



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2012-6

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Program: Where Black Bears and Jaguars Meet - Sky Island Carnivores Wednesday, November 14th, 3:00 p.m.

The Catalina and Tortolita mountains north of Tucson rest within a biological hotspot known as the Sky Island region - home of predators such as black bears, bobcats, jaguars, mountain lions, ocelots, coyotes, and wolves. These often misunderstood animals will be the subject of a presentation by Jessica Lamberton-Moreno, a wildlife biologist with the Sky Island Alliance on Wednesday, November 14 at 3 p.m. in the Coyote Rooms, SaddleBrooke Clubhouse.

Complemented with beautiful photos and videos from the region, this presentation will take a look at the natural history and behavior of these animals, how they interact together and with their environment, recent news and action you can take, and some of the myths and fears surrounding them. The Sky Island Alliance is a Tucson-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the wild lands and wildlife of the Sky Island region (www.skyislandalliance.org).



The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Program will be followed by a Social Hour in the Agave Lounge at 4 p.m. For more information about this program contact Dick Krueger, 818-2671. To learn about fitness walks and hikes offered by the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club contact President Larry Allen, 825-7864.

April, 2013 Zion National Park Hiking Trip Dave Sorenson and Virginia Brier

Similar to prior years trips to the Grand Canyon and Sedona/Flagstaff, the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club is planning a multi-day event for April 23-25, 2013 at Zion National Park. **Please Mark Your Calendars!** We will be driving to those areas on Monday, April 22, hike three days and return to SaddleBrooke on April 26th. Once again, participants will be responsible for making their own transportation, lodging and meal arrangements. Attendees would also decide individually, to hike one or more days of the three that are planned.

Tentative hikes include the following:

Day1 - Hikes in the valley floor of the canyon: C and D hikes to Emerald Pools, the River Walk (D), Weeping Rock (D), Hidden Canyon (C).

Day 2 - Hikes that look down on the canyon: Angels Landing (B), Scouts Lookout (C), and Observation Point (B).and Canyon Overlook (D)

Day 3 - We will go up to the Kolob area Of Zion and hike Kolob Arch (A), South and Middle Fork of Taylor Creek (D and C), and the gorgeous Kanaarville Creek (C).

The number of hikes will vary with the level of participation. If you are interested in participating please contact Virginia Brier at virginiabrier@gmail.com.

A preliminary list of hikes will be sent to all those interested by March 1st, 2013. Signups for the hikes must occur ten days prior to the trip to allow the guides ample time to finalize logistics. Participants will sign up for these hikes as they do for any other hike - that is, they will place a call to the guide indicating their interest. A complete final schedule of the offered hikes will be available one week in advance of the departure date.

The hikes chosen have a variety of scenery from waterfalls to canyon overlooks and scenic creeks with walls hundreds of feet high. Zion is a spectacular place to hike and April weather is perfect as the temperatures are very similar to SaddleBrooke.

News You Can Use		
SBHC Program	11/14	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	11/21	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	12/5	2:45 p.m.
Guide Meeting	12/5	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour	12/19	4:00 p.m.

Hard copies of the Newsletter are available at the SaddleBrooke and Desert View Fitness Centers

Board Members	
President	Larry Allen 825-7864, allenlw70@gmail.com
Vice-President	Bob Kolenda 825-9972; rlkslt4@gmail.com
Secretary	Dave Sorenson 777-1994 iowaboy1950@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Virginia Brier 818-0493; virginiabrier@gmail.com
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Statistics and Awards	Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com
Work Days	Jim Strickler, 825-8735; sherabjim@wbhsi.net

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 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, and Dean Wilson.

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.

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.

