



# SADDLEBROOKE

## HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.saddlebrooke.org>

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

2011-5

### In Remembrance Gary Gouvea

We were all saddened to learn of the recent passing of Gary Gouvea. Gary was one of our most popular guides in the early years of the club. He was an amateur historian who was especially interested in the Apache Indian tribes. He guided many hikes to the Dragoon and Chiricahua Mountains, the ancestral homelands of the Apaches. He was also very knowledgeable on plants and flowers.



### Volunteers

by  
Bill Leightenheimer

The success of our hiking club has always depended upon great volunteers serving as officers, guides and chairpersons. One of the most important positions is that of keeping track of the club membership and collecting dues. We have been blessed for the past eight years to have had Bob Perez in charge of this key position. Bob has done an outstanding job but has now decided to move on to allow himself more time to pursue his many other activities. On behalf of myself, the other club officers and all of the members of the SBHC, I want to wish Bob the very best in all of his future endeavors.

Karen Cusano has volunteered to become our new Membership Chairperson and on behalf of all of the members of the club I want to thank her for taking on these duties and responsibilities. I hope you will all get to meet her. She is very enthusiastic about her new position. Please welcome her and give her your support.



### New Merchandise Coordinator



Pam Corrigan has graciously agreed to assume responsibilities as our new Merchandise Coordinator. She is a relative newcomer to SaddleBrooke, having moved here with husband Dave in November 2010 from Madison, Wisconsin. Originally from Mundelein, Illinois, Pam is retired from the Department of Justice, U. S. Attorney's Office. Her favorite activities are tennis and biking. Always active, she participated in the Grand Canyon hikes in May. Volunteer activities were always a part of her goals, and when the announcement was made at the

spring picnic that a merchandise coordinator was needed, Pam said yes. She has already started the process of vendor selection, and will be introducing some new club hiking shirts shortly. Look for them in future bulletins. Thanks, Pam, for taking on this important responsibility!

### **Hiking in Sedona with Dave Sorenson**

I will be offering three days of hikes in the Sedona area from October 11th-13th.

Fall is an ideal time to hike Sedona when the cottonwoods will be in their autumnal splendor and the temperatures are in the 70s.

On October 11th, we will leave Saddlebrooke at 7a.m.. We should be able to drive the 220 miles to Sedona by 11a.m.. We will have a short lunch in a cafe on Oak Creek Canyon then head up to The West Fork of Oak Creek. This 7 mile hike is considered one of the most scenic hikes in the state. The hike should take about 4 hours and is a C Hike with a dozen stream crossings. Later in the day, we will go to Cathedral Rocks at Red Rocks Crossing. This is the most photographed spot in Sedona and is gorgeous at sundown.



On October 12th, we will hike Boynton Canyon, a C Hike of 6 miles, that has a turnaround at an area considered too gorgeous for its own good. The payoff is a vortex area that should energize you. Vortexes are places of natural beauty that give off a supposed "subtle energy ". I know I get a positive mental lift from the beauty of Sedona.

In the afternoon we can visit Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte. Two very popular iconic buttes or "vortex" areas that require a short hike of two miles.

On October 13th, we will hike Bear Mountain., a strenuous 6 mile hike with 1800 ft .of elevation gain. The San Francisco Peaks can be seen in the distance. Panoramic views of Sedona to the south are the highlight of this triple plateau hike that is a B Hike.

In the early afternoon we can hike Doe Mesa right across the parking area from Bear Mountain, a short, lovely hike of less than two miles. We should leave Sedona about 2 PM Thursday and be back in Saddlebrooke around 6 PM.

I usually stay in West Sedona, which is near two of the hikes offered. There are many motels nearby. Be sure and book them early. If you need a recommendation for a motel or RV park, call me. We will establish meeting places each day and car pool to the trailheads.

To make a reservation for a hike call Dave Sorenson, 520 777 1994. I have hiked this area over the last 16 years and consider these hikes the most accessible and lovely. I have set up the hikes so hikers uncomfortable with a hard B hike (Bear Mountain) can leave Wednesday, if they wish.

