



SADDLEBROOKE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

2014-5

REMEMBERING JIM STRICKLER



Our good friend and hiking buddy, Jim Strickler, passed away June 5, 2014, after a valiant fight against an aggressive leukemia.

We remember him as being one of the group that started the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. We remember him as being elected as president of the club as well as serving as chief hiking guide. But most of us remember him as the leader for a myriad of hikes whether it was our "first ever" or whether it was rim to rim through the Grand Canyon. And many of us recall with fondness our own "Jim Strickler moments". Close to Jim's heart, though, was his dedication to the Arizona Trail, Segment 14A, The Black Hills--For which he was named Segment Trail Steward.

It is with these memories in mind that the SBHC is offering three special events where Jim can be remembered and honored.

1. Memorial Hike on the Oracle Passage of the Arizona Trail, Wednesday, October 22, 7:30 a.m. led by Elisabeth Wheeler and Sandra Sowell
2. Memorial Hike to Brown Mountain (Jim's Favorite Hike with his family), Tuesday, October 28, 8 a.m. led by Walt Shields and Marv Rossof
3. Work Day on the Oracle Passage of the Arizona Trail, Wednesday, November 5, 7:30 a.m. led by Elisabeth Wheeler and Mary Croft

See the hiking schedule to sign up for the memorial hikes.

AWESOME ANNUAL PICNIC Set for Thursday, October 9, 2014

Mark your calendars for the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club's Awesome Annual Fall Picnic. The picnic will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2014, at Catalina State Park at the Gila Monster Group Site. Formal events will begin with a members' meeting at 11:30 a.m., followed by a buffet lunch served at noon. Our hiking guides have organized morning hikes--details may be viewed in the October hiking schedule.

This year's fall picnic, "Jammin' with Jimmy Buffet," features main dishes of Teriyaki Chicken or Hawaiian BBQ Pork, complemented with member-provided side dishes and/or desserts. Your finest tropical attire will add to the festive atmosphere. Members bring their own drinks and a dish to share. The club will provide the meat course, water, plates, napkins and eating utensils.

Reserve your spot by September 25, 2014, with Pam Vassallo, (pvtucson@gmail.com.), including a note indicating your entrée choice--BBQ Pork or Teriyaki Chicken. Entrance to Catalina State Park is \$7 per car. (Carpooling is encouraged.)

**Please bring side dishes/dessert according to the first letter of your last name:

A to K - Fruit, Green or Other Salad

L to P - Pasta, Potato or Other Hearty Side Dish

Q to Z - Yummy Desserts

**Please label your dish and serving utensil.

**Don't forget to wear your nametag as well.

**For more information about the picnic, call Mary Jo Bellner Swartzberg at 825-0463 or LaVerne Kyriss at 333-2689.

NATURAL WONDERS OF THE AZ TRAIL Wednesday, October 15, 2014

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club will kick off its 2014-15 program series on Wednesday, October 15, with a special presentation by outdoor adventurer Matthew Nelson on the Arizona National Scenic Trail. The program will begin at 3 p.m. in the HOA 1 Activity Center, followed by a social hour in the

Agave Lounge in the SaddleBrooke HOA 1 Clubhouse at 4 p.m.

Matthew, executive director of the Arizona Trail Association, will give an overview of the natural wonders of the AZT from Mexico to Utah and what makes it unique among long-distance trails in the United States. As the primary author of the recently published guidebook, *Your Complete Guide to the Arizona National Scenic Trail*, Matthew will sign books for anyone who would like an autographed copy.

Among Matthew's many contributions to the AZT are trail design, archaeological surveys, volunteer trail building, and explorations of the trail on foot, mountain biking and horseback. A devotee of high mountains, deep canyons, vast deserts and diverse cultures, his wanderlust has led him to nearly every continent in search of adventure.

Programs for the rest of the club season will all begin at 3 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, featuring such topics as backpacking, archaeology, and hiking in such diverse places as Tanzania and Oregon. For more information about programs, contact Karen Schickedanz, 818-7817, karenschick@wbhsi.net.