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

Hikes Offered

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Name of Hike</u>	<u>Hike Rating</u>	<u>Pace</u>	<u>Leave Time A.M.</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Driver Donation</u>
11/1	Thurs	Window Rock	A		6:30	Margaret Valair	812-0019	\$4
11/3	Sat	Oracle State Park East Loop	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$3 +\$2
11/6	Tues	Rillito River Walk #2	D	Slow	7:30	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$3
11/7	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk SB 1 Parking Lot	C/B	Fast	7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	
11/7	Wed	Fifty Year Trail Area Loop- Short Version	C		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
11/8	Thurs	Romero Pools	C		8:00	Kathy Cotton	825-2243	\$2+\$2
11/8	Thurs	Mt. Lemmon Via Sutherland Trail	A		6:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$10
11/12	Mon	Hutch's Pool	B!		7:45	Laura Ruxer	812-630-2550	\$4+tram
11/12	Mon	Deer Camp / Baby Jesus Loop	C		8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$2
11/12	Mon	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		8:00	David Hydeman	289-5546	\$2
11/14	Wed	AZ Trail: Work Session	C		8:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	
11/14	Wed	SBHC Program: Sky Island Alliance, Coyote room, SB Clubhouse			3:00 p.m.	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
11/14	Wed	SBHC Social Hour SB Clubhouse			4:00 p.m.			
11/15	Thurs	Dripping Springs	C	Slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2 +2
11/16	Fri	Finger Rock Tr. To Linda Vista Saddle	B		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
11/17	Sat	Oracle State Park West Loop	C		8:00	Marv Rosssof	877-9262	\$3 + \$2
11/19	Mon	Hidden Canyon Loop	C		8:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$2
11/20	Tues	Arravaipa Canyon West	C!	Slow	730	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$10+\$5
11/20	Tues	Finger Rock Tr. To F.R. Spring	D		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
11/22	Thurs	Thanksgiving						
11/23	Fri	Finger Rock Guard	A!		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
11/24	Sat	Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina and Upper Javelina	C		9:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
11/26	Mon	Tanque Verde Ridge Trail - Part Way	C		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$6
11/26	Mon	Panther Peak	B		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$5
11/27	Tues	Baby Jesus	C		8:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630- 2550	\$2
11/27	Tues.	**Trail Below Tangerine Road	D	Slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
11/28	Wed	Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop	C!		8:00	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$5
11/29	Thurs	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$4
11/30	Fri	**Thimble Peak via Bear Canyon	A		7:30	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$4
11/30	Fri	Finger Rock Trail to Canyon Overlook	C		8:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$4
12/3	Mon	Wilderness first aid course for guides			9:00	Walt Shields Bill Leighenheime	818-3439	
12/4	Tues	Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk	D	Slow	7:45	Bill Lightenheimer	825-5756	
12/4	Tues	Pontotoc Ridge	C!		8:30	Laura Ruxer	812-630- 2550	\$4
12/5	Wed	Extended Fitness Walk	B/C	Fast	7:00	Dave Hydeman		
12/5	Wed	Sutherland Trail	C		8:00	Marv Rosssof	877-9262	2 + 2
12/5	Wed	Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs	C		8:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$2
12/5	Wed	Phone Line Trail – Round Trip	B		7:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$4
12/5	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting HOA 1 Activity Center			2:45 pm			
12/5	Wed	SBHC Guides Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			4:00 pm			
12/6	Thurs	CDO/Big Wash	D	slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2
12/6	Thurs	Maiden Pools	C!		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2
12/7	Fri	Wasson Peak Via Sweetwater Trail	B		7:00	Margaret Valair	812-0019	\$5
12/10	Mon	Hidden Canyon	C		9:00	Laura Ruxer	812-630- 2550	\$2
12/10	Mon	Wilderness of Rocks Loop # 2	B		6:30	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time A.M.	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
12/11	Tues	Pusch Ridge to 2 nd Overlook	C!		8:00	Roy Carter	818-3137	\$2
12/12	Wed	Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs Loop	B		8:00	Frank Brier	818-0493	\$4
12/13	Thurs	Sutherland Trail	C	slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$2 +2
12/14	Fri	Seven Falls	B		7:00	Margaret Valair	812-0019	\$4
12/17	Mon	American Flag to Saddle	B		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$3
12/18	Tues	Sausolito	D	Slow	8:00	Jan Wilson	818-0299	\$3
12/19	Wed	Romero Pools	C/B		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2 + \$2
12/20	Thurs	Rams Creek Basin – short version	D		8:00	Dave Sorenson	777 1994	\$2
12/21	Fri	Blackett's Ridge	B		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$4
12/22	Sat	Tortolita Mountains: Cochie Spring Trail.	B		8:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$4
12/25	Tues	Christmas						
12/27	Thurs	Baby Jesus – Petroglyph Loop	B		8:00	Walt Shields	818-3439	\$2

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 “!” 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.

Hike Descriptions

American Flag to Saddle. Rating B. The hike begins at the American Flag Trailhead on the old Mt. Lemmon Road and follows 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. The group then follows the ridge south and lunches in a saddle at the top of Camp Bonita Canyon on the northwest side of Apache Peak. 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 9 miles; trailhead elevation 4400 feet; net elevation change 950 feet; accumulated gain 1730 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).

Arizona Trail: Highline - Blue Ridge Sections, Pine to Blue Ridge Campground. Rating A. On this backpack adventure, hikers will scale the sheer 2000 foot ramparts of the Mogollon Rim, which involves steep climbing at several places along much of the way. The route offers fabulous vistas of the Tonto Basin, the rugged, remote land of the Apaches and the inspiration for many of Zane Grey's novels. The trail north of the rim highlights the 19th century conflict between the Apaches, the settlers, and the U.S. cavalry. Hike 34.5 miles over 2 days; trailhead elevation 5500 feet; net elevation change 995 (day 1), 1435 (day 2) feet; accumulated gain 3030 (day 1), 995 (day 2) feet; RTD __ miles.

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.

Baby Jesus / Petroglyph Loop. Rating B. The hike starts in the Fifty-Year Trail area near the east end of Golder Ranch Road. The trail crosses the Sutherland Wash and connects to the Baby Jesus Trail. At the intersection, hikers turn south until they reach the Sutherland Trail. We go west on the Sutherland (or another connecting link) for about a mile to a trail that leads to the petroglyphs, then north back to the trailhead (completing a clockwise loop). Along the way, hikers see beautiful saguaros, rock formations (including the Madona and Child, and a window), oak woodlands, and ancient petroglyphs. The hike may be done in reverse. The southern connecting link may be overgrown since it receives little use. Hike 10 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 1200 feet, accumulated gain __ feet; RTD 12 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 continues up the ridge between Sabino and Bear Canyons. There are spectacular views of Tucson and the canyons to either side of the trail. The ridge part of the trail has several steep switchbacks mixed in with some level areas. There are three false summits before reaching the end of the trail, a point where it is not possible to continue because the terrain drops precipitously. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1689 feet; accumulated gain >1735 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Catalina Hills Trash Cleanup Walk. Rating D. Volunteers are needed for the Trash Cleanup Walk for Catalina Hills Drive which is part of the Arizona Adopt A Highway Program. This is a community service that our club provides for SaddleBrooke and for Arizona. The walk will only take an hour to an hour and a half of your time. Trash bags and safety vests are provided by the Pinal County Highway Dept. Volunteers should bring gloves and a pickup stick if they have one. Volunteers will meet in the parking lot just west of the Fitness Center at SaddleBrooke CC.

Catalina State Park to Mt. Lemmon via the Sutherland Trail. Rating A. The hike begins at the easternmost trailhead in Catalina State Park and proceeds up the Sutherland Trail to the meadows at Mt. Lemmon (near the observatories). The trail passes Cargodera Springs along the way. The last 1.5 miles are along Mt. Lemmon Trail # 5. This very difficult and all day hike will take hikers through all of the climate zones of Mt. Lemmon and affords magnificent views to the West and Northwest, including the Tortolitas, Sun City, Saddlebrooke, and Oro Valley. Transportation will need to be arranged from the top. Hike 11 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 6400 feet, accumulated gain __; RTD 131 miles.

CDO/Big Wash Walk. Rating D. The hike will start at a parking area near the In and Out Burger Restaurant in Oro Valley Market Place. We access the path here, then cross over the Canada del Oro via the new footbridge and continue along the wash on a paved path that parallels the Big Wash & CDO. The trail goes behind several stores, and behind the old Steam Pump Ranch property. The group will turn around near Home Depot, and return via the same route. There are some lovely cliffs across the wash at one point. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change and accumulated gain are minimal; RTD 20 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 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change __ feet; accumulated gain 993 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Dripping Springs from the Sutherland Trail.

Rating C. From the main trailhead at the east end of Catalina State Park, the hike follows the Sutherland Trail past the wilderness sign, and then turns toward Dripping Springs at a Sutherland Trail sign. There are large rocks placed in a row on the right (east) side of the Sutherland Trail. Much of the trail is sandy and there may be several water crossings. After entering the wilderness area, the trail is somewhat rocky. An old abandoned mine is visible to the left of the canyon. Keep to the left at a trail junction for lower Romero Canyon, which can be visited later. Hike 4.8 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 460 feet; RTD 24 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 Area Loop – Short Version.

Rating C. The hike begins in the Fifty-Year Trail area off Golder Ranch Road, goes east to the Upper Loop Trail, then north to a rock for a break. Along the way, we pass the turn-offs for the Deer Camp and Hidden Canyon Trails. The hike continues north then turns west to return via the Fifty Year Trail. There are beautiful saguaros and rock formations, in addition to excellent views of SaddleBrooke, Sun City, and the Tortolitas. The hike may be done in reverse. Hike 4.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change ___ feet; accumulated gain 500 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

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 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 3375 feet; accumulated gain 4000 feet; RTD 44 miles.

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.