**Backpacking Ancient Trails to Rainbow Bridge**  
**Wednesday, October 19, 3 p.m.**  
**SaddleBrooke Activity Center**  
**Social Hour follows at 4 p.m. in the Agave Lounge**

There are two ancient trails to the largest natural bridge in the world, Rainbow Bridge, in southern Utah. Rainbow Bridge is higher than the Statue of Liberty, arching gracefully 290 feet above and 275 feet across Bridge Canyon. This natural wonder is nestled among canyons carved by streams en route to the Colorado River from Navajo Mountain. Native people revered this "rainbow in stone" for centuries and kept it hidden from the outside world until 1909.

Six SaddleBrooke hikers backpacked 32 + miles to follow the South Trail to Rainbow Bridge and continuing out the North Trail around Navajo Mountain. The adventurers were Kathy Gish, Sharon

Simpson, Harry Ford, Larry Linderman, Kent Naugle and Elisabeth Wheeler.



Their appreciation for Rainbow Bridge was enhanced by the fact that their own feet carried them all the way to Rainbow Bridge and around Navajo Mountain. On the journey the backpackers traversed many canyons, saw many wildflowers, climbed Redbud Pass, viewed Rainbow Bridge at sunset and sunrise, found native Hogan's, explored "Temples of Sand," and discovered a large bridge on a cliff below Navajo Mountain. Come and see a photographic account of this adventure presented by the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club. For further information about this program call Elisabeth Wheeler 818-1547.

**Hiking Club Picnic**

The Hiking Club fall picnic will be held at Catalina State Park on **Friday, October 28, 2011** at the small group area. There will be signs in the park directing you to the picnic area. Entrance fee for the park is \$7 per car (max 4 persons) or a State Park Pass.

If you are interested in hiking before lunch check the newsletter for hike descriptions and contact the hiking guide. A brief business meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by a pot luck meal. The Club will provide fried and baked chicken, all paper goods and eating utensils. Bring a side dish to share and your own beverage. If you have a name tag please wear it.

RSVP to Marge Wong by **October 24<sup>th</sup>** @ 818-2561 or [kmwong@q.com](mailto:kmwong@q.com). Tell Marge what side dish you will bring and the number of people attending. We look forward to seeing you at the picnic.

News You Can Use		
<b>Board Meeting</b>	Sept. 14th	2:45 p.m.
<b>Social Hour</b>	Sept. 21st	4:00 p.m.
<b>Guide Meeting</b>	Oct. 5th	4:00 p.m.
<b>Social Hour</b>	Oct. 19th	4:00 p.m.
<b>Hiking Club Picnic Meeting</b>	Oct .28th	11:30 a.m.

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

<b>President</b>	Bill Leightenheimer - 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
<b>Vice-President</b>	Bob Kolenda 825-9972; rlkslt4@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Ken Wong; 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Virginia Brier 818-0493; virginiabrier@gmail.com
<b>Chief Hiking Guides</b>	Larry Linderman 303-6564; LLinderman13@gmail.com Cheryl Werstler-825-9057; dbwerst@wbhsi.net

Volunteers	
<b>Catalina Hills Cleanup</b>	Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
<b>Communications</b>	Ken Wong 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Programs</b>	Elisabeth Wheeler;818-1547 elisarick@wbhsi.net
<b>Membership Roster</b>	Karen Cusano , 468-2501 kdjcnp@yahoo.com
<b>Merchandise</b>	Pam Corrigan pam@davandpam.com
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<b>Newsletter</b>	Carole Rossof, 877-9262; crandmr@q.com
<b>Publicity</b>	Dave Sorenson, 777-1994; iowaboy1950@yahoo.com
<b>Socials</b>	Beaver Simpson, 818-7839; <a href="mailto:wbsortho@aol.com">wbsortho@aol.com</a>  Marge Wong 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
<b>Statistics and Awards</b>	Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com
<b>Work Days</b>	Jim Strickler, 825-8735; sherabjim@wbhsi.net

### General Hiking Information

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

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

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

**Voluntary Driver Donations:** Voluntary driver donations are shown in the table of Hikes Offered. If there are two entries under driver donation, for example \$7 + \$2, the first is for the driver and the second for any required entry and/or parking fee. If a state park pass is used for entry, the second amount should be given to the pass holder (whether he/she is the driver or not). Other persons in the vehicle who also hold park passes would not be responsible for the second amount. Note, that some hikes may require additional fees. Guides may also wish to split

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

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

**Choosing Hikes:** Hikes are more difficult than 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, Martha Hackworth, Judy Barenkopf and Dean Wilson.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
April 1st	6:30 a.m.
June 1st	6:00 a.m.
September 1st	6:30 a.m.
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 a.m.