2015 Annual Hiking Trip is to Palm Springs April 7-9, 2015

The 2015 Annual Hiking Trip will be to the Palm Springs, California, area. The dates for hiking are scheduled for April 7-9, 2015. The earlier date was chosen, as Palm Springs can be quite warm later in April. Palm Springs is 380 miles from SaddleBrooke--an easy 6-7 hour drive.

The Palm Springs area has a dazzling variety of hikes and varied scenery. The Indian Canyons features several hikes with small waterfalls--Palm Canyon has the largest stand of California fan palm trees in the world. The new Santa Rosa National Monument has many beautiful hikes in and near Palm Desert that features a canyon and palm oasis. The small town of Mecca has Painted Canyon, a canyon created by a geologic fault. Joshua Tree National Park with its gigantic boulders and sweeping vistas is just an hour away. Three area nature preserves are lush riparian areas. Nearby Idyllwild has mountain hiking at elevations of 6000 to 8000 feet. Mt. San Jacinto at 10,800 feet towers over the valley floor.

The Palm Springs-Palm Desert area is renown for its great restaurants, entertainment, resorts and hotels. It has been estimated that there are 10,000 swimming pools in the area and over 100 golf courses. We plan on staying in Palm Desert. Nearby Paseo Drive has high end shopping like Rodeo Drive. Highway 111 has many quality restaurants and shopping opportunities. Palm Springs has a street fair that has people lining the streets every week. The McCallum Theatre features entertainers, and the Palm Springs Art Museum has a great western and modern art collection. The Palm Springs Tram takes you from 2600 feet to 8500 feet in 10 minutes. In short there is plenty to do if you are not hiking.

Several guides have agreed to lead hikes; and a hike schedule with plenty of D, C, and B hikes is in the works. The area has many hotel, camping and RV options. For more information call Dave Sorenson at 777-1994 or email him at iowaboy1950@yahoo.com.

Look for more information in future announcements.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT



September 3, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of America's Wilderness Act, the landmark conservation bill that created a way for Americans to protect their most pristine wildlands for future generations. As hikers in the Tucson area, we have cause to celebrate as many of our most enjoyable local hiking areas are in federally designated wilderness areas. Unlike national parks, wildlife refuges, or national monuments, wilderness designation from Congress provides the highest level of natural resource protection available in the world.

When Lydon B. Johnston signed the Wilderness Act in 1964, it created our National Wilderness

Preservation System which provides the means for Congress to include unspoiled areas into the new wilderness system. At the time of signing, 9.1 million acres of land were preserved. The Act was considered one of America's greatest conservation achievements; and since its passage, 109.5 million acres of wilderness areas are now protected in 757 Wilderness areas (located in 44 states and Puerto Rico).

In Arizona there are over 90 designated wilderness areas, protecting 4.5 million acres. The largest wilderness area in Arizona is Cabeza Prieta Wilderness (near Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument). The smallest area is Baboquivari Peak Wilderness (viewable from many places in the Tucson area). Locally, a large number of our club hikes in the Santa Catalina Mountains enter the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. If you have hiked to Romero Pools, on the Finger Rock Trail, or ventured in Sabino Canyon beyond the road, then you have been in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. Many trails in Saguaro National Park (i.e. Douglas Springs Trail, Tanque Verde Ridge Trail) enter the Saguaro Wilderness. Other wilderness areas we locally hike in are Aravaipa Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains (Mt Wrightson Wilderness), Rincon Mountain Wilderness, and the Superstitions Mountains. More details on Arizona Wilderness areas can be found at: <http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/stateView?state=AZ>

Quoting directly from the Wilderness Act “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

So hikers, when you are out hiking this fall, think about what a wonderful thing our country did – preserving and protecting these wild public lands.

News You Can Use		
SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North	10/1 Wed.	2:45 P.M.
SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North	10/1 Wed.	4:00 P.M.
Hiking Club Fall Picnic Catalina State Park	10/9 Thurs.	11:30 A.M.
Natural Wonders of the AZ Trail	10/15 Wed.	3:00 P.M.
Monthly Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1	10/15 Wed.	4:00 P.M.

