of three ways of equal distance. Hike 4-5 miles; elevation change 300-400 feet. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

May 8 – Mon. Maiden Pools. Rating C. We'll start at the public parking lot past the employees' parking lot and use the new Forest Service trail into the canyon. The trail is rocky in places with some steep climbing. Hopefully, we will be rewarded for our efforts with spectacular views of the East Side of Tucson. Lunch at the pools and return. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1100 feet; starting elevation 3000 feet; leave at **8:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

May 9 – Tues. Hidden Canyon. Rating C. 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. Hike begins past the Golder Ranch Gate in the Fifty Year Trail area. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

May 9 – Tues. Mt Lemmon Rock Loop. Rating B. We will start on the Marshall Gulch Trail at Marshall Gulch Picnic area. At the saddle we continue on the Wilderness of Rocks trail to Lemmon Rock Lookout trail and up 1900 feet to the lookout for a leisurely lunch. Then we will return via Aspen Trail to Marshall Saddle and the Marshall Gulch trail back to the beginning. Hike 10 miles; elevation change 600 feet; starting elevation 7440 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

May 10 – Wed. Tohono Chul Park and Tea Room, "birders walk" and breakfast. Rating D. Join a Tohono Chul docent for a guided bird observation walk in beautiful Tohono Chul Park. We can continue strolling through the park at our leisure and end with breakfast at the Tohono Chul Tea Room. Bring binoculars. There is an admission fee of \$5.00. Hike 1.5 miles; elevation change 50 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:45 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

****May 10 – Wed. Oracle State Park/AZ Trail West. Rating C.** Starting from OSP Nature Trail, we go north on the Wildlife Corridor Trail to the AZ Trail and travel west for 2 miles toward Highway 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Loop Trail that takes us back to the park. The first third of the hike is fairly level, the second third is a series of up and down hills on rocky trail and the last third has gentle hills. Hike 6 miles, elevation change 500-600 feet. Leave at **8:00a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

May 11 – Thurs. Aspen Loop/Marshall Gulch Trail. Rating C. We will start at the Marshall Gulch Picnic area and go up the Aspen Trail to the saddle. We will lunch at a scenic spot near the saddle. Then down the Marshall Gulch Trail to the picnic area. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 7440 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

****May 14 – Sun. Thurs. May 18 - White Mountains of AZ. Rating C+.** Three days of hiking. The hikes will include Escudilla Peak, the third highest peak in AZ and the East and West Forks of Mount Baldy, the 2nd highest peak in AZ. We will also be taking some shorter hikes. There will be opportunities for fishing and sightseeing. Our lodging will be at the Chalet Lodge at the Lake of the Woods resort in Lakeside/Pinetop. The Chalet is 3000 sq. feet on 2 floors, plus a loft. The elevation at our lodge is about 7500 feet, so it will be cool in May. Dean & Jan Wilson 818-0299.

May 15 – Mon. Seven Falls. Rating C+. Starting at the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center hike from the parking lot to lower Bear Canyon. Then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls and return. Falls may be dry depending on spring rains. Hike 8 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 2800 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

****May 15-17 - Mon.-Wed. - AZT: White Rock Mesa, Hardscrabble Mesa, Red Hills/Mazatzal Divide. Ratings A, B, A+.** We will stay 2 nights in a motel in Payson. Leave at TBD; driver donation TBD. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

May 15 – Mon. Park car at Doll Baby Trailhead west of Payson; drive to **Twin Buttes Trailhead south of Strawberry. Hike White Rock Mesa passage to Doll Baby Trailhead. Rating A.** Hike 15+ miles; elevation loss 2,450 feet; starting elevation 5,850 feet.

May 16 –Tues. Drive to Pine Trailhead. Hike **Hardscrabble Mesa passage to Doll Baby Trailhead. Rating B.** Hike 12 miles; elevation change 1,030 feet; starting elevation 5,400 feet.

May 17 – Wed. Park car at **City Creek Trailhead. Drive to Doll Baby Trailhead. Hike Red Hill/Mazatzal**

Divide Trail loop to City Creek Trailhead. Rating A+. Hike 18+ miles; elevation change 2,640 feet (initially steep: 2,400 feet gain in 5 miles, then downward trend); starting elevation 3,460 feet.