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.

Judy's Tuesday walking group will start the Fitness Walk at the Mountain View Parking lot. On Thursday the walk begins at the SaddleBrooke Tennis parking lot. We walk for an hour and complete about 3 or 4 miles according to where we walk. Most of our walks are touring SaddleBrooke

and the few times we leave the premises it is discussed amongst the walkers. We leave exactly at the time designated and wait for no one. For more information call Judy at 825-7077 or email at: [mbarenkopf@msn.com](mailto:mbarenkopf@msn.com)

Slower walks around SaddleBrooke two days a week (days are negotiable) are led by Dean Wilson. If interested in participating in these walks, please call Dean at 818-0299.

### Hikes Offered

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
9/2	Fri	Pusch Peak	B!		6:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
9/6	Tues	Sabino Canyon/Bear Canyon Loop (with Tram)	B		6:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$4 + Tram
9/7	Wed	SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge			4 p.m.			
9/7	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast		?	?	\$0
9/7	Wed	Romero Pools	C		7:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$2+\$2
9/7	Wed	Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Tr.	A		6:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$10
9/8	Thurs	King Canyon Loop	C		6:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$6
9/9	Fri	Baboquivari (east side)	B		6:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$17
9/12	Mon	Wilderness of Rocks A hot dog barbeque will follow the hike *	B		7:00	Fagans and Briers	818-9555	\$10+\$3*
9/13	Tues	Romero Pass	A		6:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
9/14	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			2:45 p.m.			
9/15	Thurs	Esperero Trail	B		6:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
9/16	Fri	Oracle Ridge/Red Ridge Loop	B!		7:00	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$10
9/17	Sat	Box Spring	C		7:00	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$9
9/19	Mon	Tanque Verde Ridge Trail	B		6:30	Don Taylor	825-5303	\$6
9/20	Tues	Mt. Wrightson via Supertrail and Old Baldy	A		6:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$10
9/22	Thurs	Pima Canyon to 2 <sup>nd</sup> dam	C		6:30	Kathy Cotton	825-2243	\$3
9/18-9/24	Sun-Sat	Arizona Trail: Passages 39, 40, 41, 42, 43	A	Fast	8:00	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
9/27	Tues	Pima Canyon to 1 <sup>st</sup> Dam	D!		6:30	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$3
9/29	Thurs.	Marble Peak	C		7:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$10
10/3	Mon	Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock/ Pima Trail	A		6:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
10/4	Tues	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$4
10/5	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			4:00 p.m.			
10/5	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	C/B	Fast		?	?	\$0
10/5	Wed	Pima Canyon to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dam	C		7:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$3
10/6	Thurs	Phone Line Round Trip	B		7:00	Kathy Cotton	825-2243	\$4
10/7	Fri	Romero Falls	A		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2+2
10/7	Fri	Ventana Canyon Lower	D		7:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$4
10/8	Sat	Phone Line with Tram Ride	C		7:30	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$7 + Tram
10/10	Mon	Charouleau Gap Rd	C		8:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$1
10/11	Tues	Finger Rock to Overlook	C		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
10/11	Tues	**West Fork of Oak Creek-Sedona	C!	Slow	7:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	TBA
10/12	Wed	**Boynton Canyon	C		7:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	TBA
10/13	Thurs	**Bear Mountain-Sedona	B		7:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	TBA
10/13	Thurs.	Sweetwater Tr. (short Version)	D		7:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$5
10/14	Fri	**Arizona Trail: Reavis north section	A	Fast	6:30	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA
10/14	Fri	Seven Falls	B		7:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$4
10/17	Mon	**Thimble Peak via Bear Canyon	A		6:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$4
10/17	Mon	Pima Canyon to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dam	C		7:30	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$3