Board Members	
President	Larry Allen, 825-7864; allenlw70@gmail.com
Vice-President	Dianne Ashby, 818-9919; deashby87@gmail.com
Secretary	Tim Butler, 825-0193; tucsontimmer@gmail.com
Treasurer	Melissa Simpson, 818-7839; mjsimp0328@aol.com
Chief Hiking Guides	Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com Dave Sorenson, 777-1994; iowaboy1950@yahoo.com
Volunteers	
Catalina Hills Cleanup	Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmlhaz@gmail.com
Communications	Ken Wong, 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
Program Committee Contact	Karen Schickedanz, 818-7817; karenschick@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 Committee Co-Chairs	Mary Jo Bellner Swartzberg, 825-0463; MJSwartzberg@hotmail.com LaVerne Kyriss, 333-2689; jlkyriss@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.

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

Fitness Walk Times (Spring/Summer)	
<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
9/2	Tues	Wilderness of Rocks Loop #4	B		7:30	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$10
9/6	Sat	American Flag	C		7:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$3
9/9	Tues	Palisade Trail/Mud Spring	C		7:30	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$9
9/10	Wed	Marshall Gulch/Aspen Loop	C		7:30	Howie and Elaine Fagan	818-9555	\$10
9/13	Sat	Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam	C		7:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$3

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
9/16	Tues	Box Camp to Sabino Canyon Overlook	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$9
9/18	Thur	Josephine Saddle via Old Baldy and Vault Mine Trail	B		6:30	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$10
9/22	Mon	Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle	B		7:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$4
9/24	Wed	Alamo Canyon to the Water Tanks	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
9/29	Mon	Rams Creek Basin- Short Version	D		8:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$2
9/30	Tue	Tanque Verde Ridge Trail	B		7:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$6
10/1	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting Coyote Room North			2:45 p.m.			
10/1	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting Coyote Room North			4:00 p.m.			
10/2	Thurs	Window Rock	A		6:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$4
10/4	Sat	OSP East Loop	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
10/7	Tue	Josephine Saddle	B		7:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$10
10/8	Wed	Seven Falls	B		7:00	Howie and Elaine Fagan	818-9555	\$4
10/9	Thurs	Pre-picnic Hike: Canyon Loop	D		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2 + \$2
10/9	Thurs	Pre-picnic Hike: Fifty Year Trail to Overlook	C		7:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$2 + \$2
10/9	Thurs	Hiking Club Fall Picnic Catalina State Park			11:30 AM	LaVerne Kyriss and Picnic committee	333-2689	
10/10	Fri	Mt Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon	A		6:30	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$4
10/11	Sat	OSP West Loop	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3+\$2
10/13	Mon	Sutherland Trail	C		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$2 + \$2
10/14	Tues	Hidden Canyon Loop	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2
10/15	Wed	SBHC Monthly Program HOA #1 – Activity Center			3:00 pm	Karen Schickedanz and program committee	818-7817	
10/15	Wed	SBHC Monthly Social Hour Agave Lounge HOA #1			4:00 p.m.			
10/16	Thur	Mt Lemmon to Saddlebrooke via Samaniego Ridge Trail	A		6:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$10
10/20	Mon	Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail	B!		6:30	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$7+2
10/21	Tues	Deer Camp/Baby Jesus Loop	C		8:00	Tim Butler	825-0193	\$2
10/22	Wed	American Flag to Windmill	C		7:30	Elisabeth Wheeler and Sandra Sowel	818-1547	\$3

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
10/23	Thur	Romero Pools	C		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$ 2 + \$2
10/24	Fri	Bridal Wreath Falls Loop	C		7:00	Howie and Elaine Fagan	818-9555	\$6
10/24	Fri	Pontatoc Peak	B!		7:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
10/27	Mon	Tortolita Mountains: Upper Javelina and Wild Mustang Trails to Lookout	B		7:30	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
10/28	Tues	Brown Mountain	C		8:00	Marv Rossof and Walt Shields	877-9262	\$6
10/30	Thurs	Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version)	C		8:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$10 plus \$5
10/31	Fri	Finger Rock Guard	A!		7:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4

Hike Description

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; 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 its 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 995 feet; accumulated gain 1490 feet; RTD 41 miles.

