



SADDLEBROOKE

HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://saddlebrookehikingclub.com>

MAY/JUNE

2013-3

Touring and Hiking Through Israel Wednesday, May 15th 3PM HOA1 Activity Center

Hiking Club members Larry Linderman and Kent Naugle spent 25 days in Israel last fall. The first part of their travels was spent with Oversea Adventure Travel. They saw the country from the border of Lebanon to the Red Sea and from the West Bank to the city of Tel Aviv. After the OAT group returned to the States, Larry and Kent remained in Israel and went to Haifa to visit the family of SaddleBrooke friends, then they traveled to Elat and took a bus to Petra in Jordan. Then they traveled up north to hike the Jesus Trail, a newly constructed trail that traces the route Jesus may have taken when he left his home in Nazareth and walked to the Sea of Galilee.

Larry and Kent will be presenting their adventure to the Hiking Club and all SaddleBrooke residents on Wednesday, May 15, at 3 PM in the HOA1 Activity Center. Like all Hiking Club presentations, there is no charge. Everyone is welcome to join our social hour following the presentation in the Agave Lounge of the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse.

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club Member Meeting & Picnic April 12, 2013

The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club held their biannual member meeting and picnic April 12. Approximately 90 members attended. The main purpose was to elect new officers for the club. Thanks for all the service of the outgoing officers Vice President, Bob Kolenda, Treasurer, Virginia Brier, and Chief Hiking Guide, Larry Linderman. Dianne Ashby was elected Vice President, Melissa Simpson was elected Treasurer, and Susan Hollis was elected Co-Chief Hiking Guide. Continuing to serve for one more year are Larry Allen, President, Dave Sorenson, Secretary, and Walt Shields, Co-Chief Hiking Guide. After the election, a picnic meal with delicious chicken and a great assortment of side dishes, salads, and dessert was enjoyed by all. Four lucky members of the club won gift certificates in a raffle. Beaver Simpson did

another outstanding job of organizing the club picnic. For information on the membership in the club, please visit the club's website at: saddlebrookehikingclub.com or call President, Larry Allen at 825-7864

News You Can Use

SBHC Program	5/15	3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	5/15	4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	6/5	2:45 p.m.
Guide Meeting	6/5	4:00 p.m.
Social Hour	6/19	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	Dianne Ashby 8189919, deashby87@gmail.com
Secretary	Dave Sorenson 777-1994 iowaboy1950@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Melissa Simpson 818-7839, mjsimp0328@aol.com
Chief Hiking Guides	Walt Shields 818-3439 waltshields@mac.com Susan Hollis, 825-6819; slhollis@yahoo.com

Volunteers	
Catalina Hills Cleanup	Bill Leightenheimer, 825-5756; wmhlaz@gmail.com
Communications	Ken Wong 818-2561; kmwong@q.com
Programs	Elisabeth Wheeler;818-1547 elisarick@wbhsi.net
Membership Roster	Karen Cusano , 468-2501 kdjcnp @yahoo.com
Merchandise	Pam Corrigan, 850- 8885 pam@daveandpam.com
Newsletter Copies	Martha Hackworth, 818-2573 marthahackworth@gmail.com
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Publicity	Karen Schickedanz, 818-7817 karenschick@wbhsi.net
Socials	Beaver Simpson,818-7839; wbsortho@aol.com
Statistics and Awards	Randy Park, 825-6819, rvfulltime@isp.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, and Martha Hackworth

Monday thru Friday fitness walks will start at the parking lot just west of the SaddleBrooke HOA #1 Fitness Center. If you have any questions please contact Martha at: 818-2573, or Bill at: 825-5756.

<u>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

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
5/1	Wed	Aspen Draw/Mint Spring	C		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10
5/2	Thurs	Bellota Ranch/Molino Basin	B		7:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$7.00
5/6	Mon	Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10
5/6	Mon	Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness	C!		7:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$10+\$5
5/7	Tue	Mt. Kimball Via Finger Rock Trail	A		5:30	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$4
5/8	Wed	Alamo Canyon To Water Tanks	C		7:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2+\$2
5/8	Wed	Wilderness of Rocks	B		7:00	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$10
5/9	Thurs	Mt. Wrightson: Ring Around Wrightson	A		6:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10
5/11	Sat	Bug Spring Trail #2	B		7:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$7.00
5/13	Mon	Wilderness of Rocks #3	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$10
5/14	Tues	Ventana Canyon-Lower Level	D		7:00	Dave Sorenson	777-1994	\$4
5/15	Wed	SBHC Program: Touring and Hiking in Israel			3:00 p.m.	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	
5/15	Wed	SBHC Social Hour SB Agave Lounge			4:00	Jan Springer	825-1451	
5/16	Thurs	Romero Pass	A		6:00	Larry Linderman	303-6564	\$2+\$2
5/17	Fri	Pima Cyn to 2 nd Dam	C		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$3
5/18	Sat	Bog-Kent Springs Loop	B		7:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$10.00
5/20	Mon	Butterfly Trail	B		7:00	Michael Reale	825-8286	\$9
5/22	Wed	Sutherland Trail	C		7:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2
5/24	Fri	Hutch's Pool	B		8:00	Don Taylor	825-5303 After 5/3	\$4 + Tram