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
10/18	Tues	Sutherland Trail	C		7:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2 + 2
10/19	Wed	SBHC Program: Backpacking to Rainbow Bridge HOA 1 Activity Center			3:00 p.m.	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	
10/19	Wed	SBHC Social Hour Agave Lounge			4:00 p.m.			
10/19	Wed	Canyon Loop Montrose Pools	D		7:00	Bob Kolenda	825-9972	\$2+\$2
10/19	Wed	AZ Trail: Work Session	C		7:30	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$0
10/20	Thurs	Window Rock	A		7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$4
10/21	Fri	Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon/ Return via Pima Trail	A		7:00	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$4
10/22	Sat	Hidden Canyon	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$2
10/23-10/25	Sun-Tues	**AZT: Babbit Ranch and Coconino Rim	A	Fast	6:00	Larry Linderman	303-6564	TBA
10/26	Wed	Sabino Canyon to Catalina St. Pk.	A		6:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
10/26	Wed	**Mt. Lemmon Fall Color Tour	C	Slow	7:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$10
10/27	Thurs.	Kings Canyon to Mam-A-Gah Picnic area	D		7:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$6
10/28	Fri	Hiking Club Picnic in Catalina State Park						
10/28	Fri	**Fifty Yr. Trail to Quarterhorse Rd.	C		7:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	2 + 2
10/28	Fri	**Geology Walk	D		9:00	Karen Gray	818-0337	2 + 2
10/30	Sun	Phoneline Round Trip	B		7:30	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$4

a- New hikes not yet included in the Hike Database are indicated with "\*\*\*".

b - Hike ratings are based on round trip distance and accumulated elevation gain, where available. Ratings flagged with a "P" indicate special trail conditions that might be of concern to some hikers. Please read the hike descriptions before deciding whether to sign up. Ratings flagged with a "☺" indicate an easier, smoother trail than normal at that rating.

c - Pace is moderate unless otherwise stated.

**After the hike to Wilderness of Rocks we will barbeque hot dogs at the Marshall Gulch picnic area. Hot dogs, buns and condiments will be supplied by the guides. Hikers will be asked to sign up to bring a "pot luck" item.**

## Hike Descriptions

**\*\*Arizona Trail Babbit Ranch:** This passage follows the approximate route of the historic Flagstaff-Grand Canyon Stage Route, which was used around the turn-of-the-century. This passage travels across the historic C O Bar Ranch from the Cedar Ranch Camp area near the northern boundary of the Coconino National Forest, to the Moqui Stage Station on the Kaibab National Forest. 28.7 miles, 1075' elevation gain.

**Arizona Trail: Coconino Rim:** This passage begins east of the Moqui Stage Station. There is a short connector trail between the station and trail #101 which is the route of the Arizona Trail. From here the trail heads north, crosses FR 313, and follows Russell Wash. It passes through a gate and then Anderson Tank is on the right. There is another gate and then the trail crosses FR 320. The trail curves to the northwest, then north, then west and then back to the north. There is a gate and then the Russell Tank Trailhead, Russell Tank and then two more gates in close succession. Still following Russell Wash the trail crosses FR 310 (Coconino Rim Road) and then another gate. It comes up on the edge of the rim and turns to the west, following the rim. There is a bike bypass to the left with the main route going right, down through a drainage. Continuing along the edge of the rim the trail crosses a peninsula of the rim and then leaves the rim and parallels FR 310. It crosses FR 307 and then joins an interpretive loop trail that leads to the Grandview Lookout Tower. 19 miles, 1,790' elevation gain

**\*\*Arizona Trail: Reavis, north section:** Note: This will only cover the Reavis Passage from where it intersects FR 650 north to Rogers Trough. At mile 7.1 the trail leaves Whitford Canyon, and crosses FR 650. The trail parallels FR 650 for over 3 miles and then crosses it again at mile 10.2. This is the trailhead for the Reavis Canyon Trail segment. Follow this trail (#509) along the streambed and then uphill toward Montana Mountain. After numerous switchbacks the trail passes south of the peak and again connects with FR 650 at mile 17.2. Continue west on FR 650 until it ends at FR 172A, and then travel north to the Rogers Trough Trailhead. We will do it as a key exchange. 11 miles, 2930' elevation gain south to north or 855' north to south.