American Flag to the Windmill. Rating C. From the American Flag Trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road, the route proceeds in a northerly direction across National Forest and State Trust Land, crossing Webb Road and continuing to Oracle State Park. After traveling 1.7 miles through the park, the trail

crosses Cottonwood Wash and continues to a windmill after another 0.3 mile. Hikers will stop and have a snack or lunch here and return via the same route. This route is fairly level and passes through desert grasslands that are part of the upper Sonoran Desert. There are expansive views of the Galiuro Mountains along the way. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 41 miles.

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: West (short version). Rating C!. Aravaipa Canyon is a beautiful and pristine canyon and a favorite for all who have been there. Hikers should expect stream wading and numerous stream crossings (up to knee deep) with dense riparian brush. Wear shorts, socks and shoes (that can get wet) with good traction (for wet rocks). Bring dry shoes/shorts/shirt for drive home, if desired (and a plastic bag for wet items). Aravaipa Canyon is a wilderness area with no trails, signs, or facilities. Hiking stick is recommended. Wilderness permits (fee required) must be reserved in advance and are non-refundable. Hikers must sign up two weeks prior to hike. Call the hiking guide for more details. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 200 feet; accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 110 miles (dirt).

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.

Bridal Wreath Falls Loop. Rating C. The Douglas Spring Trailhead is located at the east end of Speedway Blvd. The hike involves some relatively steep climbing up the Douglas Spring Trail for the first 2.5 miles, before turning off on the 0.3 mile spur leading to the falls. We return via the Douglas Spring trail for 0.3 miles, and then take the Three Tanks Trail for 1.5 miles to where it joins the Carillo Trail. We hike for 0.5 miles and rejoin the Douglas Spring Trail, with considerable elevation, and return to the trailhead. Another option is to continue on the Three Tanks Trail to the Garwood Trail that joins the Douglas Spring Trail only 0.3 mile from the trailhead. The trail is well used and easy to follow. Bring sun protection. Water may be flowing over the falls if there has been sufficient rainfall. Hike 6.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1050 feet; accumulated gain 1086 feet; RTD 80 miles.

Brown Mountain. Rating C. The Brown Mountain Trail is along a ridge in the heart of the Tucson Mountains. It starts at a trailhead on McCain Loop Road, just south of Kinney Road east of the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. Along this "ridge ramble" are excellent views of the mountains, valleys, and desert vegetation. The route has many up and downs. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 (trailheads at either end are 2640 and 2880) feet; net elevation change 424 feet; accumulated gain 943 feet; RTD 73 miles.

Canyon Loop. Rating D:). From the main trailhead at the end of the road in Catalina State Park, the hike begins with the Romero Canyon Trail, turns onto the Canyon Loop Trail, and then comes back on the Sutherland Trail. This area is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. The hike may be done in reverse direction. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 2.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 170 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop. Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area. We hike easterly

toward Deer Camp, and then take the Middle Tank Connecting Trail to the Baby Jesus Trail which leads back to the trailhead. The area has little traffic and is a delight to the senses. Hike 6.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 1213 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

****Fifty-Year Trail to Scenic Overlook.** Rating C. The hike begins at the Equestrian Center in Catalina State Park. After starting on the Fifty-Year Trail hikers will turn left onto an unmarked trail and hike along a scenic ridgeline for about 1-1/2 miles. After re-connecting with the Fifty-Year Trail the hike continues north to a terrace with a fantastic view of the Sutherland Wash and Santa Catalina Mountains. We will return to the Equestrian Center via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike leader is Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet. RTD 24 miles. Driver Donation \$2 + \$2

Finger Rock Guard. Rating A!. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Finger Rock Guard is the large rock formation to the east of Finger Rock, a well-known landmark that can be seen from many places in Tucson (and from Saddlebrooke). The hike begins with the first 2.5 miles and 2200 feet accumulated gain of the Finger Rock Canyon Trail, which leads eventually to Mt. Kimball. At the point where the trail turns northeast toward the Linda Vista Saddle, the trail descends a steep 200 feet into Finger Rock Canyon. The trail continues up a faint, steep and, in many places, slippery path to the saddle between Mt. Kimball and Finger Rock. From there, the trail turns southwest toward the rock guard. Rock scrambling and rock climbing are required to reach the summit 450 feet above the saddle. There is significant exposure to heights and steep drop-offs along the last few hundred feet of elevation. Bring extra water. Call to discuss with the hiking guide. This is a difficult hike but the fantastic views from the summit make it a "must do" for dedicated hikers. Hike 7.4 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 3375 feet; accumulated gain 4000 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.