May 17 – Wed. Linda Vista Loop Trails. Rating C. Drive to trailhead, 15 minutes from the MountainView parking lot. We will hike the trails in this area that skirt the base of Pusch Ridge. There are great views out onto Oracle Road and environs. Hiking stick recommended as trail is rocky in places. Hike 4 to 6 miles; elevation change 400 to 500 feet; starting elevation 2680 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

May 17 – Wed. Social

May 22 – Mon. Romero Pools. Rating C+. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. Trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down the canyon area where several pools are located. An option is a ¾ mile round-trip hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch there. Park entrance pass required. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

May 22 – Mon. American Flag Trail. Rating C. This hike begins on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. We take the American Flag Trail to Oracle Ridge where we have interesting views to the west. We then hike south to a saddle below Apache Peak where we will have lunch and then return. Hike 8 miles; we will hike through an area effected by the Aspen fire; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 4400 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

May 23 – Tues. Incinerator Ridge. Rating C. We will begin at the Palisade Ranger station and climb 400 feet to a saddle. Then we will walk along the ridge to reach a viewpoint towards Barnum Rock and Peck Wilderness. This is one of the premier views off of Mt. Lemmon, which truly gives you the concept of a sky island. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 8000 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

May 23 – Tues. Mt. Wrightson - Old Baldy Trail. Rating A. Hike up the Old Baldy Trail to the summit and come down the same way. This is the shortest route to the top (9453') of Mt. Wrightson. At the top are 360-degree views from Tucson to Mexico. This is a shady all day hike to an outstanding mountain. Hike 10.8 miles; elevation change 4050 feet; starting elevation 5400 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

May 29 – Mon. Oracle State Park/AZ Trail West. Rating "C". Starting from OSP Nature Trail, we go north on the Wildlife Corridor Trail to the AZ Trail and travel west for 2 miles toward Highway 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Loop Trail that takes us back to the park. The first third of the hike is fairly level, the second third is a series of up and down hills on rocky trail and the last third has gentle hills. Hike 6 miles, elevation change 500-600 feet. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Marv Rossof, 877-

9262.

May 30 – Tues. Professor Woodward’s Dam. Rating B. Start at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center; hike the tram road to the top, then climb to the site of the dam planned by Professor Sherman M. Woodward in 1901. Bring flashlights to explore a diversion tunnel, now over a century old. There is a short steep descent into the canyon and a short steep ascent out of the canyon. We will return via road or Phoneline Trail. Hike 10.5 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

May 30 – Tues. Peralta Trail. Rating C+. Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle viewing Weaver’s Needle in the Superstition Mountains. This may be the area’s most beautiful canyon. Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver’s Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge, thought-provoking boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. It’s a steep, rocky trail most of the way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1360 feet; starting elevation 2500 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$8.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

May 31 – Wed. Canyon Loop, Birding & Nature Trails. Rating C. Start at main trailhead in Catalina State Park. First hike the Nature Trail, then the Canyon Loop Trail and then the Birding Trail. This is a 4-mile hike with about 200 feet elevation change. If we are real ambitious we will swing through the Canyon Loop Trail the opposite way we came for a total of 6+ miles. Leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

June 1 – Thurs. Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating C. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. We start at 4500 foot elevation from the lower area and ascend 3.2 miles up the canyon to the 5400 foot Roundup Picnic Area. Along the way, we enjoy the shade of Apache Pines, Douglas Firs, Emory Oaks, Mexican Blue Oaks, Willows, Cottonwoods, and Sycamores. Our return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 4500 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Mary Richling, 825-5238.

****June 5-9 - Mon.-Fri.—Zion National Park. Ratings A, A-, A-.** (Individuals may choose alternate hikes or activities instead of the guided hikes.) We plan to car camp at Watchman Campground inside the Park. Motels are available in Springdale adjacent to the Park. Park shuttle service is provided from the Visitor Center and Campgrounds to the main area where many trails start. Leave at TBD; driver donation TBD. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

June 5 – Mon. Drive to Zion and stop at Visitor Center. Register for backcountry permit for The Narrows (only 80 per day, weather permitting as excessive rain and/or flash flooding are possible). Set up in campground and/or motel

June 6 – Tues. The Narrows. Rating A. The Virgin River has carved a spectacular gorge in the upper reaches of Zion Canyon 16 miles long, up to 2,000 feet deep, and at times only 20-30 feet wide. Hiking The Zion Narrows in the shadow of its soaring walls, sandstone grottos, natural springs, and hanging gardens can be an unforgettable wilderness experience.

