



SADDLE BROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.SaddleBrooke.org>

July/August, 2005

2005-4

THE CONTROL ROAD

By Susan Robertshaw

I have often heard the Old Mount Lemmon Road being referred to as the Control Road. I had always thought that was because it was used by the forest service as a fire control road. As I read Suzanne Hensel's book Look to the Mountains, I discovered the nick name was for a whole different reason. I hope you enjoy reading further about our Catalina Mountains and the Control Road. The following are excerpts from her book:

"In the 1910's & 1920's, Soldier Camp was rapidly becoming a summer colony, but Summerhaven was also being discovered for its beauty and cool temperatures. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Frank Weber managed to secure 160 acres of forest land in what would become Summerhaven... Yet Weber was not alone. In close proximity to his cabins, the Huntsmans were busy establishing a tradition of Catalina Mountain summers (in Marshall Gulch).

In those early years, they traveled to their summer homes the same way people going to Soldier Camp had, by the trails on the south side... Eventually the Huntsmans came up by traveling the road on the north side of the mountain...

This route was originally proposed by the Daily consolidated Copper Company, a mining operation located on the north side of the mountain. Company officials asserted that an easy and safe road from Oracle to Soldier Camp could be built for a mere \$50,000... After a more careful investigation, the cost of the road was raised to \$140,000.

Despite the distance from Tucson, the Oracle route quickly became the principle means of traveling to Summerhaven and Soldier Camp. Clenton Sykes described what it was like to travel the road: *'This early road was necessarily rather narrow and contained many sharp hair pin curves. Some of the early day big touring cars had to run ahead and back before they could make some of the curves, the Ed Sporleader Winton Six*

being one such vehicle. Mud and washing too were a problem during the summer storms. Cars would get sideways across the road or hung in the deep drainage gutters against the inside bank. The road was too narrow in many places for safe passing and so a control system was put into effect on the last seven miles. There was a gateway or portal structure at the lower end, Stratton camp, at which all vehicles waited until time to start up the grade. It was a cozy affair. It gave the various drivers time to discuss the affairs of the day, the previous trip and what they figured the chances of making it this time were. Most everyone knew everybody else in those days. One very important ritual was to replenish the water in the old coffee boiler and possibly to take some additional along just in case. There was a barrel kept constantly full by a trickle of water from a spring, and a nice legible sign, 'Stratton, Free Water.'

A sign was posted at each end of the last seven miles of the journey... The schedule allowed an hour and a half travel time each way... Up control times: 8:00, 11:00 2:00 5:00. Down control times: 9:30, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30. If a car was caught traveling the wrong direction at the wrong time, the driver was given a hefty fine of \$50. This last section was appropriately named the Control Road".

GILA WILDERNESS

Jan & Dean Wilson are planning an outing to the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico in October. They will have a planning meeting on Monday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at their house.

The trip will begin on Monday, October 10th. They will have 3 days of hiking, ranging from 5-8 miles. There might be some water crossings. There are hot springs that you can soak in after the hikes! Breakfast is included in price of lodging. The Lodge will cook dinner for \$10 per person. You would pack your own lunch for each days hike. The group would return to SaddleBrooke on Friday, October 14th.

The group would stay at The Wilderness Lodge in Gila Hot Springs, NM.

If interested, contact Jan or Dean Wilson at 818-0299 or at janaw@robsoncom.net

NAMETAGS

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

NEW GUIDE

We want to extend a warm welcome to Don Taylor who has volunteered to be one of our hiking guides. Don had been on many hikes with the club and participated in our Grand Canyon hike this past fall. He is offering several great hikes this cycle. Please welcome him aboard!



MT. WHITNEY

Mt. Whitney is the highest peak in the lower 48 states (14,495 feet). It can be most directly reached by a 10.7 mile trail from Whitney Portal, 13 mile west of the town of Lone Pine, California on the east side of the Sierra. The elevation at the trailhead is 8360'. That is a 6135' elevation change. It looks like an impressive crag, but it is actually gently rounded on the west side, with an almost flat summit. Deep fissures in the east face, combined with the low angle of view from Owens Valley near Lone Pine create a false impression. Mt. Whitney is on the east side of the Great Western Divide, a chain of mountains that runs north/south through the center of Sequoia National Park, "dividing" the watersheds of the Kaweah River to the west and the Kern River to the east. Because many of the snowcapped peaks in the Great Western Divide reach altitudes of 12,000' or higher, it is impossible to see over them to view Mt. Whitney from any of the roads on the west side of the Sierra. It is the most frequently climbed peak in the Sierra Nevada, if not in the

US. Because of this, the National Park Service and the US Forest Service, who manage the Whitney Portal Trailhead, have implemented a permit system to minimize the impact of day-hikers on the Mt. Whitney backcountry. All hikers entering the Mt. Whitney zone, including day-hikers, are required to obtain a permit.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Hiking Club Social Hour	July 20th	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Aug 3rd	3:00 p.m.
Hiking Guide Meeting	Aug 3rd	4:00 p.m.
Hiking Club Social Hour	Aug 17th	4:00 p.m.