Hidden Canyon Loop. Rating C. This is a beautiful hike, practically in our "back yard," to a secluded canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti along the way and a rock ledge with a great view down the valley. The ledge is a great place for lunch. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area past Golder Ranch Road gate. After lunch, we will continue out of the canyon, circle around Hidden Canyon Peak back to the "North Gate," and return to the trailhead via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 975 feet; accumulated gain 1212 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

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 1650 feet; RTD 130 miles.

Josephine Saddle via Old Baldy and Vault Mine Trail. Rating B. The hike begins in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. We then take the Agua Caliente Trail across and return via Vault Mine Trail. The Vault Mine Trail is very steep going down. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike 6.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain 2100 feet; RTD 130 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. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon. Rating A. Starting from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way, this rocky trail climbs steadily and follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail passes Linda Vista Saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball," and onto the Pima Canyon Trail. A half mile further and hikers arrive at the top of Mt. Kimball. The destination offers one of the most fantastic views in all of the Catalinas. The return hike is down the same trails. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 4350 feet; accumulated gain 4500 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Mt. Lemmon to SaddleBrooke via Samaniego Ridge Trail. Rating A. The hike begins on Mt. Lemmon and proceeds down Trail # 5A, Trail # 5, Trail # 6, and Samaniego Trail #7 to Charouleau Gap. The Samaniego Trail proceeds along the backside of the three peaks of the Samaniego Ridge and passes Mule Ears along the way. From the gap we continue down FR # 736 (a 4WD road) and the CDO Wash to Saddlebrooke Unit 21. This is a beautiful hike with great views of the Reef of Rocks as viewed from Mule Ears, as well as the entire CDO Canyon watershed originating from Mt Lemmon. The trail is seldom used and slow going at places so be prepared for some bushwhacking. Minimum 4 liters of water, headlight, long pants and plenty of snack food is recommended. Drivers will be needed to take hikers to Mt. Lemmon. Hike 15.7 miles; trailhead elevation 9100 feet; net elevation change minus 5847 feet; accumulated gain 1299 feet, accumulated loss 7146 feet; RTD 131 miles.

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.

OSP West Loop. Rating C. The hike begins at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot in Oracle State Park. We hike the Nature Trail to the Wildlife

Corridor Trail where we go northeast to the AZ Trail. At the intersection we turn west and hike toward Hwy # 77. We then turn south to the Mariposa Trail and onto the Bellota Trail that takes us back to the trailhead. 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 6.8 miles; trailhead elevation 4350 feet; net elevation change 450 feet; accumulated gain 1150 feet; RTD 40 miles.

Palisade Trail / Mud Spring. Rating C. Starting at the Showers Point Campground behind the Palisade Ranger Station off Catalina Hwy, we will hike down the Palisade Trail through pine forest to Mud Spring and return. The spring is a grand lunch site with a panoramic view of the valley. Most of the climb is on the return. The trail is moderately shady. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 7770 feet; net elevation change minus 1350 feet; accumulated gain 1660 feet; RTD 119 miles.

Picacho Peak via Sunset Vista Trail. Rating B!. From the Sunset Vista Trailhead we follow the lower route to Picacho Peak. The climb to the top involves the use of cables to get to the top, which provides 360-degree views of the area. This is a short, strenuous climb, but less so than from the Hunter Trailhead at Barret Loop. Bring leather or rubber tipped gloves and ample water. There are several areas of climbing where the trail is slippery due to loose rock and where the trail is exposed to sharp drop-offs. Park entrance fee required. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 1850 feet; net elevation change 1494 feet; accumulated gain > 1500 feet; RTD 90 miles.

