



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

JULY/AUGUST

2009-4

Improved Hiker Data

In the past, compiling our club's hiking statistics and hiker awards was an arduous and time-consuming task. Two of our hiking club members, Susan Hollis and Randy Park, utilized their backgrounds in computer information systems to develop a hiking data base system for our club. They researched and found the correct tool, namely "Open Office", which enables them to easily enter hiking data and extract summary reports. Best of all, it is free to the club!

From information on the hiker sign-in sheets Susan & Randy are able to identify each hiker by the last 5 digits of his/her phone number plus the #1 for male and #2 for female. Each hiker is entered into the system by his/her number, enabling a quick tally of each member's number of hikes. Hiking awards will continue to be listed in the SBHC newsletter. Hikers who would like a letter of recognition and a rocker for their 50, 100, 250, 500, 750 or 1000 hikes are asked to contact Susan via email to receive their awards by mail.

Susan & Randy enter additional information about each hike into the data- base so that they can produce reports about the number and type of hikes offered and the number of hikers on each hike. Additionally, they are compiling updated data on hike mileage and accumulated elevation gain on hikes from hikers' gps readings. This information is most helpful to the hiking club in planning future hikes.

Thank you, Susan & Randy, for giving back to our hiking club through developing this hiking data system for our club and entering the data of all our hikes into this data base. Susan and Randy increased their interest in and love of hiking during three years of living in their RV and exploring all the western states (except Alaska & Hawaii), including every national park in the west. They are looking forward to spending a month in the Canadian Rockies this summer.



Stay Aware, Stay Safe

Lightning

- Avoid open spaces, water, high ground, solitary trees.
- Avoid close contact with others; spread apart.
- Seek low ground with low shrubs /trees of uniform height.
- Crouch with feet together, head on knees.
- Find shelter in a building or closed-frame vehicle.

Rattlesnakes

- Watch where you step or place your hands.
- Back away slowly if you encounter a snake.
- If bitten stay calm and move as little as possible.
- Remove jewelry or constricting items from the bite area.
- Immobilize the bitten extremity, keep below heart area.
- Call 911 or transport victim to the nearest emergency room.

News You Can Use

Board Meeting:	July 1st	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour:	July 15th	4:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting:	Aug. 5th	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour:	Aug. 19th	4:00 p.m.

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

Hiking Awards

50 Hikes:	George Brunder Roy Carter Barb Leightenheimer
100 Hikes:	Larry Linderman
500 Hikes:	Susan Ayers Michael Reale Jan Springer

Congratulations!

Updated Hike Database Now Available

An updated version of the Hike Database, dated June 1, 2009, has been placed on the Club web site. Anyone with Adobe Reader on their computer can read the new document. As noted in the last newsletter, the recent update is the culmination of considerable work by several hike guides, including Elisabeth Wheeler, Cheryl Werstler, Don Taylor, Jim Strickler, and Michael Reale. The June update attempts to make the hike descriptions more consistent and accurate, and begin the process of including information now available from gps systems owned by many club members. Specifically, each description now includes (either an actual number or a placeholder) hike distance, net elevation change (difference between the elevation of trailhead and destination, if any), and accumulated elevation gain/loss (sum of the upward/downward stretches). A lot of information has already come in but much more is needed to fill the gaps. Please help us by providing your readings for these parameters to the hike guides after each hike for inclusion with the signup sheets. More reliable numbers will benefit everyone. If you have any feedback on hike descriptions, please send it to Frank Brier or Roy Carter at the phone number or e-mail address shown below for the chief hiking guides. E-mail is preferred. Thanks for your help.

Officers

President: Michael Reale – 825-8286;
mjreale@msn.com
Vice-President: Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756;
whlaz@wbhsi.net
Secretary: Marjorie Herrmann – 818-9515;
marjorie.herrmann@gmail.com
Treasurer: Elizabeth Tancock – 825-7838;
etancock@wbhsi.net
Chief Hiking Guides: Frank Brier, 818-0493;
FrankBrier@aol.com
Roy Carter, 818-3137;
rvcarter@aol.com

Volunteers

Catalina Hills Cleanup ; Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756;
whlaz@wbhsi.net
Communications: Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547;
elisarick@wbhsi.com
Membership Roster: Bob Perez, 861-0967;
azsun65@wbhsi.net
Merchandise: Sandy Businger, 825-9294;
usbusinger@wbhsi.net
Newsletter Copies: Martha Hackworth, 818-2573;
marthahackworth@comcast.net
Newsletter: Carole Rossof, 877-9262;
crandmr@q.com
Program: Mary Ganzel, 818-1828;
mtnrnr@hotmail.com
Publicity: Richard Ganzel, 818-1828;
ganzel@unr.edu
Socials: Cheryl Straw, 818-3631;
cstraw@wbhsi.net
Statistics and Awards: Susan Hollis, 825-6819;
slhollis@yahoo.com
Work Days - 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). Note, however, 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.

