



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

MAY/JUNE

2014-3

Hiking Club Dues Increasing May 1, 2014

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club has seen an increase in publication costs, as well as a need to adequately fund requests for donations and cover the costs of events that benefit the membership. On April 2, 2014, the Board voted to increase the dues to \$10 to ensure that we can continue to provide the special programs, training sessions, and picnics. MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID FOR FUTURE YEARS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL \$5 PER YEAR.

Thank You Elisabeth Wheeler

For the past several years, Elisabeth Wheeler has planned a variety of interesting programs to entertain and educate hiking club members. Now, she's decided to retire from that position...and it says something that it's going to take four people to fill her shoes. Thank you, Elisabeth, for your years of service as "programmer in chief"!

Beginning in July, the new program committee will include Mary Croft, Karen Schickedanz, Jan Springer and Pam Wakefield. Karen will serve as the committee's contact person, but the members will operate as a committee of the whole to plan programs for the 2014-2015 hiking club year. Watch for more details in coming newsletters.

Hiking Poles Field Training Monday, May 5

We strongly encourage hikers to use poles for added stability in hiking the rugged, steep desert trails we often encounter. There are proper ways to adjust and effectively use poles to provide support and reduce stress on knees and, most importantly, decrease the risk of falls and injuries. Incorrect use can result in stress injuries to shoulders and elbows. Walt Shields, Tim Butler, and Bill Leightenheimer will conduct field training in proper pole use on the Linda Vista Loop trail on Monday, May 5. A description of the hike is provided in the hikes offered portion of the newsletter. This is an opportunity to improve your pole technique if you already use them or to learn

about hiking poles if you are unfamiliar with their use. Bring your own poles. (We will try to provide a few extras if needed.)

Arizona Photo Adventures Wednesday, May 21



SaddleBrooke Resident (since 2004), Photographer and Adventurer Harry Ford has specialized in adventure travel photography for over 35 years. On Wednesday, May 21, at 3 p.m., Harry will present three Blu-ray Slideshows from his Arizona adventures. 1) Rafting the Grand Canyon - 10 days, 225 miles. 2) Hiking the Grand Canyon N Rim to S Rim - 65 miles. 3) Harry's Best of Arizona, so far. You can also see Harry's HD video – SaddleBrooke, AZ Nature 2014 on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmOOiskM1vQ> (Turn on the Sound, change quality to 1080p, and go Full Screen). This program will encourage all residents to explore the glorious places in AZ.

There will **not** be a hiking club social in the Agave Lounge as it will be closed for a private function. For more information about this program contact Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547. elisarick@wbhsi.com

GPS Geocache Competition



"Chuck and Shirley Kaltenbach of 12S 511379E, 3600305N (formerly known as 36989 S Foxglen Lane) are winners of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club's Geocache Competition. Their names were drawn from the group of people who successfully completed the difficult task of finding six separate "caches" on a course set up on Catalina Hills Drive. Competitors were allowed to use only their handheld GPS and geographic coordinates provided by the club to find each location. None of the sites were on, nor near established trails.

The competition was associated with the recent 3 - half-day GPS Workshop attended by 22 members of the club. The course was set up primarily to allow participants to apply and practice what they had learned in the workshop, but was open to all club members to provide them an opportunity to improve their navigation skills. All competitors were eligible for the top prize.

Chuck and Shirley were presented their Summit Hut gift certificate by Roy Carter who organized the Workshop, along with five other members of the SBHC: Cheryl Werstler, Tim Butler, Ron Franklin, Maureen Spence, and Walt Shields.

Hiking Statistics by Randy Park

Have you ever wondered what happened to those sign-in forms after your hike is complete? Well they come to me, the keeper of the hiking club statistics.

For a long time, the club kept information on who did what hike in a large spreadsheet that became cumbersome to use at the end of each month. Extracting reports from this data was very difficult.

Since June of 2008, the hiking club has kept track of this data in what computer people call a Relational Database. We know when the hike was done, who led the hike, what hike was performed, and all the members that were on the hike. This information is easily retrieved and reports can be produced from it.

Prior to most club board meetings/hiking guide meetings (held 6 times a year), I supply reports that tell them how many hikes were done in each rating, how many were canceled, and how many people went on those hikes. This helps them determine how many hikes need to be offered in each rating level. The data we keep also allows me to quickly answer hiking guide questions about the history of hikers should the need arise. Another use of this data is to recognize when hikers reach various award levels. For example if you wanted to know how many B hikes and how many C hikes you did in 2012, and what those hike were, we are able to answer that question. Or if you want to know how many hikes you've done in total, we can answer that.

