

C LEVEL HIKING GROUPS - SATURDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:45 am, depart at 7:00.

March 7 - Competitive Track – Technical Loop (Estrella Mountains).

Rating C. This is a 6 mile double loop hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail meanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro cactus. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Competitive Trails

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw (on other side of I-10).

Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Follow Vineyard as it curves to the right, becoming 143rd Ave

Turn left on Indian Springs Road

At the fence that begins the parking for PIR turn right

Follow signs to trails

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle at the self pay station

Continue on to the parking on the right.

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.

March 14 - Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) loop

(Estrella Mountain Ranch). Rating C+. This is a 7.5 mile double loop hike with an elevation gain of 1250 ft on several trails of the FINS bike trails system. The trails meander through several desert hills with many rock formations. There are also a couple of interesting areas - an enchanted forest of stuffed animals and a boneyard of dozens of cow bones. Trail condition - overall, this is a good biking trail. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRanch/Fantasy-Island-North>

Directions to FINS - Fantasy Island Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south), which becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10.

Continue for approx. 12.5 miles from Eagle's Nest.

Turn right on West Westar Drive.

Go approx. 1.1 mi. and turn left into the parking lot (this turn is easy to miss so turn just before a one-level concrete maint building; there is also a tall steel tower for power lines).

No restrooms. No park fee.

March 21 - Ford Canyon to the dam (White Tank Mountains). Rating

C+. The hike is 7.5 miles out & back on the same trail with an elevation gain of about 1100 ft. Rocky scenic hike along the side of the canyon to large boulders and dam in the wash. Trail continues but is not maintained beyond our stop point. Some may want to venture further during the snack break/turnaround point. About half the hike is an average trail with the middle part being steep and rocky to the dam. There are restrooms at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is 30 miles RT. [SCG=6.7/1300/3.6].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-Canyon-Mesquite>

Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park

Take 303 North (right).

Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West).

Turn right on Cotton.

Turn left on Olive and follow it to the park gate.

Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads (except from the library which is \$2.00 per hiker).

Restrooms are at the trailhead for each of the hikes (inside the library for the hikes from the library).

Ford Canyon Trail trailhead parking is at Picnic area #7. Take the Waddell Trail across to the Ford Canyon Trail.

March 28 - Estrella Foothills Park Blackjack Loop I SR/PA/RR/GR/SU / BJ/JL/SR Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. This is a 6.5 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain 1010 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and goes up to a high saddle. It then goes up and across the highest ridgeline (Blackjack Trail) in the area. This part of the trail offers outstanding views of the entire southwest valley. The hike is in typical desert terrain. Trail condition - mostly an excellent hiking trail with one section of edginess across the ridgeline. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Estrella-Foothills>

Directions to Estrella Foothills Park - High School Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south), which becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10.

Continue into and through the Estrella Mountain development.

Turn left into the parking lot just before the Estrella Foothills High School building.

Park at the far end of the parking Lot.

Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee.