

**Friday, Nov 13, 2020 - Brown Ranch (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) –**

**around Cone Mountain - Rating C.** Ann Rohlman leads. This is a NEW HIKE: 7.2 miles and elevation about 400 feet. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Four Peaks, the Boulders and Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail with many different cacti species. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/BrownMountain>

**Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Brown's Ranch Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North and drive to I-17.

Turn left (North) on I-17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 mi. (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left).

Turn right at first light on Dynamite Blvd (later changes to Rio Verde).

Turn left on Alma School Road. The road dead ends at the trailhead.

There are restrooms at the trailhead.

**Friday, Nov 20, 2020 – SOB/Skyline Crest/Lost Creek Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating C+.**

This is a 7-8 mile figure eight loop hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. The hike goes from the Lost Creek Trailhead in Verrado, goes on the SOB trail to Lost Creek trail. It then goes along the Skyline Crest trail before looping back on Quartz Mine into Verrado. Lots of great views of Buckeye and points east. Trail condition - an average hiking trail, but steep and edgy along the Skyline Crest trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

Directions to Trailhead at Verrado West  
Go West on Indian School Road.  
Turn left on Acacia Way (just past the high school).  
Turn right on Lost Creek Drive Parking for the trailhead is at the end of Lost Creek Drive.  
You walk between the green and a tee on the Raven at Verrado golf course to get to the trailhead.

### **Friday, Nov 27, 2020 - Windgate Pass/Gateway trails**

**McDowell Sonoran Preserve (Scottsdale). Rating C+/B.** This is a 7 to 8+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 1300-1600 ft. The C version of the hike goes to Inspiration Viewpoint, which gives nice views of the desert valley, Tom Thumb Peak and Scottsdale. The B version goes to the saddle at Windgate Pass giving views of Four Peaks and Weavers Needle. Both versions start at the Gateway trailhead area and pass through a typical Saguaro forest. This part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve has many crested barrel cacti. Trail condition - trail surface is typical desert but it is basically a steady uphill hike to the

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viewpoint or saddle. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Windgate-Pass>

### **Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Gateway Trailhead**

Take Hwy 101 north all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima-Bell road (exit #36).  
Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approx. 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway.

Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 mi. up the road. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.

**Friday, Dec 4, 2020 - 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.

[http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford- CanyonMesquite](http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-CanyonMesquite)

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.

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

**Friday, Dec 11, 2020 - Black Canyon Trail - Bumblebee Trailhead North (I-17 Exit 248). Rating C.** This is a 7.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. It wanders through typical desert terrain with views of an abandoned house/mine, a working cattle ranch, and distant views of Sunset Point Rest Area. Turn around point is a rock outcropping that overlooks a wide valley. No park fee. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No rest rooms (Sunset Point Rest Area is 4 miles further up I-17 with easy return). Driving distance is 120 miles RT.

[https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/Government- Springs](https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/Government-Springs)

## Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Bumblebee Trailhead

Go to Loop 303. Turn right on Loop 303 and follow until it ends at I-17.

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Turn left onto I-17 North toward Flagstaff.

Take exit 248 (Bumble Bee). Turn left (West), crossing I-17.

Drive about 5 miles (the last 3 are on a well maintained dirt road)

Turn left into an unpaved parking area (this is just before the yellow “Welcome to Bumblebee” sign on the right).

Immediately turn right and go about .2 miles to the end.

Trail is about 50 yards on the other side of the little canyon and runs parallel to the road - cross wherever you can and you will run into the trail.

Go to the right on the trail.

No restrooms at the trailhead. Rock Springs Café is at Exit #242 on the way back.

## **Friday, Dec 18, 2020 - Bootleggers trail (Wickenburg). Rating**

**C.** This is a lollipop loop of 5+ miles with an elevation change of 525 feet. This hike starts at Sophie’s Flat and goes through typical desert terrain and then along a canyon before crossing the Blue Tank Wash and returning. There are some interesting canyon areas and a dry waterfall. There are also many views of the Wickenburg area as well as the other mountains in Wickenburg. Restroom at the trailhead. No Park fee. Driving distance is 98 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Redtop-Mountain/C- HikeLynnW2013-2014/iBtDhds8>

## Directions to Wickenburg - Sophie Flats Trailhead

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

Turn west (left) onto U.S. 60. Turn North (right) on El Recreo

Drive.

Continue straight as the road changes name to Constellation Road. The road will become unpaved in a couple of miles. Drive 1 mile from the point it becomes unpaved to Blue Tank Road.

Turn left on Blue Tank Road. Go 1.3 miles to the Sophie Flats trailhead (This is the trailhead we use for the Red Top Mountain Trail).

Trailhead parking is on the right. The last 2.3 miles are on an unpaved, but well maintained road (SUV not needed). There is a porta-johns at the trailhead.

**Friday, Dec 25, 2020 – NO HIKE TODAY Friday, Jan 1, 2021 – NO HIKE TODAY**

**Friday, Jan 8, 2021 - Daisy Mountain ( Anthem Area) Rating C.**

This is a 6 mile in- and-out hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. The first 2 miles go through a rolling hills area before heading steeply uphill. The turnaround point is a saddle slightly below the summit of Daisy Mountain itself. Trail condition – mostly a good hiking trail, but the last part is very steep. There are great views of the Anthem and Cave Creek area. No park fee. No restrooms. Driving distance is 70 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Anthem-Area/Daisy-Mountain>

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Directions to Daisy Mountain Trailhead

Take 303 North to I-17. Take I-17 North (left).

Turn right on Anthem Way and go .2 miles to first traffic light.

Turn left on Navigation Way and drive .6 miles. The TH is on the left at the intersection of Navigation Way and Livingstone Way.

Take the first right off Livingstone (Rushmore) and park on south side of the street. There are no restrooms at the trailhead.

**Friday, Jan 15, 2021 - Library to Waterfall Trail (White Tanks). Rating C.** This is a 7.3 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain

of 550 ft. We head north from the White Tanks library with expansive views of the west valley, before turning on the Black Rock trail that connects to the Waterfall Trail. This could be a great hike after winter or monsoon rains. For those interested in seeing some of the desert wildlife in a controlled environment, there is a small nature center with several rattlesnakes, a Gila Monster, a tarantula, and some scorpions at the nature center in the library. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. Restrooms are in the library. Park Fee is \$2.00 per hiker (county park pass is good for 5 hikers). Driving distance is 24 miles RT.

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).

Library trailhead: the sidewalk on the left of the building. Turn right just before the gate and park on the left side of the library. Trail goes off the end of the sidewalk on the left of the building.

### **Friday, Jan 22, 2021 - Dixie Mine + Prospector's trails (Fountain Hills). Rating C.**

This is a 7.2 mile out and back hike with an elevation change of 1100 ft. The .6 mile trail in Fountain Hills is along a paved sidewalk in an exclusive neighborhood. The Dixie Mile trail then enters the McDowell Mountain Park (where you pay your dollar). At 2.5 miles you see the remnants of the Dixie mine. Turn left on the jeep road for .3 miles. Prospector trail then goes off to the right and up the mountain to a scenic overlook. You can see the Fountain Hills fountain from here if your timing is right (on the hour). There is a crested saguaro at the entrance to the parking lot, which is on the left just before the gated entrance to the

neighborhood. Restrooms and cold water are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$2.00 per person. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Dixie-Mt-Loop>

Directions to Dixie Mine Trail, Fountain Hills, AZ

Take Hwy 101 north Exit onto Shea Blvd east (Exit 41, turn left) and go approx.. 6 mi. Turn north (left) onto Palisades Blvd.

Turn left on Sunridge Drive.

Turn left onto Golden Eagle Blvd and drive to the entry gate.