Guest Policy: Normally a SaddleBrooke resident, whether year-round or part-time, must be a club member in order to join a hike. They may however, come on one hike as a guest in order to see if they are interested in joining the club. 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 Elevation

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 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 four categories to describe our hikes:

- Leisurely Pace:** Average speed of hike < 1.5 MPH
- Slow Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥1.5 to <2.0 MPH
- Moderate Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥2.0 to <2.5 MPH
- Fast Pace:** Average speed of hike ≥ 2.5 MPH

Unless otherwise specified, hikes will be done at a **moderate** pace.

Three indicators are used, where available, in the hike descriptions to convey hike difficulty:

Elevation:

Net Elevation Change is obtained by subtracting the trailhead from the elevation of the destination. If there is no specific destination, as would be the case on a point-to-point hike, the net change is the elevation difference between the trailhead and the highest point reached during the hike.

Accumulated Gain is the sum of all upward stretches of the hike. The parameter is generally a more accurate indicator of hike difficulty than net change in elevation.

Accumulated Loss, another measure of hike difficulty, useful for some hikes, is the sum of all downward stretches of the hike.

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. from the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. If you have any questions please contact Michael at 825-8286 or Dean at 818-0299. **(Please note, all of Michael's and Dean's fitness walks will originate from SaddleBrooke Fitness Center.)**

Tuesday and Thursday fitness walks will begin at 6:00 a.m. The Tuesday walk will start at the Mountain View Clubhouse parking lot, Thursday's walk will start at the SaddleBrooke Tennis Club's parking lot. We walk for an hour around SaddleBrooke and cover between 3 & 4 miles. The walks are for all levels of walkers and talkers. Sometimes we go off the premises, but never before discussing it with the group. Hope you can join us for a great walk. Any questions please call Judy Barenkopf: 825-7077 or email Judy at: mbarenkopf@msn.com.

Hikes Offered

The hikes for the next two months are listed in the table below. Any symbols are explained immediately below the table, and trail descriptions follow the table. **Pace will be moderate unless otherwise noted.**

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
7/1	Wed.	Extended Fitness Walk	C+/B	Fast	6:00 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$0
7/1	Wed.	Romero Pools	C+		7:00 a.m.	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
7/1	Wed.	Board Meeting			3:00 p.m.			
7/9	Thurs.	Oracle Ridge to Saddle	C+	Fast	6:00 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
7/11	Sat.	Aspen Loop/Marshall Gulch Trail	C	Slow	7:00 a.m.	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$10
7/13	Mon.	Bill Cody Loop	B		6:00 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$3
7/15	Wed.	Social Hour			4:00 p.m.			