**Arizona Trail: Work Session. Rating C.** This is one of the Hiking Club work days. Come join the fun - it's nice to work side by side with other hiking club members, as we help maintain and report conditions for the section of the Arizona Trail called, "Black Hills/South," for which our club is responsible. This 6-mile section starts on Tiger Mine Road, off Hwy # 77, just north of the Oracle State Park. Generally, the work is light, and involves clipping, brushing, raking, and pruning, and for some, repairing cairns, adding erosion control devices and other trail work (depending on rains). Bring along gloves, hat, and hand clippers. Other tools, if needed, will be provided. The session usually lasts about 4 hours, with a return to Saddlebrooke by 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring water and snacks. Hike 3 to 6 miles; RTD 50 miles (dirt). The club will pay drivers' expenses.

**Arizona Trail: North Rim Grand Canyon to Utah Border. Rating A.** The trip involves hiking the Arizona Trail from the north rim of the Grand Canyon to the Utah border. Five hikes take place over a five-day period. Hikers pass through the beautiful Kaibab National Forest, which teems with elk, wild turkey, and other wildlife, at elevations between 6500 to 9000 feet. The base location will be the Jacob Lake Inn at (el. 7540 feet). Hike 80 miles (over the 5-day period); trailhead elevation 8235 feet; check with hike guide for elevations and distances for specific days; RTD 1155 miles.

**Baboquivari (east side). Rating B.** The hike proceeds along the east side of Baboquivari Peak. Baboquivari Peak is a sacred place to the Tohono O'odham Indian Nation. According to legend, the Peak marks the center of the universe and the home of Elder Brother I'itoi, who taught the Tohono O'odham how to live in the desert. The hike will reach only to the vertical base where technical climbers would make the final ascent to the summit. High clearance or 4WD vehicles are needed to reach the trailhead, which is on Brown Canyon Road off Hwy # 286. A tribal permit is not needed from the east side. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3700 feet; net elevation change 2900 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 182 miles (dirt).

**Blackett's Ridge. Rating B.** The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, and follows relatively level, well-used trails east to the Phone Line Trailhead. After 0.4 miles along the Phone Line Trail, the Blakett's Ridge Trail branches right and continue 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 Spring. Rating C.** The hike starts at the Box Camp Trailhead (Trail #22A) on Catalina Hwy below Spencer Peak, proceeds down Box Camp Trail to the Box Springs turn-off and then down to Box Springs. The return is via the same route. The hike is mostly in forest. Before Mt. Lemmon's General Hitchcock Hwy was built, the Box Camp Trail was the main avenue to exchange Tucson's heat for the cool Santa Catalinas. The military used Box Camp at the turn of the century. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 7920 feet; net elevation change minus 800 feet; accumulated gain 1000 feet; RTD 123 miles.

**Canyon Loop, Montrose Pools, and Birding Trail. Rating D.** Starting at the main trailhead at Catalina State Park, the hike traverses an area that is a great example of the Sonoran Desert and its riparian areas. We take the Sutherland Trail to the Canyon Loop Trail, then hike up to Montrose Pools via the Romero Canyon Trail. On the way back, we will fork onto the Birding Loop Trail. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike 3.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change \_\_\_ feet; accumulated gain 320 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Charouleau Gap Road. Rating C.** Starting from the 4WD parking area off Lago del Oro Blvd. just outside of SaddleBrooke, hikers proceed up Charouleau Gap Road, a rocky jeep road, to a picturesque table rock with great views of SaddleBrooke. The area is filled with huge granite boulders and outcroppings. The return uses the same route. Charouleau Gap Road has loose, slippery rocks in some areas. Hiking sticks are recommended. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 850 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 2 miles.

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

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

**\*\*Fifty-Year Trail to Quarterhorse Road. 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 hike north to the Quarterhorse Road and then return to the Equestrian Center via the Fifty-Year Trail. Hike leader is Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547. Hike 7 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 500 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet.