The key to this data collection process is your telephone number. We assign an ID to each person using the same method used by the golfers. Your ID is the last 5 digits of your telephone number followed by a "1" or a "2", for male or female. If you change your telephone number we have to change your ID. If you have more than one telephone, we ask that you use the same number every time when you sign up for hikes. Using your cell phone with an area code other than 520 is fine as long as you are consistent and use the same number each time you sign up for a hike. Using more than one phone number will cause us delays in getting the hike entered into the statistics database.

Those participating in the daily walks should also be aware that we keep track of the number of walks that are done, but not in the same detail that hikes are kept. We only keep track of how many walks each walker performs each month.

One last thing, this data is not accessible on the Internet. No one can download it, look at it, or steal it. If you want to know more about your hikes I can craft a custom report just for you organized the way you would like.

AZ State Law Governs Pedestrian Activity

In an effort to increase safety within SaddleBrooke, the HOA 1 and HOA 2 Boards of Directors have jointly become more active in monitoring pedestrian

activity. Be aware that Arizona State laws apply to pedestrians and when violated may result in a citation issued by the SaddleBrooke Patrol.

Specific State statutes include the following:

28-796. Pedestrian on roadways

A. If sidewalks are provided, a pedestrian shall not walk along and on an adjacent roadway.

B. If sidewalks are not provided, a pedestrian walking along and on a highway shall walk when practicable only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic that may approach from the opposite direction.

28-793. Crossing at other than crosswalk

A. A pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles on the roadway.

28-795. Pedestrians to use right half of crosswalk

Pedestrians shall move expeditiously, when practicable, on the right half of crosswalks.

For your safety and that of others, please exercise safety when walking in SaddleBrooke. If you are in a group of three or more **do not** walk abreast as this poses a danger to yourself as well as bicyclists and motorists. If you take your walks at dawn or dusk wear reflective clothing to increase you visibility. Stay alert and be aware of your environment.

**Matriarch of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club
by Mary Croft and Elisabeth Wheeler**



Sandra Sowell was hiking the trails of the Tucson area well before the formation of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club in 1999. She hiked every hike led by a former guide in SaddleBrooke in the late 90's. Sandra was influential in getting the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club going and was the chairperson for the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the club in 2009.

Sandra, with assistance from others, brought the history of the club alive in displays, stories and commendations of past officers & volunteers of the club. Sandra has a keen perspective on the history of the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club.

Sandra was the organizer of special trips to the Chiricahuas, Ft. Bowie, Tonto National Monument, Florence Historical Days, the observatories of Mt. Hoptkins, downtown historical walks and many other unique hiking club trips. Sandra is a keen birding enthusiast and also knows the wildflowers of the desert. She readily shares her knowledge with interested hikers. Sandra is comfortable doing a conversational hike as well as much more challenging hikes, as noted by her near completion of the AZT at the “young at heart” age of 76. Sandra has been a faithful worker, along with Jim Strickler, in doing trail maintenance on the AZT.

As a guide through the years Sandra has been supportive and encouraging of new hikers and other guides. Sandra has contributed significantly to the club through the years with little fanfare. We are grateful for the years of support Sandra has given to the hikers of SaddleBrooke.

News You Can Use		
Hiking Poles Field Training-Linda Vista Loop	5/5	8:00 A.M
Backpack trip to Fossil Creek via Fossil Spring Trail	5/19 – 5/21	TBA
Arizona Photo Adventures	5/21	3:00 P.M.
No Social Hour	5/21	
Board Meeting Coyote Room North	6/4	2:45 P.M.
Guide Meeting Coyote Room North	6/4	4:00 P.M.

Board Members	
President	Larry Allen, 825-7864; allenlw70@gmail.com
Vice-President	Dianne Ashby, 818-9919; deashby87@gmail.com
Secretary	“Position Open”
Treasurer	Melissa Simpson, 818-7839; mjsimp0328@aol.com
Chief Hiking Guides	Susan Hollis, 825-6819; shollis@yahoo.com Dave Sorenson, 777-1994; iowaboy1950@yahoo.com

Volunteers	
Catalina Hills Cleanup	Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
Communications	Ken Wong, 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
Programs	Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547; elisarick@wbhsi.net
Membership Roster	Karen Cusano, 468-2501; kdjcnp@yahoo.com
Merchandise	Pam Corrigan, 850- 8885; pam@daveandpam.com
Newsletter Copies	Martha Hackworth, 818-2573; marthahackworth@gmail.com
Newsletter	Maureen Spence, 314-803-3225; mospence1@gmail.com
Publicity	Karen Schickedanz, 818-7817; karenschick@wbhsi.net
Picnic	Mary Jo Swartzberg, 825-0463; MJSwartzberg@hotmail.com Becky Hilst, 441-2927; bckhilst51@gmail.com LaVerne Kyriss, 333-2689; jlkyriss@gmail.com Mary Kopp, 785-213-0520; MaryKopp55@yahoo.com Pam Vassallo, 488-0455; Pvassallo_2000@yahoo.com Lonnee Platner, 303-305-8610; lonnep@gmail.com
Statistics and Awards	Randy Park, 825-6819; rvfulltime@isp.com

Hard copies of the Newsletter (WITHOUT HIKE DESCRIPTORS) are available at the SaddleBrooke and Desert View Fitness Centers

General 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 Mountain View 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. Please bring exact dollars for this amount. 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. WE ARE REQUESTING THAT YOU BRING EXACT AMOUNTS FOR BOTH, as these sometimes go to two different individuals. 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 Mountain View.