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Trailhead parking is on the left just before the entry gate. [there is a crested saguaro at the entrance to the parking area] Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. The trail starts across the street and goes left on the sidewalk past the entry gate.

Directions to Dixie Mine Trail, Fountain Hills, AZ - Alternate Take I-10 east Exit onto 202 east

Exit onto 101 north

Exit onto Shea Blvd east (turn right) and go approx.. 6 mi. Turn north (left) onto Palisades Blvd.

Turn left on Sunridge Drive.

Turn left onto Golden Eagle Blvd and drive to the entry gate.

Trailhead parking is on the left just before the entry gate. [there is a crested saguaro at the entrance to the parking area] Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. The trail starts across the street and goes left on the sidewalk past the entry gate.

**Friday, Jan 29, 2021 - 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.

[http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford- CanyonMesquite](http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-CanyonMesquite)

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

### **February 5, 2021 Cave Creek Spur Cross to Maricopa Trail, Spur Cross Rec Area**

(Cave Creek). Rating C-B. This is a 6-10 mile hike with an elevation change of 500 ft. . The hike starts out heading West on the Spur Cross trail and travels through typical desert terrain. On the return, turn right on the Dragonfly trail. On the Dragonfly trail you pass through a Saguaro forest with very tall Saguaro cactus. You then descend into a riparian area, which contains permanent pools of water and lots of vegetation. The trail then makes a loop around the Jewel of the Creek Preserve, which contains many different bird species and up to 20 different dragonfly species. Porta-johns are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$3.00 per person. Driving distance is 110 miles RT. [in February 2010, heavy rains wiped out the trail and many of the smaller cottonwood trees in the Preserve].



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<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Spur-Cross-Loop>

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Metate-Dragonfly-Trails>

Directions to Cave Creek - Spur Cross Trailhead Take Loop 303 to I-17.  
Go North on I-17.

Turn right on Hwy 74 (Carefree Highway).

Turn left (North) on Cave Creek Road.

Turn left (North) on Spur Cross Road.

Go 4.5 miles (1.5 is gravel) to the parking area on the right.

Walk down the road .1 miles and pay \$3.00 per person (free with MC pass). Porta-johns are at the trailhead another .1 miles down the road.

**FEBRUARY 12, 2021 Pipeline Canyon + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park).** Rating C. This is a 6.8 mile hike in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 960 ft. The hike uses a floating bridge that crosses part of the lake. There are excellent views of the lake from the top of Yavapai Point. It's a good spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. Keep your eyes peeled for burros - there are many in the area. Trail Condition – Overall an average hiking trail, but somewhat steep to the highpoint. Restrooms are at the trailhead and at the snack break point. There is a park fee of \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/800/2.3]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Yavapai-Cottonwood>

Directions to Ramada 4 (Pipeline South), Lake Pleasant Regional Park (80 mi. RT)

Drive north on Loop 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.

Turn left on Hwy 74 (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road (Lake Pleasant Regional Park turnoff) and turn right (North).

Go 2.1 miles to the park, turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road.  
Pay \$7.00 park fee.  
Drive about 3 miles to the southern trailhead.  
Restrooms are at the trailhead.

**February 19, 2021 Coachwhip/Cholla/Arrowhead Point Loop (Thunderbird Park - Glendale). Nancy Love will lead this hike. Rating C.** This is a 6.6-

mile hike with an elevation gain of about 1150 feet. The trails offer 360 degree views of the surrounding areas and have different primary vegetation from each other. Arrowhead Point Trail provides a view of a housing development wrapped around a series of canals (water, water everywhere). Arrowhead, Lake including this development, was built on former citrus orchards and is considered one of the Valley's most affluent neighborhoods (a 2001 survey found that the area's 85308 zip code had more millionaires, 1011, than any other in the valley). The Cholla trail includes views of some large custom homes. The Coachwhip trail provides views of another housing development and golf course. Trail condition – as of January 2018 it is mostly a rough hiking trail with lots of imbedded rocks and loose stones. There are restrooms at the trailheads. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx 50 miles RT - on paved