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

**Geology Walk Rating D.** The hike begins on the hill at large group picnic area, where we observe several features on the mountains. We then hike the equestrian trail to the Sutherland Wash/Canyon Loop trail stopping to look at the rocks and discuss other features of geology in the park. We continue on the Sutherland Wash trail and cut off on the Canyon Loop, following it around back to the trailhead and return to the picnic area. Hike Distance 2.9 miles, about 300' elevation gain

**Hidden Canyon. Rating C.** This is a beautiful hike to a secluded hidden canyon in the upper reaches of the Sutherland Wash. There are many beautiful rock formations and saguaro cacti. The hike begins past the Golder Ranch Road gate in the Fifty-Year Trail area. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 640 feet; accumulated gain 880 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

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

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

**Marble Peak. Rating C.** The hike begins on the Old Mt. Lemmon control road at the Oracle Ridge Trailhead near the Summerhaven fire station. We follow the Oracle Ridge Trail north past some of the largest alligator juniper trees in the Catalinas. A jeep trail leads to Marble Peak. Before we return we will take a short side trip to Dan Saddle. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 7760 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet; accumulated gain 1250 feet; RTD 130 miles.

**Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon / Return via Pima Trail. Rating A.** Starting from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way, this rocky trail climbs steadily and follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail passes Linda Vista Saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball" and onto the Pima Canyon Trail. A half mile further and hikers arrive at the top of Mt. Kimball. The return is via the Pima Canyon Trail from Mt. Kimball down to the Pima Canyon Trailhead at the east end of McGee Road. Bring lunch, snacks, and 2 to 4 quarts of water, depending upon time of year. Car shuttle required. Hike 12.1 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 4138 feet; accumulated gain 4148 feet; RTD 44 miles.

**Mt. Lemmon Fall Color Tour. Rating C.** The hike begins at the Steward Observatory parking lot at the top of Mt. Lemmon on Radio Ridge. The main objective of the hike is to visit three areas that have special beauty during autumn. Although there are not a large variety or number of deciduous trees in southern Arizona, the ones at high elevation that lose their leaves in the fall, such as aspen, maple, and oak, put on quite a display and they are well worth the drive to see. The group will visit three areas and hike a short distance at each place to vantage points that provide outstanding mountain views with (hopefully) lots of color. From the Steward Observatory parking lot, the group will hike down the Meadow Trail and back along the Mt. Lemmon Trail, making a 1.6 mile loop which passes the short spur trail that provides access to the fire observatory station at Lemmon Rock Lookout. The group will then drive to the Red Ridge Trailhead and hike about 0.6 miles RT down the trail to an aspen grove that is recovering from the 2004 fire. Taking the cars again, we will go through Summerhaven to the Marshall Gulch Trailhead and hike 2.4 miles RT to the Marshall Saddle. If the weather is good and the leaves have started changing, this day will be like a buffet with filet, lobster, and tiramisu, in other words the best of the Catalinas at the best time of year. Bring a lunch and your camera. If you decide to pass on a stop and wait for the group, that's ok. Trails are normal for the Catalinas, meaning they are rocky and slippery in some spots. Limited to 12 people. Hike is less than 5 miles total; trailhead elevations 9100, 8160, and 7440 feet respectively; net elevation changes about 300, 300, and 480 feet respectively for about 1080 feet total.; accumulated gain total about 1200 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. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. There is shade along the way. Hike 11.1 miles; trailhead elevation 5540 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain 4029 feet; RTD 130 miles.

**Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy and Super Trails. Rating A.** The hike begins in Madera canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle where we take the Super Trail to Mt. Wrightson. This provides a more gradual ascent to Baldy Saddle, but the last 0.9 mile 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. The return is via the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle and the Super Trail to the trailhead. There is abundant shade along the way. Hike 13.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain >4100 feet. RTD 130 miles.

**Oracle Ridge / Red Ridge Loop. Rating B!.** The hike begins at the Red Ridge Trailhead and descends steeply on a rocky trail to Catalina Camp. From there, we will climb via Trail # 401 east to Dan Saddle, south up the Oracle Ridge Trail to its trailhead just below the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station, then back along Catalina Hwy for about a mile to complete the loop. Both trails are very steep and have numerous stretches of loose, slippery rock making stable footing a challenge. An alternative is to position vehicles at both trailheads to avoid the trek along Catalina Hwy. Along the way, there are great views of the Reef of Rocks and Samaniego Ridge to the west, and the Biosphere II and Oracle to the north. The hike may be done in reverse, but both ways are difficult for a hike of this rating. Hike 8.3 miles; trailhead elevation 8160 feet; net elevation change 2480 feet; accumulated gain 2615 feet; RTD 131 miles.