Items to Bring: Every hiker should wear a name tag, 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 walks in SaddleBrooke because of the 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 highest (or lowest) point reached during the course of the hike, in feet. This estimate may be obtained from USGS maps or a global positioning system (GPS).
- **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. Please view the chart below for the start times for all the walking groups led by Bill Leightenheimer, and Martha Hackworth.

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at 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.

<u>Fitness Walk Times (Fall/Winter)</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
September 1	6:30 a.m.
November 1	7:00 a.m.

<u>Fitness Walk Times (Spring/Summer)</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
April 1	6:30 a.m.
June 1	6:00 a.m.

Hard copies of the Newsletter (WITHOUT HIKE DESCRIPTORS) are available at the SaddleBrooke and Desert View Fitness Centers

Hikes Offered

Beginning with the March/April newsletter, printed copies distributed at the Saddlebrooke #1 and Desert View fitness centers will no longer contain the hike descriptions. These descriptions, while very important to members when selecting hikes to sign up for, make the newsletters quite long. Newsletter printing costs have recently increased 60 percent, so the Board decided to remove the hike descriptions to reduce these expenses, which are a major cost item for the club. Hike descriptions will continue to be included in the version you receive electronically, and in the copy posted on the club web site (SaddleBrookehikingclub.com). You are encouraged to download a copy of the electronic version for reference when selecting hikes.

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
5/5	Mon	Hiking Poles Field Training: Linda Vista Loop	D	Slow	8:00	Walt Shields Tim Butler	818-3439	\$2
5/5	Mon	Bug Springs #2	B		7:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$7
5/7	Wed	Finger Rock to Linda Vista Saddle	B		7:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$4
5/8	Thurs	Box Camp Trail to Sabino Canyon Overlook	C		7:30	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$9
5/13	Tue	Alamo Canyon	D		7:30	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2+\$2
5/14	Wed	Romero Pools	C!		7:00	Larry Allen	825-7864	\$2 + \$2
5/15	Thur	Blackett's Ridge	B		6:30	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$4
5/20	Tues	Finger Rock to Finger Rock Spring	D		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
5/19-5/21	Mon-Wed	Backpack trip to Fossil Creek via Fossil Spring Trail			TBA	Michael Reale and Elisabeth Wheeler	8181547	TBD
5/21	Wed	SBHC Program: Best of Arizona Photography featuring Grand Canyon presented by Harry Ford			3:00 p.m.	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	
5/21	Wed	No Social this Month – Agave Lounge is not available						
5/23	Fri	Mt Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail	A		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$10
5/27	Tues	Pusch Ridge to First Overlook	C!		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$3
5/28	Wed	Josephine Saddle	B		7:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$10
6/2	Mon	Maiden Pools	C!		7:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$4
6/3	Tues	Lower Incinerator Ridge to Mt Bigelow	C		7:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$9
6/4	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North			2:45 p.m.			
6/4	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North			4:00 p.m.			

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
6/10	Tues	Sutherland Trail	C		7:00	Larry Allen	825-7864	\$2 + \$2
6/11	Wed	Sycamore Dam	C		6:30	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$7
6/17	Tues	Linda Vista Loop	D		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
6/18	Wed	SBHC Social – Agave Lounge (No program)			4:00p.m.			
6/20	Fri	Widerness of Rocks Loop #2	A		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$10
6/24	Tue	Marshall Gulch/Aspen Loop	C		7:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$10

Hike Description

Alamo Canyon. Rating D. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Other than one short area by the wash, the elevation change is gradual. This is a lovely hike up to Alamo Canyon Falls and return. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods, but there are no water crossings. Hikers will stop by the Romero Ruins and take the informative loop trail from there. Hike 3.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 423 feet; RTD 24 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 Blackett'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.

Box Camp Trail to Sabino Canyon Overlook. Rating C. The hike begins at the Box Camp Trailhead near Spencer Peak on Catalina Hwy. After a short uphill climb, the hike proceeds downhill for 2.5 miles to an overlook that provides a marvelous, panoramic view of Sabino Canyon area. We will have lunch here, and then return slowly uphill to the trailhead.

Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 7920 feet; net elevation change 1600 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 123 miles.