Note: Social Hours held at the MV Clubhouse in the bar area.

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at both the SaddleBrooke and MountainView Clubhouses. Membership is \$5.00 a year and applications should be located with the newsletters.

Send your completed application or renewal to Bob Perez at 65187 E. Desert Sands Court. **Make checks payable to SaddleBrooke Hiking Club.**

NEWS WE CAN USE

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

Becoming a hiking guide: If you have gained experience hiking and would be interested in becoming a hiking guide, contact the Chief Hiking Guide. It is a great way to help the Club and contribute to our great community.

Request a hike: If there is a special hike you would like to see included in our schedule of hikes, please feel free to send an e-mail to the Chief Hiking Guide. Provide a description of the hike and what time of year you would like to have it offered.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Social – Plans the Hiking Club Picnics. You would need to reserve the location, order the food, and arrange for ticket sales.

OFFICERS:

President: Jim Strickler 825-8735
sherabjim@robsoncom.net

Vice-President: Bob Wynne 825-2974
bwyne@robsoncom.net

Secretary: Kathy Gish 818-0918
robkathy@msn.com

Treasurer: Sherry Jacobson 825-4036
louis.jacobson@ey.com

Chief Hiking Guide: Susan Robertshaw 818-6727
jsrobertshaw@att.net

NON-OFFICER POSITIONS:

AZ Trail/Oracle SP Work Sessions: John Rendall 825-9395

Editor: Carole Rossof 877-9262

Membership Roster: Bob Perez 818-2111

azsun65@robsoncom.net

Merchandise: Sally Sample 825-0985

Newsletter Copies: Sue Berman 818-1954

Social: Volunteer needed

Publicity: John Robertshaw 818-6727

jsrobertshaw@att.net

Statistics & Awards: Melody Branstrom 825-5562

GENERAL HIKING INFORMATION

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

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

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

Voluntary driver donations: Voluntary driver donations are shown at the end of the hike descriptions. Most include the entry and/or parking fees where required, however some hikes may require additional fees. Guides may also wish to split costs between drivers for drop-offs and/or unequal passenger loads. Small bills are appreciated. Due to automobile insurance coverage considerations, it is recommended that any payment to the driver be made upon return to MountainView.

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

Choosing Hikes: Hikes are more difficult than a walk in SaddleBrooke due to elevation change and our Arizona terrain. It is not unusual to encounter rocks, unsteady ground, and steep inclines. It is your responsibility to choose an appropriate hike that matches your physical abilities. The hike description is a great tool. Look closely at the length, elevation change, and comments in the description to determine if a hike is within your physical ability. If you aren't feeling "up to snuff" on the day of the hike, don't hesitate to cancel until a better day.

Assumption of Risk: When you joined the club, you were asked to sign a 'Release of Liability'. **We want to reinforce the fact that by signing the release you acknowledge that participation in the club's activities involves an inherent risk of physical injury and that you assume all such risks. Accidents can happen. Learn about the risks and how to avoid them. Take an active part in protecting yourself and fellow hikers.** We are an organization of volunteers who share their skills and love for the wilderness with one another.

Guest Policy: A SaddleBrooke resident, whether year-round or part-time, must be a club member in order to join a hike. On hikes with limited participants, members have priority over guests. Members must accompany their guest(s), and all guests will be required to sign a Release Form prior to hiking (if under age 18, must be signed by parent or legal guardian). If the guest is younger than 16 years old, you must notify the guide who has

sole discretion whether or not to allow minors on the hike.

HIKE RATINGS, PACE, AND SYMBOLS

Rating

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

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

Slow Pace – Average speed of hike < 1.5 MPH

Moderate Pace – Average speed of hike 1.5 to 2.5 MPH

Fast Pace – Average speed of hike > 2.5 MPH

Symbols

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

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

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

FITNESS WALKS -- FIVE DAYS A WEEK

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. Occasionally, the Tuesday/Thursday group plans a 3-4 hour hike outside the SaddleBrooke boundaries. One-week advance notice is given. Wear comfortable walking/athletic shoes. Remember sunblock, a hat and water.

Mon/Wed/Fri Group - 6:00 a.m.

Meet at SaddleBrooke Tennis Center parking lot by basketball court.

Bill Leightenheimer 818-1953

Tues/Thurs Group – 6:00 a.m.