**Phone Line Trail - Round Trip. Rating B.** The hike begins in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot. After crossing Sabino Creek there is a moderate climb to the Phone Line Trail, which is above and generally parallels the tram road. The trail offers outstanding views of the canyon. There are three options for the return: the tram road, the same

trail, or back part way on the same to trail to a connecting trail that takes us down to the creek and dam and back to the parking lot. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 10.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain 1375 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Phone Line Trail with Tram Ride Down. Rating C.** The hike begins from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center parking lot and proceeds easterly for about a mile along a flat sandy trail to the Phone Line Trailhead. The hike continues up the Phone Line Trail, and down to the uppermost Sabino Canyon tram stop, and which takes the group back to the Center on the tram. The trail is above and generally parallels the tram road and provides outstanding views and photo opportunities of the canyon. There are extended stretches of exposed trail. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Pima Canyon to 1<sup>st</sup> Dam. Rating D!.** The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. We will hike the first part of Pima Canyon to the first dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, take photos. There are pools of water at the dam most of the year. The trail is rocky at some points and involves some steps-up and steps-down but is not difficult. Hike 2.7 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change \_\_ feet; accumulated gain 470 feet; RTD 42 miles.

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

**Pusch Peak. Rating B!** From the trailhead at the east end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds up the northwest side of Pusch Ridge to the top of Pusch Peak, which provides fantastic 360-degree views of Tucson, Oro Valley, and points north. The first 1.5 miles of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 1.5 miles is difficult and strenuous with stretches of slippery footing, rock scrambling, and

exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. Along the final 1.5 miles, the trail passes four man-made dams and numerous excellent overlooks with views north, west, and south. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2620 feet; net elevation change 2641 feet; accumulated gain >2700 feet; RTD 28 miles.

**Romero Falls. Rating A.** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where Romero pools are located. The falls are about 30 feet high and consist of water flowing down a steeply sloped rock face, and are a very unique feature in southern Arizona. The falls are located about 2.6 miles past the Romero pools and about 0.6 miles (and a little less than 500 feet additional elevation gain) past Romero Springs. The springs and falls are located in a very scenic section of the canyon, and have been known to attract quite a bit of wildlife. Lunch will be at the falls. The return is via the same route. Hike 11.6 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 2420 feet; accumulated gain >3140 feet; RTD 24 miles.

**Romero Pass. Rating A.** The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows an up and down trail past Romero Pools and Romero Springs to Romero Pass. The last 2 miles before reaching the pass is very steep and involves continual climbing. The return is via the same route. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way and of Cathedral Peak at the top. Rincon Peak is visible to the east. Hike 15 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 3380 feet; accumulated gain 4040 feet; RTD 24 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.

**Sabino Canyon - Bear Canyon Loop (with Trams). Rating B.** We take the Sabino Canyon tram to its uppermost stop and follow the Sabino Canyon, the East Fork, and finally the Bear Canyon Trails to the Bear Canyon Trailhead. From there, it's 1.6 miles to the Visitor Center. Tram fee required. Hike 13 miles; trailhead elevation 3320 feet; net elevation change 1800 feet; accumulated gain/loss 2620/3220 feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Sabino Canyon to Catalina State Park - 2. Rating A.** The hike begins at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center and proceeds up the Esperero Trail through Cardiac Gap, past Bridalveil Falls to the Cathedral Rock Trail, which leads to Romero Pass. From Romero Pass, the hike is mostly downhill, passing Romero Spring and the Romero Pools along the way to Catalina State Park. This is a strenuous but extremely rewarding hike. A vehicle shuttle will be needed. Hike 18.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 4160 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 56 miles.