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roads. [https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/ThunderbirdConservationPark/Coachwhip- Ridgeline-Trails](https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/ThunderbirdConservationPark/Coachwhip-Ridgeline-Trails)

**Directions to Thunderbird Park**

Take 101 North.  
Turn left (north) on 59th Ave.  
Turn Left into parking lot of Thunderbird Park.  
Turn immediately left at yellow gate and park a block

down, near the restrooms.

The trails start by going right in front of the restrooms and cross the street near the park entrance.

There is no park fee...Restrooms are at the parking lot.

## **February 26, 2021 Verrado/Skyline**

### **SOB/Skyline Crest/Lost Creek Loop (White Tank Mountains).**

Rating C+. This is a 7-8 mile figure eight loop hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. The hike goes from the Lost Creek Trailhead in Verrado, goes on the SOB trail to Lost Creek trail. It then goes along the Skyline Crest trail before looping back on Quartz Mine into Verrado. Lots of great views of Buckeye and points east. Trail condition - an average hiking trail, but steep and edgy along the Skyline Crest trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

Directions to Trailhead at Verrado West

Go West on Indian School Road.

Turn left on Acacia Way (just past the high school).

Turn right on Lost Creek Drive

Parking for the trailhead is at the end of Lost Creek Drive.

## **Friday, Nov 13, 2020 - Brown Ranch (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) –**

**around Cone Mountain - Rating C.** Ann Rohlman leads. This is a NEW HIKE: 7.2 miles and elevation about 400 feet. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Four Peaks, the Boulders and Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail with many different cacti species. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/BrownMountain>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Brown's Ranch Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North and drive to I-17.

Turn left (North) on I-17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 mi. (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left).

Turn right at first light on Dynamite Blvd (later changes to Rio Verde).

Turn left on Alma School Road. The road dead ends at the trailhead.

There are restrooms at the trailhead.

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You walk between the green and a tee on the Raven at Verrado golf course to get to the trailhead.

**Friday, Nov 27, 2020 - Windgate Pass/Gateway trails McDowell Sonoran Preserve (Scottsdale). Rating C+/B.** This is a 7 to 8+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 1300-1600 ft. The C version of the hike goes to Inspiration Viewpoint, which gives nice views of the desert valley, Tom Thumb Peak and Scottsdale. The B version goes to the saddle at Windgate Pass giving views of Four Peaks and Weavers Needle. Both versions start at the Gateway trailhead area and pass through a typical Saguaro

forest. This part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve has many crested barrel cacti. Trail condition - trail surface is typical desert but it is basically a steady uphill hike to the

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viewpoint or saddle. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Windgate-Pass>

### **Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Gateway Trailhead**

Take Hwy 101 north all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima-Bell road (exit #36).

Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approx. 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway.

Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 mi. up the road. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.

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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.

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**Friday, Dec 11, 2020 - Black Canyon Trail - Bumblebee Trailhead North (I-17 Exit 248). Rating C.** This is a 7.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. It wanders through typical desert terrain with views of an abandoned house/mine, a working cattle ranch, and distant views of Sunset Point Rest Area. Turn around point is a rock outcropping that overlooks a wide valley. No park fee. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No rest rooms (Sunset Point Rest Area is 4 miles further up I-17 with easy return). Driving distance is 120 miles RT.

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Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Bumblebee Trailhead  
Go to Loop 303. Turn right on Loop 303 and follow until it ends at I-17.

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Turn left onto I-17 North toward Flagstaff.  
Take exit 248 (Bumble Bee). Turn left (West), crossing I-17.  
Drive about 5 miles (the last 3 are on a well maintained dirt road)  
Turn left into an unpaved parking area (this is just before the yellow “Welcome to Bumblebee” sign on the right).  
Immediately turn right and go about .2 miles to the end.