Finger Rock Trail to Finger Rock Spring. Rating

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

Finger Rock Trail to Linda Vista Saddle. Rating

B. The hike begins from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way. The hike starts on level ground for about a mile, and then sharply climbs 2500 feet. Scrambling is necessary at some points going up, and coming down is just as difficult. From the Saddle, hikers will enjoy the beautiful vistas of Mt. Kimball, the Santa Ritas, and the city of 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 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 975 feet; accumulated gain 1285 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

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).

Hutch's Pool. Rating C!. Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram (fee required) to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon (fee required). After a moderately steep but brief climb out of the canyon, the trail is mostly level but involves several stream crossings along the East and West Forks before reaching the pool. Some boulder hopping may be necessary depending on seasonal rains and winter snow melt on Mt. Lemmon. During periods of heavy rain or significant snow melt, the crossings can be difficult. Ask the guide about current stream flow conditions. This lovely hike will take the group to a permanent pool surrounded by giant Arizona Cypress trees, which is great place for a snack or lunch. The return is via the same route to the trailhead to catch the tram. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 56 miles.

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

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 ___ feet; accumulated gain 1001 feet; RTD 40 miles.

Panther Peak. Rating C!. The hike begins near Saguaro National Park – West off Picture Rocks Road, with the first mile on old mining roads. Then, a steep, difficult climb begins and you may need to use your hands to climb the trail. The use of gloves, long pants, and a hiking stick is recommended. There are outstanding views from the top; Picacho Peak is visible to the north. The return is via the same route. This is a short but strenuous hike. Hike 5.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2280 feet; net elevation change 1160 feet; accumulated gain 1250 feet; RTD 60 miles.

Peppersauce and Nugget Canyon Loop. Rating C!. The hike begins at the Peppersauce Campground on the northeast side of the Catalinas. The trail follows old Mt. Lemmon (Oracle Control) Road up to the Nugget Canyon turnoff. We will stop to see Peppersauce Cave. Bring a flashlight. We then travel up the canyon, follow jeep roads, view an old mine, then come down Peppersauce Canyon. Much of the hike is through oak woodland with good views from the higher hills, but there are numerous stream crossings involving boulder hopping during periods following significant precipitation. This is a strenuous hike for this level due to a steep incline in one area and loose rocks in another. Hike 8 miles; trailhead elevation 4600 feet; net elevation change

1200 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 53 miles (dirt).

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.

Pontatoc Ridge. Rating C!. 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 just below some old mines. There are great views of Tucson and the surrounding area from a saddle along the way. The hike is strenuous in some areas due to the steep incline and rocky path. There are short stretches of exposed trail near the old mines. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 3100 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain 1500 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Pusch Ridge to 2nd Overlook. Rating C!. From the trailhead at the east end of Linda Vista Blvd, the trail proceeds part way up Pusch Ridge to a great overlook with views to the north, west, and southwest. The first mile of the trail climbs gradually along a wash. The final 0.75 miles is difficult with slippery footing, rock scrambling, and exposed, narrow, steep paths. Gloves are recommended. The trail passes four man-made dams and a lower but excellent overlook with great views north, west, and southwest. Hike 3.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2650 feet; net elevation change 1350 feet; accumulated gain >1350 feet; RTD 28 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 5.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 780 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles.

Rillito River Hike # 2. Rating D. The hike begins from Children's Memorial Park on the north side of the Rillito River just west of Oracle Road. We walk down river (west) on an asphalt walking/bicycle path to the bridge at La Cholla Blvd. After crossing the river south on the La Cholla bridge, we walk east on a dirt path. If the river is dry, we cross back over the river opposite Children's Park. If water conditions preclude crossing there, we continue on the south side trail to the Oracle Road bridge, cross over and return to the park on the asphalt trail. Hike 4 to 5 miles (depending on crossing location); trailhead elevation ___ feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 40 miles.

Romero Pools. Rating C. The hike begins in Catalina State Park at the easternmost trailhead and follows Romero Canyon Trail into the foothills. The trail crosses open desert then climbs steeply until it reaches a saddle and then down into the canyon area where several pools are located. There are excellent views of Romero and Montrose Canyons along the way. 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.

Sausalito Canyon to Honey Bee Canyon (upper). Rating D. This is a nice, nearby canyon hike with options to extend it within Honey Bee Canyon. The hike heads east, parallel with a fence which eventually turns south for a short distance to the end of the road and near a windmill and concrete dam. Bring water, lunch, snack, camera (optional), and sun protection. High clearance vehicles needed. Hike 4 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change is minimal; accumulated gain is minimal; RTD 26 miles (dirt).

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.

