

SAHC MAPS

In the 1950's, The US Geological Survey (USGS) revised the four topographic maps that showed the Santa Catalina Mountains: Mt. Lemmon, Bellota Ranch, Oracle, and Mammoth.

These were four-color maps on a scale of one inch to the mile. The color Green indicated vegetation. Brown showed the contour intervals of 80 feet. Blue indicated major drainages with permanent water (solid lines) or seasonal water (dashed lines) plus some springs, stock tanks and lakes. Black showed National Forest and other boundary lines, various classes of roads, buildings and other permanent structures, place names and trails.

These maps had been used for years by hikers, hunters and others who were interested in getting into the back country of the Catalinas. Everything shown on these maps was accurate, except for the location of many trails. Portions of most trails were grossly inaccurate. So although the maps were good for land forms, they were in many areas useless for land navigation by trail.

We early SAHC members used these maps but we drew in on our maps the trails as nearly accurate as we could. We also tried with some success to estimate the distance of the trails between trail junctions. When we compared our maps, we found substantial variations regarding location and distance. In other words, we did not agree with each other. This was not satisfactory. So we decided to do something about it.

Mac Campbell, SAHC president 1964-65, was an X-Ray technician. Through his efforts we obtained many old X-Ray negatives that were no longer usable. These negatives contained silver halide. We were able to sell the negatives and with the proceeds we bought duplicate color plates of the four USGS maps that showed the Catalinas.

We then borrowed a Forest Service "wheel." This wheel resembled a bicycle wheel but was more sturdily built and had an extremely tough, solid "tire" around the rim. Like a bicycle it was attached to a fork. A sturdy bar was welded to the top of the fork and on the end of the bar was a handle.

On one side of the wheel rim was a welded knob. A clicker counter was attached to the inside of the fork. The wheel was three feet in circumference. Every time the wheel made one revolution, the knob activated the clicker. Each additional number on the counter meant three additional feet on the ground; 100 clicks on the counter meant 300 feet on the ground.

Armed with this wheel, SAHC members started wheeling the trails in the Catalinas. For instance, we drove to the end of the road in Sabino Canyon, now Tram Stop 9. One person started pushing the wheel up the trail and noted the total number clicks to the junction of the trail leading to Bear Canyon. Also noted were the distance in clicks to the other places of interest and trail junctions: Hutch's Pool, the trail coming down from Cathedral Rock, Romero Pass, the Wilderness of Rocks trail, the powerline road, the Lemmon Rock lookout road, and the top of Mt. Lemmon.

It was no easy job pushing the wheel up the steep, rocky portions of the trail. We had to be careful not to "spin" the wheel or to deviate from the main portion of the tread. We took turns pushing the wheel.

While one person was pushing the wheel, another was noting on the USGS map the correct location of the trail and the numbers on the counter between trail junctions.

SAHC members did this for all trails in the Catalinas.

Armed with this information we drew in the correct locations and distances in red color on the black plate. We purchased heavy-duty paper and combined the four color plates with the locations and distances in red and had the maps printed by Post Litho of Tucson.

At first, we printed a revised "Trail and Recreation Map" of the Mt. Lemmon quadrangle. It was an immediate commercial success. Hikers, hunters, and others purchased the maps from local blueprint companies: Tucson Blueprint, Reproductions Inc. Pima Blueprint, and other outlets.

But this map showed only part of the Catalinas. So we decided to print one map that showed the entire Santa Catalina range. This map proved to be even more popular. The Forest Service bought quantities of the map because it was better than any maps it had. Just about everyone who was interested in exploring the Catalinas bought the map. I don't remember what SAHC sold these maps for. But we made enough money to start on the next project.

The most popular range for hiking by SAHC was the Catalinas. But we also scheduled hikes in the Santa Ritas. By this time we had bought our own "wheel." So we headed down to the Santa Ritas and wheeled all of the trails in that range, together with the

accurate location of the trails. Armed with this information, we produced a Trail and Recreation Map of the Santa Rita Mountains with all of the range on one map.

Not content with these two maps, we decided to do the same for the Rincon Mountains and the Chiricahua Mountains.

So within a few short years, SAHC contributed to the further enjoyment of the Great Outdoors by the general public by producing the four trail and recreation maps of the Catalinas, Santa Ritas, Rincos, and Chiricahuas.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the USGS began printing topographic maps on a much larger scale than the earlier maps. These four-color maps were on a scale of 2 5/8 inches for one mile on the ground. The sheer size of each map and the number of maps it would take to include all of the Catalinas was too great.

Except for periodic revisions of the maps, SAHC publishing efforts came to a halt. Among the SAHC members who were most active in the map publishing effort were Eber Glendening, Chuck Rider, John McComb, Joanna McComb, Tom Harlan, Carroll Sundahl, Joe Hoxie, Bill Faust, Randy Sholes, and Mac Campbell. Many other SAHC members contributed to the maps project. All SAHC members who helped in the maps project were volunteers. None made any money or charged for their services or labor.

The trails information gathered by SAHC was used later by Pete Cowgill and Eber Glendening for the 1975 publication of the Catalina Trail Guide. This guide went through 10 revisions with total sales of more than 50,000. It is now out of print.

The Trail and Recreation Map of the Catalina is still in print. SAHC no longer has any financial or other interest in these maps. The map is published by Rainbow Expeditions which was established in the 1970s by Eber and Lorna Glendening. The map was last revised in 1999 so all new information is not shown ...the new Bug Spring Trail; the extensive bike, hike and horse trail network on the lower west side of Samaniego Ridge; some trails in Catalina State Park. Many routes to popular places are not shown: Table Mountain, Buster Mountain, Little Kimball, Rattlesnake Peak, and McFall Crags on the SAHC 400 Peak List plus numerous canyons on the SAHC Canyon List.

However, it is still a valuable resource because the newer USGS maps have many trail location errors. The Catalina Map is for sale at Maps Inc. for \$6.95.

NOTE: Most of the information in this article comes from my memory of the events of 40 or so years ago. I'm sure I have forgotten more than I remember. This account is accurate to the best of my ability. Many more SAHC members than listed above were involved in this Maps Project. I apologize for leaving them out. I also apologize for any inaccuracies that appear and omissions that do not appear here.

Pete Cowgill

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