Trail is about 50 yards on the other side of the little canyon and runs parallel to the road - cross wherever you can and you will run into the trail.

Go to the right on the trail.

No restrooms at the trailhead. Rock Springs Café is at Exit #242 on the way back.

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Directions to Wickenburg - Sophie Flats Trailhead

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Turn left on Blue Tank Road. Go 1.3 miles to the Sophie Flats trailhead (This is the trailhead we use for the Red Top Mountain Trail).

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<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Anthem-Area/Daisy-Mountain>

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Turn right on Anthem Way and go .2 miles to first traffic light.

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**Rating C.** This is a 7.3 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 550 ft. We head north from the White Tanks library with expansive views of the west valley, before turning on the Black Rock trail that connects to the Waterfall Trail. This could be a great hike after winter or monsoon rains. For those interested in seeing some of the desert wildlife in a controlled environment, there is a small nature center with several rattlesnakes, a Gila Monster, a tarantula, and some scorpions at the nature center in the library. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. Restrooms are in the library. Park Fee is \$2.00 per hiker (county park pass is good for 5 hikers). Driving distance is 24 miles RT.

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<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Dixie-Mt-Loop>

Directions to Dixie Mine Trail, Fountain Hills, AZ

Take Hwy 101 north Exit onto Shea Blvd east (Exit 41, turn left) and go approx.. 6 mi. Turn north (left) onto Palisades Blvd.

Turn left on Sunridge Drive.

Turn left onto Golden Eagle Blvd and drive to the entry gate.

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Trailhead parking is on the left just before the entry gate. [there is a crested saguaro at the entrance to the parking area] Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. The trail starts across the street and goes left on the sidewalk past the entry gate.

Directions to Dixie Mine Trail, Fountain Hills, AZ - Alternate Take I-10 east Exit onto 202 east

Exit onto 101 north

Exit onto Shea Blvd east (turn right) and go approx.. 6 mi. Turn north (left) onto Palisades Blvd.

Turn left on Sunridge Drive.

Turn left onto Golden Eagle Blvd and drive to the entry gate.

Trailhead parking is on the left just before the entry gate. [there is a crested saguaro at the entrance to the parking area] Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. The trail starts across the street and goes left on the sidewalk past the entry gate.

### **Friday, Jan 29, 2021 - 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.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/>

[WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford- CanyonMesquite](#)

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

### **February 5, 2021 Cave Creek Spur Cross to Maricopa Trail, Spur Cross Rec Area**

(Cave Creek). Rating C-B. This is a 6-10 mile hike with an elevation change of 500 ft. . The hike starts out heading West on the Spur Cross trail and travels through typical desert terrain. On the return, turn right on the Dragonfly trail. On the Dragonfly trail you pass through a Saguaro forest with very tall Saguaro cactus. You then descend into a riparian area, which contains permanent pools of water and lots of vegetation. The trail then makes a loop around the Jewel of the Creek Preserve, which contains many different bird species and up to 20 different dragonfly species. Porta-johns are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$3.00 per person. Driving distance is 110 miles RT. [in February 2010, heavy rains wiped out the trail and many of the smaller cottonwood trees in the Preserve].

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<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Spur-Cross-Loop>

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Metate-Dragonfly-Trails>

Directions to Cave Creek - Spur Cross Trailhead Take Loop 303 to I-17. Go North on I-17.

Turn right on Hwy 74 (Carefree Highway).

Turn left (North) on Cave Creek Road.

Turn left (North) on Spur Cross Road.

Go 4.5 miles (1.5 is gravel) to the parking area on the right.

Walk down the road .1 miles and pay \$3.00 per person (free with MC pass). Porta-johns are at the trailhead another .1 miles down the road.