Tuesday: Meet at MountainView Clubhouse parking lot.



Thursday: Meet at SaddleBrooke Tennis Center parking lot.
Judy Barenkopf 825-7077

July 6 – Wed. Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C. This hike is a gradual hike through a mesquite bosque with 100+ year old saguaros, Arizona Poppies/Morning Glories in season, on the way to an area of many, many petroglyphs. Per the book Paradise Found by Kathy Alexander there are over 1400 petroglyphs in the area. Some rock scrambling is necessary to search for the petroglyphs. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 400 feet; starting elevation 3200 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

July 7 – Thurs. Mt. Lemmon Loop. Rating B+. Starting on Mt. Lemmon, we will go down the Red Ridge Trail and over the East Fork of the Canada del Oro Trail, through Catalina Camp. Upon reaching Dan Saddle, we will return on the Oracle Ridge Trail to Mt. Lemmon. To complete the loop it will be necessary to walk 1 mile on Mt. Lemmon Highway back to our parking area. Hike 8.3 miles; elevation change 2,350 feet; starting elevation 8,000 feet; leave at **5:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00 Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

July 8 – Fri. Aspen Loop/Marshall Gulch Trail. Rating C. We will start at the Marshall Gulch Picnic area and go up the Aspen Trail to the saddle. We will lunch at a scenic spot near the saddle. Then down the Marshall Gulch Trail to the picnic area. Hike 4 miles; elevation change 800 feet; starting elevation 7440 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735

July 11 – Mon. Madera Canyon Nature Trail. Rating C. This non-desert hike is in the Santa Rita Mountains. We start at 4500 foot elevation from the lower area and ascend 3.2 miles up the canyon to the 5400 foot Roundup Picnic Area. Along the way, we enjoy the shade of Apache Pines, Douglas Firs, Emory Oaks, Mexican Blue Oaks, Willows, Cottonwoods, and Sycamores. Our return is by the same route. There are panoramic views from a ridge on a trail breakout. Hike 7.5 miles; elevation change 900 feet; starting elevation 4500 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

July 12 – Tues. Golder Ranch Rd. area to Mt. Lemmon. Rating A+. From the Golder Ranch area, we will proceed to the Sutherland Trail, connect with the Canada del Oro Trail, then continue up to Mt. Lemmon on the Mt. Lemmon and Meadow Trails. Hike 10-12 miles; elevation change approx. 5,000 feet; starting elevation 4,000 feet; leave at **5:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

July 14 – Thurs. Mt. Lemmon Loop 2. Rating B+. Starting on Mt. Lemmon, we will proceed down Meadow Trail to the Mt. Lemmon Trail and return back to Mt. Lemmon on the Wilderness of Rocks and Lemmon Rock Lookout trails. The end of this hike is steep, climbing 1,550 feet in 2 miles. Hike 8.6 miles; elevation change 2,000 feet; starting elevation 9,100 feet; leave at **5:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

July 19 – Tues. Dancing Horse Ranch to Mt. Lemmon.

Rating A+. Starting at Dancing Horse Ranch, we will proceed up Charouleau Gap Road to the Samaniego Ridge Trail, passing Mule Ears and Samaniego Peak. The Samaniego Ridge Trail intersects with the Canada del Oro Trail which we will take followed by the Meadow Trail to Mt. Lemmon. Hike 17.7 miles; elevation change 5,900 feet; starting elevation 3,200 feet; leave at **5:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057

July 20 – Wed. Hiking Club Social Hour – 4:00 p.m.

July 22 - Fri. Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail. Rating B. We hike from the Bog Springs Campground in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, through three springs areas which are home to bamboo, huge Arizona sycamore, walnut and fir trees. There are great views of Madera Canyon, Green Valley, Kitt peak, and Baboquivari from this trail with strenuous, steep climbs in spots. Limit 15 hikers. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 2100 feet; starting elevation 5000 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735

****July 23- July 30 – Sat.- Sat. Yosemite Area and Mt. Whitney. Rating A+.** We will leave SaddleBrooke on July 23, driving to Lee Vining, CA. On July 24 & 25 we will hike and camp in the Saddlebag Lake area, climbing Mt. Conness on the 25th. On July 26 we will drive to Bristlecone Pine Forest to do a short hike at an elevation of over 11,000 feet. The evening of the 26th we will drive to Lone Pine, CA. On the 27th we will hike in the Horseshoe Meadow area at an elevation over 11,000 feet. On the 28th we will pick up our permits and proceed to Whitney Portal campground. On the 29th we leave camp at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. to hike the 11 miles and 6,000 feet gain in elevation to Mt. Whitney Peak (nearly 14, 500 feet in elevation). We will return that evening and drive back to Lone Pine. We will return to SaddleBrooke on July 30. Limit 9 hikers. Leave time and driver donation TBD. Dean & Cheryl Werstler, 825-9057.