Date	Day of Week	Name of Hike	Hike Rating	Pace	Leave Time	Leader(s)	Phone Number	Driver Donation
5/29	Wed	Maiden Pools	C!		7:00	Don Taylor	825-5303 After 5/3	\$4
5/30	Thurs	Mt. Wrightson Via Old Baldy Trail	A		6:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$10
6/1	Sat	Box Camp Trail to Sabino Canyon Overlook	C		7:00	Susan Hollis	825-6819	\$9.00
6/3	Mon	Phone Line trail-Round Trip	B		6:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$4
6/5	Wed	SBHC Board Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			2:45 p.m.			
6/5	Wed	SBHC Guide Meeting HOA1 Activity Center			4:00 p.m.			
6/5	Wed	Romero Pools	C		7:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2
6/6	Thur	Oracle Ridge/Red Ridge Loop	B!		6:00	Elisabeth Wheeler	818-1547	\$10
6/7	Fri	Marshall Gulch/Aspen Loop	C		7:30	Elaine & Howie Fagan	818-9555	\$10
6/10	Mon	Southerland Trail	C		7:00	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$2+\$2
6/13	Thu	Wasson Peak via King Canyon Trail	B		6:30	Don Taylor	825-5303 After 5/3	\$6
6/19	Wed	AZ Trail: Work Session	C		7:00	Jim Strickler	825-8735	\$0
6/19	Wed	Rams Field Pass	C		8:00	Marv Rossof	877-9262	\$2
6/19	Wed	SBHC Social Hour SB Agave Lounge			4:00	Jan Springer	825-1451	
6/24	Mon	Phone Line Trail – Round Trip	B		6:30	Don Taylor	825-5303 After 5/3	\$4
6/28	Fri	Romero Pools	C!		6:30	Dave Hydeman	289-5546	\$2+\$2
6/29	Sat	Josephine Saddle	B		6:30	Don Taylor	825-5303 After 5/3	\$10

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

Alamo Canyon to the Water Tank. Rating C. The hike begins at the Romero Ruins Trailhead in Catalina State Park. Elevation change is gradual. The trail proceeds from the ruins through Alamo Canyon. Water may be present in the canyon after rainy periods. Hikers then go around, down, and up and down again to an unused, large water tank. Trail is rocky in some areas. The return is one of three ways of equal distance. Hike 6.5 miles; trailhead elevation 2700 feet; net elevation change 400 feet; accumulated gain 1050 feet; RTD 24 miles.

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).

Aspen Draw / Mint Spring Trail. Rating C. The hike begins on Turkey Run Road in Summerhaven across from the Visitor Center. After about a mile, we take the Aspen Draw Trail to Radio Ridge. From there we descend the Aspen Trail to Marshall Saddle, where we pick up the Mint Spring Trail to Carter Canyon Road, for a short 0.75 miles back to the trailhead. Hikers may choose to have lunch in Summerhaven before returning. Hike 7.5 miles; trailhead elevation 8000 feet; net elevation change 1400 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 130 miles.

Bellota Ranch / Molino Basin. Rating B. The trailhead is located a short distance past the Molino Basin Fee Station going up Catalina Hwy. The hike follows the Bellota Trail to a working ranch in the Molino Basin in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Initially the trail climbs 600 feet to a saddle and then drops 900 feet into a beautiful valley, stopping at a spring used as a cattle water supply. From that point,

the trail is mostly level and leads past the Bellota Ranch house and other buildings. The last portion before reaching the ranch is along road 36A. A good place for lunch is on a knoll overlooking the ranch buildings. Hike 9 miles; trailhead elevation 4300 feet; net elevation change minus 560 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 91 miles.

Bog-Kent Springs Loop Trail. Rating B. The hike begins at the Bog Springs Campground in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains, and passes through three areas fed by natural springs 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 Peak from this trail, which involves strenuous, steep climbs in spots. Hiking poles recommended. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 5340 feet; net elevation change 1360 feet; accumulated gain 2000 feet; RTD 130 miles.

Box Camp Trail to Sabino Canyon Overlook. Rating C. The hike begins at the Box Camp Trailhead near Spencer Peak on Catalina Hwy. After a short uphill climb, the hike proceeds downhill for 2.5 miles to an overlook that provides a marvelous, panoramic view of Sabino Canyon area. We will have lunch here, and then return slowly uphill to the trailhead. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 7920 feet; net elevation change 1600 feet; accumulated gain ___ feet; RTD 123 miles.