**FEBRUARY 12, 2021 Pipeline Canyon + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park).** Rating C. This is a 6.8 mile hike in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 960 ft. The hike uses a floating bridge that crosses part of the lake. There are excellent views of the lake from the top of Yavapai Point. It's a good spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. Keep your eyes peeled for burros - there are many in the area. Trail Condition – Overall an average hiking trail, but somewhat steep to the highpoint. Restrooms are at the trailhead and at the snack break point. There is a park fee of \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/800/2.3]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Yavapai-Cottonwood>

Directions to Ramada 4 (Pipeline South), Lake Pleasant Regional Park (80 mi. RT)

Drive north on Loop 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.

Turn left on Hwy 74 (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road (Lake Pleasant Regional Park turnoff) and turn right (North).

Go 2.1 miles to the park, turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road.

Pay \$7.00 park fee.

Drive about 3 miles to the southern trailhead.

Restrooms are at the trailhead.

**February 19, 2021 Coachwhip/Cholla/Arrowhead Point Loop (Thunderbird Park - Glendale).** Nancy Love will lead this hike. Rating C. This is a 6.6-

mile hike with an elevation gain of about 1150 feet. The trails offer 360 degree views of the surrounding areas and have different primary vegetation from each other. Arrowhead Point Trail provides a view of a housing development wrapped around a series of canals (water, water everywhere). Arrowhead, Lake including this development, was built on former citrus orchards and is considered one of the Valley's most affluent neighborhoods

(a 2001 survey found that the area's 85308 zip code had more millionaires, 1011, than any other in the valley). The Cholla trail includes views of some large custom homes. The Coachwhip trail provides views of another housing development and golf course. Trail condition – as of January 2018 it is mostly a rough hiking trail with lots of imbedded rocks and loose stones. There are restrooms at the trailheads. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx 50 miles RT - on paved

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roads. [https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/ThunderbirdConservationPark/Coachwhip- Ridgeline-Trails](https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/ThunderbirdConservationPark/Coachwhip-Ridgeline-Trails)

## **Directions to Thunderbird Park**

Take 101 North.

Turn left (north) on 59th Ave.

Turn Left into parking lot of Thunderbird Park.

Turn immediately left at yellow gate and park a block down, near the restrooms.

The trails start by going right in front of the restrooms and cross the street near the park entrance.

There is no park fee...Restrooms are at the parking lot.

## **February 26, 2021 Verrado/Skyline**

### **SOB/Skyline Crest/Lost Creek Loop (White Tank Mountains).**

Rating C+. This is a 7-8 mile figure eight loop hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. The hike goes from the Lost Creek Trailhead in Verrado, goes on the SOB trail to Lost Creek trail. It then goes along the Skyline Crest trail before looping back on Quartz Mine into Verrado. Lots of great views of Buckeye and points east. Trail condition - an average hiking trail, but steep and edgy along the Skyline Crest trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

Directions to Trailhead at Verrado West  
Go West on Indian School Road.  
Turn left on Acacia Way (just past the high school).  
Turn right on Lost Creek Drive  
Parking for the trailhead is at the end of Lost Creek Drive.

**March 5, 2021 Estrella Foothills Queen Anne's Revenge Estrella Foothills Park Queen Anne's Revenge Loop SR/PA/QAR/GR/SU/JL/SR Loop (Estrella Mountains).** Rating C. This is a 7 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain 710 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and goes up to a high saddle. The trail crosses a gravel area that covers up an old tunnel. The trail offers outstanding views of the entire southwest valley. The hike is in typical desert terrain. Trail condition - mostly a very good hiking trail. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.  
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Estrella-Foothills/B-Exploratory-Hike-7-05-2018Queen-Annes-RevengeLynnW2017/>

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.