Sutherland Wash Petroglyphs. Rating C. The trail for this hike is gradual and passes through a mesquite thicket with 100-year old saguaros, Arizona poppies/morning glories in season, and eventually reaches 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 reach most of the petroglyphs, but nothing very difficult. Bring a snack to enjoy while searching. Hike 5.6 miles; trailhead elevation 3240 feet; net elevation change minus 205 feet; accumulated gain 309 feet; RTD 12 miles (dirt).

Tanque Verde Ridge Trail - Part Way. Rating C. The hike begins at the Javelina picnic area in Saguaro National Park – East, and is a picturesque hike in the Rincon Mountains with tremendous views of Tucson and the surrounding area. We hike east up to and along the Tanque Verde Ridge and turn around at about 3 miles (by a crested saguaro.) The hike is somewhat steep at some points, but there are great photo stops along the way. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 1300 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 82 miles.

****Thimble Peak via Bear Canyon. Rating A.** 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 accent 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.

Tortolita Mountains - Cochie Spring Trail. Rating B. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, hikers go 1.5 miles on the flat Wild Burro Trail to the Upper Javelina Trail. The Upper Javelina Trail provides views of the Tucson Mtns and Boboquiveri Peak to the south. After a short hike on the Wild Mustang Trail, hikers join the Cochie Spring Trail and continue several miles to the remains of a dam past a windmill. Hikers will experience a quiet mountain wilderness. The return is by the same route. Hike 12 miles; trailhead elevation 2780 feet; net elevation change 645 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; (data need to be updated for the new TH); RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Mountains: Alamo Springs Loop. Rating B. From the Ritz Carlton hiker parking lot, proceed through the Wild Burro Wash to Lower Javelina Trail to the Alamo Springs Trail, which is on the right after entering State Trust land. The group will follow the Alamo Springs Trail to the spring. Upon leaving the spring, the return is down the Wild Burro Trail to an old stone house and cistern which belonged to goat herders in the early 1900's. There is also a large water catch basis dubbed the "swimming pool". From this point, hikers walk back along the Wild Burro Trail the parking lot. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3000 feet; net elevation change 2780 feet; accumulated gain 1600 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Tortolita Mountains: Lower Javelina and Upper Javelina. Rating C. The hike begins at the Ritz Carlton Hotel hiker parking lot. The group will hike up Wild Burro Canyon a short distance to Lower Javelina Trail which we follow for 2 miles, then cross Wild Burro Canyon again to connect to Upper Javelina Trail. We will proceed along the Upper Javelina Trail for 3 miles; the end of Upper Javelina Trail is close to the new golf course. The group will then hike an easy 1 mile path back to the parking lot. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 3200 feet; net elevation change 550 feet; accumulated elevation 910 feet; RTD 44 miles.

****Trail Below Tangerine Road: Rating D.** We park behind Oro Valley Hospital, and then access the trail next to the big wash with a metal hand rail. We hike towards Tangerine Road, going under it, and crossing west to the other side of the wash. From there we turn south and locate the dirt trail that is below houses and along the west side of the wash. After about 1 mile the trail ends in the big wash. We walk

a short ways further, and then find the paved trail going back north along the east side of the big wash, through the Market Place. This paved path brings us back behind In and Out Burger. We continue back up to Tangerine Road, cross the road, and return to the cars. This trail is pretty in the spring with wild flowers. The whole area was a part of a large ranch that belonged to the Sutherland family. Steam Pump Ranch was south of this area where cattle ranchers would stop with their cattle to get them well watered before continuing to Tucson to sell them. Hike ___ miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change and accumulated gain negligible; RTD 21 miles.

Wasson Peak via Sweetwater Trail. Rating B. The hike begins at the trailhead at the end of El Camino del Cerro (the west extension of Ruthruff Road) on the east side of the Tucson Mountains. From there we hike on the Sweetwater Trail through some of the prettiest saguaro forests in the area. Along the way there will be good views of Tucson and Wasson Peak. At the saddle where the trail joins the King Canyon trail we continue up to Wasson Peak. Views are spectacular from this highest point in the Tucson Mountains. There is little shade along the way. Bring plenty of water and sun protection. Hike 9.4 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; net elevation change 1887; accumulated gain 2424 feet; RTD 60 miles.

Wilderness of Rocks Loop # 2. Rating B. Starting at Marshall Gulch picnic area, this hike climbs up to Marshall Saddle then goes toward Mt. Lemmon, passing Carter Canyon along the way. The hike continues to Radio Ridge and the Steward Observatory parking area then heads down via the Mt. Lemmon and Lemmon Rock Lookout Trails to the Wilderness of Rocks Trail. We take this trail back up to Marshall Saddle and down to Marshall Gulch Picnic Area parking lot. Hike 8.1 miles; trailhead elevation 7440 feet; net elevation change 2000 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.