#### **Sedona Hikes:**

**\*\*Bear Mountain Rating B** Bear Mountain is located near West Sedona. The narrow, steep, sometimes rocky trail climbs up the side of the mountain and has ever improving, panoramic views, especially to the south. There are several plateaus and the hike has 1,800 feet of elevation gain in a short three miles before the turnaround. The views from on top are terrific with the San Francisco Peaks in the distance and a panorama of Sedona's red rocks looking to the south. A local favorite and a strenuous work out. Hike 6 miles RT. Starting Elevation 4,614 feet. Net gain 1,800 feet. RTD from downtown Sedona -20 miles approximately.

**\*\*Boynton Canyon Rating C** The popularity of the six mile (RT) trail up Boynton Canyon is due mainly to the ease of access, this being one of the relatively few canyon hikes near Sedona for which the trailhead is reached by a paved road. The first half of the hike is along an open, bushy valley beneath layered red buttes and cliffs, followed by a much more enclosed and sheltered stretch through thick pine woodland - but the final viewpoint is rather more spectacular. The path finishes at an elevated viewpoint at the end of a box canyon, enclosed on three sides by vertical Coconino sandstone cliffs rising up to 1,200 feet above. This

relatively short hike gives a good introduction to the red rock scenery that makes Sedona famous. Hike 6 miles. Starting Elevation 4,500 feet. Net gain approximately 700 feet. RTD from downtown Sedona 18 miles approximately.

**West Fork of Oak Creek Canyon Rating C!** The most scenic hike in the Sedona area is along the lower end of the West Fork of Oak Creek - this stream flows year round through a deep, forested canyon, quite narrow in places, with many pretty eroded rock formations and plentiful wildlife. The West Fork joins the main Oak Creek canyon near its north end a few miles north of downtown Sedona. Some hikers may want to use walking sticks as there are about 13 stream crossings which require walking in very shallow water (ankle deep at most) or stepping on rocks in the stream. Arizona Highways ranks it as #1 most scenic hike in the state. The hike turnaround point is where the canyon walls create a subway like walk in the water that can easily be done adding another mile to the hike. A gorgeous fall hike. Total distance 7 miles. Starting elevation 5,200 feet. Net elevation gain minimal. \$10 concessionaire fee per car at the parking lot. We will car pool. RTD from downtown Sedona 21 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 8.7 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.

**Sweetwater Trail (short version). Rating D.** The hike begins from the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro on the east side of the Tucson Mountains and covers about half the distance to the saddle where the Kings Canyon and Sweetwater Trails meet. The return is via the same route. The trail passes through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there are good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. Hiking boots and stick are recommended. Bring binoculars. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 350 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 60 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.

**Thimble Peak via Bear Canyon.** The trailhead is at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. We will hike to Seven Falls and then continue up Bear Canyon for an addition 2 miles. We will then head southeast for 1.2 miles on an unmarked, faint, trail to Thimble Peak. The 1.2 mile section has some steep side slopes, and involves hiking in heavy brush. Gloves may be useful. Enjoy outstanding views from the base of Thimble Peak down into Sabino Canyon and the greater Tucson area. For those that want a little more adventure we will climb the Peak, but ascent to the top of the Peak is difficult. The return is via the same route. Hike 15 mile; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 2,600 feet; accumulated gain \_\_\_ feet; RTD 56 miles.

**Wilderness of Rocks. Rating B.** The hike begins at the Marshall Gulch picnic area at the top of Mt. Lemmon. We climb up to Marshall Saddle then down the Wilderness of Rocks Trail. Three fourths of a mile past the intersection with the Lemmon Rock Lookout Trail is the Lemmon Creek area in the heart of the Wilderness of Rocks. There are beautiful rock formations with great views along the way. The

return is via the same route, or optionally, by the Aspen Loop Trail. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 7440 feet; net elevation change 1550 feet; accumulated gain \_\_ 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 4200 feet; RTD 54 miles.

**Ventana Canyon - Lower Level. Rating D.** The hike begins from a parking lot at the Ventana Canyon Resort and proceeds gradually up Ventana Canyon for a mile or so. Several stream crossings are involved and there may be water depending on recent rains which require some boulder hopping. At the turnaround point, the trail starts a steep climb through the beautiful canyon which leads eventually to Maiden Pools and, much further along, Window Rock. The trail passes through massive cliffs of metamorphic stone slanting skyward to sharp points above the canyon floor. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 3040 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 400 feet; RTD 54 miles.