

TRAIL SEGMENT AWARDS

The Trail Segment Awards are a relatively new addition to SAHC history, being approved by the Board of Directors in 2001 and becoming available in 2002.

One day on a club hike in the Chiricahua Mountains, Linda Miller was complaining that the “C” hikers had not jumped on board the peak bagging band wagon, and just kept going on the same hikes over and over again. With all the mountain ranges in southern Arizona, it was a shame that they didn’t go explore them. Someone mentioned that other clubs had patches for hiking different trails. SAHC could do that too!

Linda came up with a game plan to cover some of the Mountain Ranges near Tucson and pitched the idea of earning a patch to the SAHC Board in early 2001. The rules were simple – every trail segment hiked had to be on a club hike, when you had hiked a certain number of segments in one range you would earn a patch, there would be no award for hiking all the segments and no separate award for earning all of the ranges.

After a surprisingly hard sell, on July 3, 2001 the Board voted to establish a Trail Segment Award Committee, chaired by Hank Scussell. Hank created the Trail Segment list for the Catalina Mountains. Scott Casterlin did the Rincon Mountains. Paul Hoyt did the Santa Rita and Tucson Mountains. Deborah Moyer and Paul did the Huachuca Mountains. Linda Miller did the Chiricahua Mountains.

In March 2002 the first set of lists debuted in the Bulletin.

Christine Michalowski was the first person to earn one of the awards. She was also the first person to get all six ranges.

The C hikers have led hikes to other mountain ranges in order to get a Trail Segment patch, so the idea go get people hiking with the club to areas new to them was met. As new folks come in to the club and learn about the Trail Segment Awards, hikes are scheduled so they can earn a patch. Susan Dick, Louise Irwing, and Christine Michalowski have been instrumental in leading hikes so hikers can get their trail segments. In recent months, Peter and Betty Bengtson and David and Johanna Caley have been leading hikes for trail segments.

The lists have been updated twice since they came out. Some of the trails that were originally listed have disappeared due to fire and erosion. Other trails that were listed just can’t be found any more. Susan Dick led the last Committee effort to update the lists.

Some trails are easier than others. The trail segments vary in length and elevation. And of course, trail conditions vary. If you hike a trail immediately after a trail crew has been through, it is a lot easier than hiking a trail that hasn’t had any maintenance for years.

The Trail Segment lists for each range are available on the SAHC web site. Go online, get yourself a list, go on a club hike and start earning your patch. You only need 25 segments to earn a patch. Get out and hike!

Linda Miller