Hiking the Zion Narrows means hiking in the Virgin River. At least 60% of the hike is spent wading, walking, and sometimes swimming in the stream. There is no maintained trail; the route is the river. The current is swift, the water is cold, and the rocks underfoot are slippery. The Park lists this hike as taking an average of 12 hours. The hike will start at Chamberlain Ranch and soon will pass Bulloch’s Cabin. The North Fork Canyon is a canyon full of surprises, and for the rest of the day you can count on being awed and inspired over and over again. We will pass a waterfall and Deep Creek Canyon, Kolob Creek Canyon, and Goose Creek. Big Spring is a large gushing spring that cascades out of the cliff face 10 feet above the river. This stretch of river passes through the geologic boundary between the Navajo Sandstone and the Kayenta Formation. Zion Narrows is distinguished by its sheer thousand-foot walls that rise above the river with little or no sandy shore between. We will also pass the mouth of Orderville Canyon and the Temple of Sinawava. Hike 16 miles; elevation change 90 ft. gain, 1,312 ft. loss

Alternate Hike: East Rim. Rating A. The trail starts in the arid slickrock country near the East Entrance, then climbs atop a wooded plateau for some excellent views before wandering away from the rim. Spectacular scenery accompanies the trail during its descent through Echo Canyon. The Observation Point Trail is the most popular exit route, offering a steep and scenic descent to reach the Zion Canyon road near Weeping Rock. Hike 16.4 miles; elevation change 1,290 feet gain; 1,445 feet loss.

June 7 – Wed. Hop Valley and Kolob Arch. Rating A-. Kolob Arch is probably the largest natural arch in the world. Accurate measurement of its size is difficult because of its location, high above the canyon floor, but recent calculations place its span somewhere between 292 and 310 feet. The arch lies near the top of the Navajo Sandstone cliffs on the north side of La Verkin Creek, about 700 feet above the trail. The Hop Valley trail is the most scenic approach. This trail starts on the Kolob Plateau, south of La Verkin Creek, and proceeds down the colorful Hop Valley Canyon to its confluence with La Verkin creek. The canyon is about 200 yards wide, with a flat, grassy bottom boxed in on both sides by towering cliffs of red sandstone. A shallow stream, fed by runoff from a half dozen side canyons, keeps the bottom of the narrow valley green, while in the distance, one can see the picturesque maze of mesas and canyons that surround the confluence of Hop Valley and La Verkin Creek. Hike 14.7 miles; elevation change 322 feet gain; 1,382 loss .

June 8 – Thurs. West Rim. Rating A-. The diversity of this hike, combined with the magnificent views of Zion Canyon from the West Rim, make it one of the most enjoyable trails in the park. Horse Pasture Plateau, where the trail begins, is a long flat finger of sandstone that protrudes from Kolob Plateau, on the northern park boundary, into Zion Canyon. The path meanders gently downward through the ponderosa pine and pinion-juniper forests of the plateau, dropping 740 feet over a distance of nine miles, before descending abruptly into the canyon. Spectacular views from the West Rim begin about six miles from the trailhead, where the route skirts the edge of Phantom Valley, and climax 3 ½ miles later at Cabin Spring. Beyond Cabin Spring the trail drops into Zion Canyon and winds through another 4.7 miles of slickrock and canyon country before reaching the North Fork of the Virgin River. Hike 14.4 miles; elevation change 1,265 feet gain; 4,825 feet loss.

Angel's Landing Option: Angel's Landing is a side trip approximately 0.5 miles from the main trail. The view is absolutely incredible. A word of caution about the trail. Some scrambling is necessary and, although the park service has installed rails and support chains on a few of the more exposed sections, the route is not for the faint of heart.

Alternate Hikes (June 6-8):

The Watchman: 2 miles; 368 ft. elevation gain.

Sand Bench Loop: 3.4 miles; 500 feet elevation gain; 500 feet elevation loss

The West Bank of the Virgin River: 2.6 miles; 220 feet elevation gain; 135 elevation loss.

Emerald Pools: 1.9 miles; 400 feet elevation gain; 400 feet elevation loss.

Observation Point-Hidden Canyon: 8+ miles; 2,159 feet elevation gain/loss.