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

Butterfly Trail. Rating B. From the trailhead near Soldier Camp on Catalina Hwy, we hike down Butterfly Trail # 16 to the Novio Spring area in Alder Canyon, and lunch in the vicinity of a 1957 F-86 plane crash. The entire steady climb is on the way out. Hikers will be in the shade of very tall Douglas firs and ponderosa pines up to a saddle and to the exit at Palisade Ranger Station. A car will need to be left here to shuttle back to the upper trailhead. Along the way are views of San Manuel to the east. Butterfly Peak is to the north. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 7700 feet; net elevation change 1730 feet; accumulated gain 2230 feet; RTD 125 miles.

Hutch's Pool. Rating B. Hikers will take the Sabino Canyon tram (fee required) to the trailhead at its last stop up the canyon. 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 10.7 miles; trailhead elevation 3300 feet; net elevation change 900 feet; accumulated gain 1850 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Josephine Saddle. Rating B. The hike starts in Madera Canyon (Santa Rita Mountains) and goes up the Old Baldy Trail to Josephine Saddle. Hikers will rest at the Saddle and return via the Super Trail. This hike can be done in reverse, going up the Super Trail and returning on the Old Baldy Trail. Hike 6.2 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 1630 feet; accumulated gain 1890 feet; RTD 130 miles.

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

1100 feet; accumulated gain 1250 feet; RTD 54 miles.

Marshall Gulch / Aspen Loop. Rating C. The hike starts at the Marshall Gulch Picnic Area and goes up the Marshall Gulch Trail to the Marshall Saddle. From the Saddle, we turn left down the Aspen Trail and head back to the picnic area. After about 0.25 miles on the Aspen Trail, there is a large rock that provides a great spot for a break or lunch. Hike may be done in reverse. Hike 3.7 miles; trailhead elevation 7440 feet; net elevation change 480 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 130 miles.

Mt. Kimball via Finger Rock Canyon. Rating A. Starting from the Finger Rock Trailhead at the north end of Alvernon Way, this rocky trail climbs steadily and follows the canyon past Finger Rock, a prominent Tucson landmark high above the canyon floor. The trail passes Linda Vista Saddle between Mt. Kimball and "Little Kimball," and onto the Pima Canyon Trail. A half mile further and hikers arrive at the top of Mt. Kimball. The destination offers one of the most fantastic views in all of the Catalinas. The return hike is down the same trails. Hike 9.5 miles; trailhead elevation 3120 feet; net elevation change 4138 feet; accumulated gain 4148 feet; RTD 44 miles.

Mt. Wrightson via Old Baldy Trail. Rating A. The hike begins in Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows the Old Baldy Trail to Mt. Wrightson. The return is via the same route. This trail provides the shortest route to the top (el. 9453 feet) of Mt. Wrightson. The last 0.9 miles to the summit is steep and rocky with moderate exposure. At the top are outstanding 360-degree views of Tucson and the mountain ranges in the area. There is shade along much of the way. Hike 11.1 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 4003 feet; accumulated gain 4029 feet; RTD 130 miles.

Mt. Wrightson: Ring around Wrightson. Rating A. The hike begins in Madera Canon in the Santa Rita Mountains and follows the Super Trail to Josephine Saddle. We then follow the Super Trail past Josephine Peak to Baldy Saddle, and Old Baldy Trail through Josephine Saddle to the starting point. This is a shady hike with outstanding views in all directions. Hike 11.7 miles; trailhead elevation 5450 feet; net elevation change 3300 feet; accumulated gain 3330 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 10.2 miles; trailhead elevation 2720 feet; net elevation change 1035 feet; accumulated gain 1425 feet; RTD 56 miles.

Pima Canyon to 2nd Dam. Rating C. The Pima Canyon Trailhead is at the east end of Magee Road. The first mile or so is across open desert along the south side of Pusch Peak. We pass the small first dam as we enter the beautiful, rugged canyon. The rocky trail passes through a grove of large trees providing welcome shade before emerging again in the open. The trail then leads to a rocky open area in the canyon beyond a small dam near several Indian grinding holes. The return is via the same route. Hike 6.3 miles; trailhead elevation 2960 feet; net elevation change 1000 feet; accumulated gain 1360 feet; RTD 42 miles.

Rams Creek Basin. Rating C. From the Rams Creek Pass subdivision, we hike up a wash on a new trail through nice vegetation and then climb 560 feet to a watering tank. There are great views of Rancho Vistoso, the Tortolitas, SaddleBrooke, and the Biosphere along the way. We then continue on to a waterfall where we will have lunch. The return is via the same route. Hike 5 miles; trailhead elevation 2600 feet; net elevation change 780 feet; accumulated gain 830 feet; RTD 21 miles.

Romero 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.