**Overton/Go John/Quartz/Flat Rock/Slate Trails Loop (Cave Creek Rec. Area).** Rating C. This is a 6 .6 mile loop on combined trails.  
**Elevation gain:700 ft.**

Start on the Overton Trail, cross Tonalite Road/parking lot and take the Go John Trail (not the Go John North) to Quartz-turn right on Quartz & then left on Flat Rock. The trail continues out of the park into the Seitts Preserve becoming the Military Trail. Reenter the park by turning right on the Slate Trail. On the Slate Trail, approx. .3 miles after you pass the Quartz trail intersection, there is a strange saguaro on the left named the Michelin Man saguaro. About .5 miles from the trailhead on the Go John trail (on the left as you hike away from the trailhead, near the junction of the Jasper trail) there is a group of 3 saguaros that look very

much like our hiking club logo. Trail Condition – good hiking trail. Restrooms are located at the Go John trailhead. Driving distance is 93 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/organize/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Regional-Park/GoJohnOvertonQuartz-and-Variat>

### **Directions to Cave Creek - Overton/Go John Trailheads**

Take Loop 303 to I-17.

Go North on I-17. Turn right on Hwy 74 (Carefree Highway).

Turn left onto 32nd Street (sign on right, no light but a left turn lane) and continue into Cave Creek Regional Park.

There is a \$7 fee/car or Maricopa County Pass.

Continue along the main park road -park at the Nature Center and begin at the left end of the parking lot.

There is a restroom further along when you reach the Go John trail.

### **March 12, 2021 Lake Pleasant Beardsley/Morgan City Wash**

**Lollipop Loop (Lake Pleasant Regional Park).** Rating C. This is 7.6 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 840 ft. The hike starts out crossing a road and then travels through a Saguaro forest. Along the trail are some very interesting Saguaros. Morgan City Wash is an unusual overgrown riparian area that

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has over 100 species of birds. There are several creek crossings over a year round creek. There is a good chance to see wild burros on the Beardsley trail. Trail condition- Beardsley is a good hiking trail while the wash is through a wooded area. Restrooms with water are at the trailhead. Trail condition - good hiking trail. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Beardsley-Trail>

Directions to Ramada 8 (Desert Tortoise), Lake Pleasant Reg. Park  
Drive north on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.



Turn left (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road and turn right (North). Go 2.1 miles and turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road.

Pay \$7.00 park fee then turn right on South Park Road. Turn left on Desert Tortoise Road.

Trailhead is on the right.

Restrooms are at this trailhead.

### **March 19, 2021 Estrella Mtn Park**

Desert Rose to Gadsden Trail – (Estrella Mountain Regional Park).

Rating C/D. This is a 5 to

7 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail meanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro cactus. There is no restroom at the trailhead. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

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

[EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Desert- RoseGadsden](#)

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Desert Rose Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek

ParkwayParkwayParkwayParkwayParkwayParkway/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

Angle right immediately after the self-pay station into the open parking area. Drive across at a 45 degree angle – there is a trail sign indicating the trailhead. No restrooms are at the trailhead.

### **March 26, 2021 Emery Henderson area/Boy Scout Loop (Part of Black Canyon trials)**

#### **New Hike**

6.5 miles Rating C. Typical desert terrain with a saguaro forest. We will hike one side of the Boy Scout Loop and go to the saddle between two peaks then back down the other side. Burro sightings possible. Parking



is along the New River Road. We walk along a dirt road for approx. 1 mile before approaching the bottom of the Loop.

**Directions:** 303N to Lake Pleasant Parkway. Turn Left. Turn left again at Route 74 and immediately turn right onto New River Road. Go 2.8 miles past the Emery Henderson trailhead to 42nd Ave and turn left for parking.