June 9 - Fri. Return home.

June 6 – Tues. Pima Canyon – 3rd Dam. Rating B. The trailhead is at the end of Magee Road. The first mile or so of trail is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the 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 into the open. We will hike past a rocky open area in the canyon beyond the second dam near ancient grinding holes and continue on to the third dam. We return to the trailhead via the same route. Hike 8.1 miles; elevation change 2210 feet; starting elevation 2900 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

June 7 – Wed. Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C+. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," this trail goes up the north side of Pontatoc Ridge to j below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area. This hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. Hike starts at north end of Alvernon Way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1150 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

June 13 – Tues. Hutch's Pool. Rating C+. We will take the Sabino Canyon tram to the trailhead. After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon the trail is mostly level. This lovely hike will take us to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees. Bring \$7.50 for the tram. Hike 8 miles;

elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 3300 feet; leave at **7:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

June 14 – Wed. Rams Creek Basin. Rating C. We hike up the wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are some great views of Rancho Vistoso, Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere. We then continue on to a water fall where we will have lunch. Return via same route. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation 2600 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

June 14 - Wed. Board Meeting/Guide Meeting

June 19 – Mon. Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C+. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," this trail goes up the north side of Pontatoc Ridge to j below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area. This hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. Hike starts at north end of Alvernon Way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1150 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

****June 19-21 - Mon.-Wed. - AZT: Saddle Mountain, Mazatzal Divide, Mazatzal Divide/Red Hills. Ratings A, A+, A+.** We will be staying in a motel 2 nights in the Payson area. Leave at TBD; driver donation TBD. Cheryl & Dean Werstler, 825-9057.

June 19 – Mon. Saddle Mountain. Mt. Peeley Trailhead to Sunflower Trailhead. Rating A. Hike 16 miles; elevation loss 2,230 feet; starting elevation 5,670 feet.

June 20 – Tues. Mazatzal Divide. Barnhardt Trailhead to Mt. Peeley Trailhead. Rating A+. Hike 18.5 miles; elevation change 1,400 feet (total gain 6,200 feet, total loss 4,700 feet, over 1,700 feet in first 3.5 miles); starting elevation 4,280 feet.

June 21 – Wed. Mazatzal Divide/Red Hills. City Creek Trailhead to Barnhardt Trailhead. Rating A+. Hike 21+ miles; elevation change 3,300 feet (initially steep, gaining 2,800 feet in 6 miles); starting elevation 3,450 feet.

June 20 – Tues. Tanque Verde Peak. Rating A. This hike is in Saguaro NP East. We begin at the Javelina picnic area off the loop road. The trail takes us to Juniper Basin at 5.9 miles and Tanque Verde Peak at 7.8 miles. Erik Molvar's guidebook says, "From this lofty perch, fantastic views stretch in all directions." Hike 16 miles; elevation change 4000 feet; starting elevation 3100 feet; leave at **7:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$5.00. Bill Katz, 818-9412.

June 21 – Wed. Social

June 21 – Wed. Honey Bee Canyon North Plus. Rating C. We will walk Honey Bee Canyon at Vistoso. We'll see Hohokam petroglyphs, grinding holes, and pioneer adobe ruins. For those exploring Honey Bee for the first time this is a real eye opener. Hike 4-5 miles; elevation change 300 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

June 27 – Tues. Mt. Lemmon to Sabino Canyon via Romero Pass with the Tram. Rating A; We will hike from the top of

Mt. Lemmon down to Romero Pass and from there, eastwards down the west fork of the Sabino Canyon Trail to Sabino Canyon. This is a beautiful hike with many great views. Bring \$7.50 for the tram. Hike 15.1 miles; elevation change 5807 feet; starting elevation 9157 feet; leave at **5:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

June 28 – Wed. Romero Pools. Rating C+. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. Trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down the canyon area where several pools are located. An option is a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile round-trip hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch there. Park entrance pass required. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **8:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Marv Rossof, 877-9262.

June 30 – Fri. Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail. Rating B. We hike from the Bog Springs Campground in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, through three springs areas which are home to bamboo, huge Arizona sycamore, walnut and fir trees. There are great views of Madera Canyon, Green Valley, Kitt peak, and Baboquivari from this trail with strenuous, steep climbs in spots. Limit 15 hikers. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 5000 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.