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
7/15	Wed.	Alamo Canyon To Water Tank	C		7:00 a.m.	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
7/16	Thurs.	Marshall Gulch/ Radio Ridge Loop	B		6:30 a.m.	Bill Katz	818-9412	\$8
7/20	Mon.	Sunset-Marshall/Aspen Gulch Loop	C		6:30 a.m.	Bill Katz	818-9412	\$8
7/23	Thurs.	Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop	C+		6:00 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$5
7/28	Tues.	Madera Canyon Nature Trail	C	Slow	6:30 a.m.	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$10
7/29	Wed.	OSP East Loop	C		7:00 a.m.	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
8/2	Sun.	Pima Canyon to 2 nd Dam	C		6:00 a.m.	Philip/Kathy Cotton	825-2243	\$3
8/3	Mon.	Mt Lemmon to Oracle Ridge Trailhead via Red Ridge Trail	B+		6:00 a.m.	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$10
8/5	Wed.	Extended Fitness Walk	C+/B	Fast	6:00 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$0
8/5	Wed.	Hiking Guide Meeting			4:00 p.m.			
8/6	Thurs.	Josephine Saddle and Rogers Rock	B		5:30 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10
8/10	Mon.	Aspen Draw/Mint Spring Trail	C+		6:00 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10
8/11	Sat.	Incinerator Ridge	C		7:00 a.m.	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$9
8/12	Wed.	Canyon Loop/Birding Trail/Nature Trail	C		7:00 a.m.	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
8/13	Thurs.	Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail	B		5:30 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10+\$1
8/14	Fri.	Mt Lemmon to Samaniego Ridge	B		6:00 a.m.	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$10
8/17	Mon.	Chiricahua Heart of Rocks Loop	B		5:30 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$21
8/18	Tues.	Sunset-Marshall/Aspen Gulch Loop	C		6:30 a.m.	Bill Katz	818-9412	\$8
8/19	Wed.	American Flag	C	Slow	6:30 a.m.	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$3
8/19	Wed.	Social Hour			4:00 p.m.			
8/20	Thurs.	Rice Peak from Peppersauce Campground	A		5:30 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$5
8/24	Mon.	Mt. Ian	A		5:30 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
8/26	Wed.	Rams Creek Basin	C		7:00 a.m.	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2
8/26 to 8/29	Wed. thru Sat.	Betatakin and Keet Seel	A		TBD	Don Taylor	825-5303	TBD
8/27	Thurs.	Palisade Trail to Prison Camp	B+		5:30 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$9
8/29	Sat.	Meadow to Fire Lookout	C-		7:00 a.m.	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$10
8/31	Mon.	Wilderness of Rocks Loop	B		5:30 a.m.	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10

“+” and “-“ after a rating mean that a hike is harder or easier than the average hike in that rating category. “+” may be added due to a loose rocky area or perhaps due to an unusually steep area. “-“ may be added to a hike due to it having a very easy, smooth trail surface.

“***” before a hike are new additions to our club database or a new “one time” hike.

“++” before a hike are Orientation Hikes which are encouraged for all “beginner” hikers and are intended for sharing information and for personal assessment of current physical fitness.

Hike Descriptions

Alamo Canyon to the Water Tank. Rating C. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Elevation change is gradual. The trail proceeds from the ruins through Alamo Canyon. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods. Hikers then go around, down, and up and down again to an unused, large water tank. Trail is rocky in some areas. The return is one of three ways of equal distance. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 1050 feet; round trip distance (RTD) 24 miles.

American Flag. Rating C. The hike begins at the American Flag Trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers take the American Flag/Cody Trail to the intersection with the Oracle Ridge Trail, where there are great views to the west of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas. On the return, we may swing by the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. Hike 7.4 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 950 feet; accumulated gain 1200 feet; RTD 41 miles.

Aspen Draw / Mint Spring Trail. Rating C+. The hike begins on Turkey Run Road in Summerhaven across from the Visitor Center. After about a mile, we take the Aspen Draw Trail to Radio Ridge. From there we descend the Aspen Trail to Marshall Saddle, where we pick up the Mint Spring Trail to Carter Canyon Road, where we will walk a short 0.75 miles to return to the trailhead. Hikers may choose to have lunch in Summerhaven before returning. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 8000 feet; net elevation change 1400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Aspen Loop / Marshall Gulch Trail. Rating C. The trail starts at the Marshall Gulch Picnic area and goes up the Aspen Trail to the saddle. Hikers will lunch at a scenic spot near the saddle, and then follow the Marshall Gulch Trail to the picnic area. Hike 3.5

miles; trailhead elevation 7420 feet; net elevation change 800 feet; accumulated gain 1090 feet; RTD 131 miles.

****Betatakin and Keet Seel Exploratory. Rating A.** The hike involves spending 4 days and 3 nights (in a motel or camping) on the Navajo Reservation hiking in the Navajo National Monument, home to some of the best-preserved cliff dwellings in the nation. We will drive up on August 26 possibly stopping at points of interest along the way. On August 27 we will do the guided, 700 foot elevation, 5-mile round trip, and hike to the Betatakin cliff dwellings. Betatakin, meaning “ledge house”, was constructed in the 13th century by Kayenta Anasazi families and was occupied for about 50 years and had a maximum population of about 100 people. We will attend the orientation for Keet Seel at the Visitor Center the afternoon of August 27 and possibly walk the ½-mile Sandal Trail to the Betatakin overlook. On August 28, we leave for Keet Seel at 6:00 a.m. This is a strenuous, 17-mile round trip, and possibly wet hike with significant elevation gain during a short distance at the very end of the hike. Keet Seel, the larger and more impressive of the 2 ruins, was also constructed during the 13 century, but was felt to have been constructed by different groups and occupied much longer than Betatakin. We will hike to Keet Seel on our own, but be escorted by a ranger into the ruins once we arrive. On August 29 we return to SaddleBrooke, stopping at the Hopi Mesas and Cultural Center on the way. Departure time on August 26 and driver donation TBD. Limited to 10 hikers.