July 29 – Fri. Mt. Lemmon/Meadow/Fire Lookout. Rating C-. We will drive to the very top of Mt. Lemmon and park by the astronomical observatories operated by the UA, also known as Radio Ridge. We then hike down the Meadow Trail, through Lemmon Park, to where it intersects the Mt. Lemmon Trail that will lead us back to Lemmon Rock fire lookout cabin, which offers spectacular views. We will then hike back to the top of Mt. Lemmon. Hike 3 miles; elevation change 500 feet; starting elevation 9157 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$7.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Aug. 3 – Wed. Canyon Loop to Montrose Pool. Rating D. This hike goes through a nice Sonoran Desert area in Catalina State Park up to the Montrose Pools, then returns. We will fork onto the Birding Loop at the end. Depending upon the season, some water crossings are possible. Hike <4 miles; elevation change 200 feet; starting elevation 2700 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

Aug. 3 – Wed. Board Meeting – 3:00 p.m.

Aug. 3 – Wed. Hiking Guide Meeting – 4:00 p.m.

****Aug. 8 – Mon. Lower Phone Line Trail/Sabino Canyon Dam Loop, Rating C.** We will start at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center and hike up the lower Phone Line Trail and down the

switchbacks to the river in Sabino Canyon. We hike along the river in the canyon to the dam and then return to Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. This is a good summer hike to take advantage of the morning coolness and return well before noon when it becomes too hot. Hike 4.1 miles; elevation gain 500 feet; starting elevation 2750 feet; leave at **6:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$3.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

Aug. 9 - Tues. Pusch Peak. Rating A. The first mile of the trail is mostly level then a steep, difficult climb begins. In a few places you may want to use your hands to climb the trail. Bring gloves. Hiking stick desirable. One and one-half miles more and we reach the top. The views of Oro Valley and Tucson are fantastic. This is a very strenuous hike. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 2700 feet; starting elevation 2650 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Aug. 13 – Sat. Butterfly Trail. Rating B-. Starting at Soldier Camp in the Catalinas we will hike down to the Novio Spring area in Alder Canyon where we will lunch in the vicinity of a 1957 F-86 plane crash. All of the steady climb is on the way out. We will be in the shade of very tall Douglas fir and ponderosa pines, up to the saddle and exit at Palisade Ranger Station. Along the way are views of San Manuel to the east. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1800 feet; starting elevation 7700 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$6.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

****Aug. 17 – Wed. Oracle Ridge Trail to Campo Bonito Saddle. Rating C.** We start in Oracle at the beginning of the Oracle Ridge Trail and hike along the ridge past the American Flag Trail junction to the next saddle that would typically lead to Campo Bonito. Return by the same route. Spectacular views as we walk along the ridge. This is a good summer hike at a higher altitude to take advantage of the morning coolness and return well before noon when it becomes too hot. Hike 5.2 miles; elevation gain 700 feet; starting elevation 4700 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$2.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.

Aug. 17 – Wed. Hiking Club Social Hour – 4:00 p.m.

Aug. 23 – Tues. Pusch Peak. Rating A. The first mile of the trail is mostly level then a steep, difficult climb begins. In a few places you may want to use your hands to climb the trail. Bring gloves. Hiking stick desirable. One and one-half miles more and we reach the top. The views of Oro Valley and Tucson are fantastic. This is a very strenuous hike. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 2700 feet; starting elevation 2650 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$1.00. Elisabeth Wheeler, 818-1547.

Aug. 26 – Fri. Cochise Stronghold to the Saddle. Rating C. This is a beautiful hike through the area (Dragoon Mountains) that Cochise hid in during the Indian wars. He is buried in this area in a hidden location. There is an extension of this hike that expands it to 10 miles for the more advanced hiker. Hike 6 miles; elevation change 1000 feet; starting elevation about 4500 feet; leave at **6:30 a.m.**; driver donation \$10.00. Jim Strickler, 825-8735.

Aug. 29 – Mon. Peralta Trail. Rating C+. Peralta Trail to Fremont Saddle viewing Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains. This may be the area's most beautiful canyon.

Legend has it that a loner named Jacob Waltz (The Dutchman) found a fortune in gold somewhere within the Superstition Mountains. Dominating the legends and the landscape is Weaver's Needle. The canyon bottom is a jumble of huge, thought-provoking boulders that have tumbled from the cliffs above. It's a steep, rocky trail most of the way. Hike 5 miles; elevation change 1360 feet; starting elevation 2500 feet; leave at **6:00 a.m.**; driver donation \$8.00. Don Taylor, 825-5303.