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 6.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain 1360 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Pontatoc Peak. Rating B!. The hike starts at the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. Sometimes called the "Old Spanish Mine Trail," the trail goes up the northwest side of

Pontatoc Ridge to a faint trail junction that leads right and straight uphill. The junction is a little over 2 miles from the trailhead and clearly visible due to increased recent use. Continuing along this faint, steep, rocky trail for another half mile and 900 feet vertically will get you to the peak, but there is significant boulder scrambling required along the way. The peak is not identified on USGS topo maps, but is located at 12S 510674, 3578685 and is about 5080 feet high. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area at the top and along the way. The hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline, rocky path, and scrambling. At the junction on the way down, a right turn will take you to just below the old mines. Including this short side trip adds 0.2 miles and 100 feet of climbing but allows hikers to reach the destination of the Pontatoc Ridge hike also. There are short stretches of exposed trail near the old mines and along the steep climb to the ridge leading to the peak. Hike 5.2 miles; trailhead elevation 3100 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain 2400 feet; RTD 44 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 waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 780 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles.

Romero Pools. Rating C!. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. The well-maintained trail is rocky and rough in places, but is not overly difficult for most hikers. An option is a 0.75 miles round-trip, relatively level hike to the upper pools. We will have lunch at the lower or upper pools. The return is via the same route. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 980 feet; accumulated gain 1400 feet; RTD 24 miles.

Seven Falls. Rating B. The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and continues to lower Bear Canyon, then along the Bear Canyon Trail to Seven Falls. The return is via the same route. The falls,

which constitute one of the most spectacular natural features in the Tucson area, usually have some water flowing over them but may be dry if there has been inadequate rain. The trail crosses the Bear Canyon wash several times in each direction and can involve significant boulder hopping/wading after rainy periods. Ask the guide about current conditions. Hike 8.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 720 feet; accumulated gain 1550 feet; RTD 56 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.

Tanque Verde Ridge Trail. Rating B. The hike begins at the Javalina Picnic Area in Saguaro National Park – East off the Cactus Forest Drive loop road, and is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. The hike is somewhat steep in parts as it proceeds up Tanque Verde Ridge. At three miles into the hike, we will view a crested saguaro, but continue on another mile to lunch on a mesa with great views. There are some great photo stops along the way. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1900 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 82 miles.

Tortolita Mountains: Upper Javelina and Wild Mustang Trails to Lookout. Rating B. The trailhead is at the Ritz Carlton Hotel parking lot. Hikers proceed through the Wild Burro Wash, up the Upper Javelina Trail, and connect with the Wild Mustang Trail. The hike continues to a rocky ridge with views of Dove Mountain development, Tucson and Marana. At that point we will stop for lunch/snacks and return to the trailhead. Hike 8.1 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain 2092 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Wilderness of Rocks Loop # 4. Rating B. The hike begins at the Steward Observatory parking lot. Although the hike can be done in reverse, the most

popular route would follow Mount Lemmon Trail # 5 to the Lookout Tower spur and down Lemmon Rock Lookout Trail to Wilderness of Rocks Trail where the group would turn SW (right). After 2.3 miles, this trail intersects the Mount Lemmon Trail, which is followed back up to the top. As an alternative, the Meadow Trail (#5A) could be followed for the last 0.8 miles to the trailhead. Hike 8.7 miles; trailhead 9100 feet; net elevation change 2000 feet; accumulated gain 2613 feet; RTD 131 miles.

Window Rock. Rating A. The hike follows the most direct route up Ventana Canyon. The hike is difficult and steep, and involves lots of difficult climbing. The hike begins at the Ventana Canyon Resort parking lot past the employees' parking lot. It follows that trail past Maiden Pools until it reaches the Esperero Trail # 25, which is used for two miles to reach the Window. Ventana Canyon offers some of the best canyon views in southern Arizona. Views from the Window are fantastic, including such landmarks at Mt. Kimball, Cathedral Rock, and the Montrose Canyon drainage area. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 3840 feet; accumulated gain 4300 feet; RTD 54 miles.