Bill Cody Loop. Rating B. The beautiful, historic Bill Cody loop begins at the American Flag trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and covers a section of the Arizona Trail. Hikers pass the 1877 adobe house at the trailhead, and then proceed up the Arizona Trail to the Oracle Ridge Trail. We then go south toward Apache Peak, and down FR # 639, through Camp Bonita Canyon past the old Patterson Diaz homestead site. Campo Bonito is a great place for lunch. From Campo Bonito, hikers

swing northward past the “Yellow Cabin” and through the grounds of La Casa del High Jinks, the site where Bill Cody staked his gold mine in 1912. We may tour the unique stone house if the owner is home. Hikers return to the trailhead via the Arizona Trail. Hike 8.2 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 41 miles.

Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail. Rating B. The hike begins at the Bog Springs Campground in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains, and passes through three areas fed by natural springs 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 Peak from this trail, which involves strenuous, steep climbs in spots. Hiking poles recommended. Limit 15 hikers. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change 1689 feet; accumulated gain 2000 feet; RTD 130 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 Sutherland Trail which connects to 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.

Chiricahua Heart of Rocks Loop. Rating B. This loop trail visits the most spectacular rock formations in Chiricahua National Monument, and includes the scenic Echo Canyon Trail. Because it is an all day trip (140 miles) to the Monument, those wishing to will stop for dinner in Benson on the way back. Hike 8.4 miles; trailhead elevation 6780 feet; net elevation change 1082 feet; accumulated gain 2500 feet; RTD 288 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).

Incinerator Ridge. Rating C. The hike begins at the Palisade Ranger station and climbs 400 feet to a saddle. The trail proceeds along the ridge to reach a point that affords a 360 degree view, including Barnum Rock, the San Pedro river Valley, and Tucson. This is one of the premier views from hikes that take place on Mt. Lemmon, and truly gives one the concept of a sky island. Hike 3.9 miles; trailhead elevation 8000 feet; net elevation change 685 feet; accumulated gain 950 feet; RTD 119 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 can be done in reverse. Hike, 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 1700 feet; RTD 130 miles.

Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating C. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. It starts from the lower area and ascends 3.2 miles up the canyon to the Roundup Picnic Area (el. 5400 feet). Along the way, hikers enjoy the shade of Apache pines, Douglas firs, Emory oaks, Mexican blue oaks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. The return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 4500 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain __ 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 7400 feet; net elevation change 1,900 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Meadow Trail to Fire Lookout. Rating C-. We begin by driving to the top of Mt. Lemmon and parking by the astronomical observatories operated by the UA (also known as Radio Ridge). We hike down the Meadow Trail, through Lemmon Park, to where it intersects the Mt. Lemmon Trail which leads to Lemmon Rock fire lookout cabin. There are spectacular views along the way. We then hike back to the top of Mt. Lemmon and the parking area. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 9157 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 131 miles.

Mt. Ian. Rating A. The hike begins at the Madera Canyon Trailhead, proceeds up the Old Baldy Trail to the Baldy Saddle below Mt. Wrightson. Hikers follow the Crest Trail for about one mile toward Florida Saddle and turn off a short distance to Mount Ian (el. 9186 feet). Mt. Ian is the second highest peak in the Santa Rita Mountains (267 feet lower than Mt. Wrightson). The return is via either the Super Trail or Old Baldy. Hike 10 to 12 miles; trailhead elevation 5400 feet; net elevation change 4000 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Mt. Lemmon to Oracle Ridge Trailhead via Red Ridge Trail. Rating B+. The hike begins at the Red Ridge Trailhead and descends steeply to Catalina Camp. From there, we will climb via Trail # 401 to Dan Saddle, up the Oracle Ridge Trail to Catalina Hwy. It is about a mile from that point to return to the Red Ridge Trailhead. Along the way, there are great views of the Reef of Rock and Samaniego Peak to the west. Hike 8.3 miles;

trailhead elevation 8160 feet; net elevation change 1936 feet; accumulated gain 2615 feet; RTD 131 miles.