Bug Spring Trail # 2. Rating B. From the Lower Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile up the Catalina Highway from Hirabayashi Campground), the hike proceeds southeast along a narrow ribbon of trail carved into the granite hillside. After an uphill set of switchbacks, the terrain mellows out with outstanding vistas and views of granite sculptures. The trail dives down the north side of the ridge into a heavily forested drainage. Upward to the highpoint of the trail, you can see a few big madrone trees and views of the Sierrita Mountains, Baboquivari and the mighty Rincons. The trail descends steeply to the Upper Bug Spring Trailhead (a quarter mile south of General Hitchcock Campground), which is the terminal point. A vehicle shuttle would be needed back to the trailhead. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 5000 feet; net elevation change 1275 feet; accumulated gain 1665 feet; RTD 94 miles.

Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating D. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Taking the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads to Mt. Kimball, we will only go as far as Finger Rock Spring. The trail passes some beautiful rock formations and native desert plant life along the way. The trail is relatively level but there are some ups and downs along the way. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 44 miles.

Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle. Rating B. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike starts on level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs 2500 feet to the Linda Vista Saddle. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up, and coming down is just as difficult. From the Saddle, hikers can enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, the Santa Ritas, and Tucson as it spreads out below and into the distance. Hike 5.8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 2500 feet; accumulated gain >2600 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Fossil Creek Backpack Trip – 3 Day. An Introductory Backpack will be offered to SaddleBrooke hikers May 19-21 to Fossil Creek, “a national wild and scenic river,” near Payson, AZ. For more information contact Michael Reale 825-8286 or Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547.

Hiking Poles Field Training - Rating D. This hike will review proper adjustment and use of hiking poles for all types of terrain. Participants are encouraged to bring their own poles to use in actual trail conditions. The hike will take place on the Linda Vista Loop. 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. Hiking sticks 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 2720 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 28 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.

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. Hiking sticks 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 2720 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 28 miles.

Lower Incinerator Ridge. Rating C. A new section of trail was added to the Incinerator Ridge Trail in the spring of 2012. The new trail is noted for its great vistas. The trail heads north/northwest from the San Pedro Vista Pullout, off the Catalina Hwy. The hike will proceed to Mt Bigelow and return via the same route, the 1st section of the trail is steep and rocky, but the views make up for it. Starting Elevation: 7,350 feet. Net Elevation Change 1150 feet. Hiking Length is 6 miles. RTD 123 miles.

Maiden Pools. Rating C!. Starting at the public parking lot on the left (past the employees' parking lot) at Ventana Canyon Resort, hikers follow the new Forest Service trail into the canyon. The trail is rocky in places with some steep climbing and substantial steps-up which make it more difficult than the average C hike. There are numerous wash crossings which involve boulder hopping if water is flowing. On the return, there are fine views of the east side of Tucson. The pools provide an excellent place for lunch. The return is by the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 1100 feet; accumulated gain 1250 feet; RTD 54 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 480 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 130 miles.

Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating A. The hike begins in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows the Old Baldy Trail to Mt. Wrightson. The return is via the same route. This trail provides the shortest route to the top (el. 9453 feet) of

Mt. Wrightson. The last 0.9 miles to the summit is steep and rocky with moderate exposure. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. There is shade along much of the way. Hike 11.1 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain 4029 feet; RTD 130 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.

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.

Sutherland Trail. Rating C. The Sutherland is a great trail for viewing wildflowers after adequate winter rains. Along the way, there are several beautiful saguaro cacti and great rock formations. There are numerous photo opportunities. We will also pass the cutoff to Dripping Springs which makes a nice short side trip if the waterfalls are flowing. The hike begins in Catalina State Park and ends at a very scenic, flat, rocky area. The return is via same route. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 600 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 24 miles.

Sycamore Dam. Rating C. The hike begins off Catalina Hwy at the old Prison Camp (Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Area) in the Santa Catalina Mountains. The trail follows a road to a saddle and down to a large dam and now filled-in reservoir which provided water for the camp. The return is via the same route. Along the way are ruins of an old Japanese internment camp constructed during W.W. II. Near the camp's entrance are an interesting series of panels which tell about its history. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 4800 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 94 miles.

Wilderness of Rocks Loop # 2. Rating B. Starting at Marshall Gulch picnic area, this hike climbs up to Marshall Saddle then goes toward Mt. Lemmon, passing Carter Canyon along the way. The hike continues to Radio Ridge and the Steward Observatory parking area then heads down via the Mt. Lemmon and Lemmon Rock Lookout Trails to the Wilderness of Rocks Trail. We take this trail back up to Marshall Saddle and down to Marshall Gulch Picnic Area parking lot. Hike 8.0 miles; trailhead elevation 7440 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 131 miles.