

How Moshiering began. By Wayne.

Around 70 years ago if the chickens were fed and watered and no one was watching , I would grab a couple slices of bread for later and slip off to the woods. We lived in a rural farm area so there was room to roam and the moshier boys did. Later this was followed by years of Deer and Turkey hunting, more roaming.

Upon retirement and coming to Green Valley I was drawn to the Hike Club. Lucky I was to be hiking with OLD TIMERS who knew every route, nook, and point of interest for miles around. Another bit of luck was meeting Dick Paige on a club hike to Mt Wrightson. After that it was hike and bushwhack all around our mountains, desert and lots of Utah and California.

Locally we became familiar with about any of the club current hikes, so began satisfying curiosity about what was on the other ridge? Lets look! How bad Could it be getting there.

After many years with the club it became apparent there was a need for new hikes to replace those lost to mine development along with housing. At the same time some areas we enjoyed by hiking cow trails and mine roads were growing abundant stands of CATCLAW. Also old roads were washing away with the monsoons and flooding because of wildfire. So new trail need was increasing so we did not have to repeat as often. This need has not stopped as we lose trails every year because of more mining and locked gates.

Many of our new hikers seem more willing to travel longer distance to hike, that's a good thing because we seem to be going further to come up with replacements for the archived hikes. What I look for in a new hike depends somewhat on the level hike I seek . But we go looking for C hikes and wind up with B and A level very often. I now look for areas with points of interest that are not likely to be cut off. So this means BLM land along with Coronado Forestlands and National Parklands. WE are fortunate to have so much of these lands close by.

A big help to me was the advent of terrain navigator. With it I was able (still do) to see old roads, pack trails, mines, also cattle tanks and windmills. More important was the topographic help it gave. You like to know about how steep the ridges are and where those streambeds and ridges lead. I use the mapping feature all the time before I venture into new areas. With a map marked with UTM your never lost though sometimes confused. Now and then a hike may be mapped and written with just one exploration. More often it will take two to six trips to develop, such as Mowery Mine Hike,(6 or 7). It must be enough distance for the hike level you have in mind. Lots of times the hike is developed then we look at distance, elevation, and the trail, then decide on the level of hike we have . I currently have been working on a hike west of Red tank in the Atascosas, and also in the west foothills of the Huachucas. I think Mowery mine was my favorite , it took many trips to get a doable hike there.

Frank, if this will do, fine. If you want to meet also fine. Wayne.