Mt. Lemmon to Samaniego Ridge. Rating B. Starting from the top of Mt. Lemmon, we take the Mt. Lemmon Trail and Samaniego Ridge Trail to Walnut Spring and back. The last 3 miles to Walnut Spring may be very brushy and difficult to follow. A short bushwhack up to Samaniego Peak may be included. Defensive clothing and gloves are suggested. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 9100 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 2815 feet; RTD 131 miles.

Oracle Ridge to Saddle. Rating C+. The hike begins in Oracle at a trailhead off the Cody Loop Road. It follows the Oracle Ridge Trail to the junction with the American Flag/Cody Trail where there are great views of Biosphere II and the Tortolitas to the west. We follow the ridge south where we will lunch in a saddle at the top of Camp Bonita Canyon on the northwest side of Apache Peak. Return by the same route. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 4700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1000 feet; RTD 40 miles (dirt).

OSP East Loop. Rating C. The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. Hikers follow the Nature Trail to the Wildlife Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection, we turn southeast and follow trail to the intersection with the Manzanita Trail. We follow this trail west and onto the Nature Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. This route is fairly level with little elevation change with wide open views and interesting rock formations among the low desert plants. Hike 6.2 miles, trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 760 feet; RTD 40 miles.

Palisade Trail to Prison Camp. Rating B+. The hike starts in the high pine forest just below the Palisade Administrative site. Palisade Trail descends down the ridge separating Palisade and Pine Canyons and yields views into both canyons, Sabino Basin below, and parts of the central canyons and the front range. The trail passes Mud Spring, and then begins 2 miles of steep, rocky, and brushy switchbacks, descending a total of over 4,000 feet before its end at the East Fork of Sabino Canyon Trail. The East Fork Trail immediately begins switchbacking gaining over 800 feet in 1.5 miles, then levels out for about a mile. At the junction of Bear Canyon, we will visit Sycamore Reservoir and Dam, built in the 1930's to provide water to Prison Camp, 2.4 miles to the east. We will then climb about 600 more feet in a mile. After that, Molino Trail becomes fairly level during the last 1.5 miles to Prison Camp. If hikers are interested, we can view the monument in this W.W. II internment camp. We will need Mt. Lemmon passes and 2 cars for shuttling between trailheads. Hike 12.2 miles; trailhead elevation 7720 feet; net elevation change minus 3720 feet; accumulated gain/loss 1840/4700 feet; RTD 119 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 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. 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).

Pima Canyon to 2nd 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 2900 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 977 feet; RTD 42 miles.

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 water fall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 21 miles.

Rice Peak from Peppersauce Campground. Rating A. The hike proceeds westerly up Peppersauce Canyon from the campground to the Oracle Ridge Trail (also the Arizona Trail along this portion), entirely on a very rocky jeep road. There are interesting "peppersauce conglomerate" formations in Peppersauce Canyon. At the Oracle Ridge Trail, we turn south, continuing to the point where the trail is closest to the Rice Peak. At that point, we leave the trail to follow a faint, very steep, rocky trail to the top. There are great views along the ridge trail and remnants of the Apache fire are visible on some of the trees. There are also interesting conglomerate rock outcroppings at the peak, and superb views from the peak to the San Pedro River and the Galiuro Mountains beyond. The return is via the same route. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 4620 feet; net elevation gain 2955 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 40 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. Trail is rocky and rough in places. 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.

****Sunset / Marshall Gulch / Aspen Loop. Rating C.** The hike begins at Soldier Camp on the Sunset Trail, which starts on the Catalina Highway before reaching Summerhaven. It proceeds along the Marshall Gulch Trail to the saddle, then down the Aspen Trail and Sunset Trail to the trailhead. There are great views of the Catalinas along the way, hiking mostly in forest shade. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 7640 feet; net elevation change 700 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Wilderness of Rocks 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 fire lookout for a leisurely lunch. We then return via the Aspen Trail to Marshall Saddle and the Marshall Gulch Trail back to the beginning. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 7440 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 131 miles.