## **April 2, 2021 Phoenix Sonoran Preserve**

**Union Peak Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South).** Rating C & B. This is a 7.2 (C level) or 8.4 (B) mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000-1200 ft. This trail system is made up of well-maintained trails. The hike goes through typical desert terrain

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before ascending a hill for excellent views to the south. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. Trail Condition – average hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/East-Peak-Loop> Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South Take 303 North to I-17. Turn South (right) on I-17. Turn East (left) on Jomax Road (exit 219, should be the 1st exit). Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway (should be the 1st light). Turn right on North Valley Parkway (a “T” intersection). Go .2 miles and turn left on Copperhead Trail. Go .1 miles and turn left on W Melvern Trail. Go .2 miles and turn right on Desert Vista Trail. Go to the end of the road. Trailhead is at the end of the road. There is no park fee.

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South - Alternate Take 101 North. Turn North on I-17. Turn East (right) on Jomax Road. Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway. Turn right on North Valley Parkway (a “T” intersection). Go .2 miles and turn left on Copperhead Trail. Go .1 miles and turn left on W Melvern Trail. Go .2 miles and turn right on Desert Vista Trail. Go to the end of the road. Trailhead is at the end of the road.

**April 9, 2021 Estrella Foothills Star Tower Hike**  
**Star Tower Multi-Loop (Estrella Mountain Ranch -- Star Tower)** Rating C. This is a 6.7 mile multi-loop hike with an elevation change of 900 ft. The hike goes through typical desert terrain near the Estrella community. The high point on the hike provides distant views of the surrounding area. This is another biking area developed by the same group as FINS and Estrella Foothills Park. They use interesting names for the trails. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 18 miles.

Directions to Star Tower Trailhead

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

Continue for just over 8 miles.

Turn right just past the Star Tower

Park in the curved parking area.

No restrooms. No park fee.

**April 16 McDowell Cathedral Rock/Balanced Rock Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve).** Rating C/C+. This is a 6.5 to 8.4 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 600-800 ft. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weaver's Needle, Four Peaks, Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains. The optional side trip is to the Balanced Rock formation to the east. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Trail condition - great hiking trail. Driving distance is 100 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Cathedral-Rock>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Brown's Ranch Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North and drive to I-17.

Turn left (North) on I-17.

Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road.

Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 mi. (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive).

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Take Cave Creek Road North (left).  
Turn right at first light on Dynamite Blvd (later changes to Rio Verde).  
Turn left on Alma School Road.  
The road dead ends at the trailhead.  
There are restrooms at the trailhead.

**April 23, 2021 Peoria Sunrise Mountain Trail (Peoria).** Rating C+.

This is a 5+ mile multi- loop hike with an elevation gain of 1230 ft, going up and down three mountain peaks. There are views of the community on one side, with the front of New River Dam in the background and mountain ranges beyond that. On the South side are views across the West valley. The trail itself is well maintained with three main hills to climb. After good winter rains, there would be a wide variety of wildflowers in bloom. Trail condition – average hiking trail, but the climbs

are fairly steep. There is no park fee. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 56 miles RT. [SCG=4.9/1100/2.9].

This hike can be combined with the West Wing Mountain trail for a good B hike of 9.0 miles with an elevation gain of 2200 ft. It goes up and down over 5 short peaks. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CityofPeoria/Sunrise-Mountain>

Directions to Peoria Trails – Sunrise and West wing

Drive North on Loop 303 and take Exit 125 (Happy Valley Pkwy/ Vistancia Blvd) Turn right on Happy Valley Pkwy and go to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn right on West Wing Parkway.

Turn right into West wing Neighborhood Park.

There is no parking fee.

Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.

**April 30, 2021 Lake Pleasant Pipeline Canyon + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park).** Rating C. This is a 6.8 mile hike in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 960 ft. The hike uses a floating bridge that crosses part of the lake. There are excellent views of the lake from the top of Yavapai Point. It's a good

spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. Keep your eyes peeled for burros - there are many in the area. Trail Condition – Overall an average hiking trail, but somewhat steep to the highpoint. Restrooms are at the trailhead and at the snack break point. There is a park fee of \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/800/2.3]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Yavapai-Cottonwood>

Directions to Ramada 4 (Pipeline South), Lake Pleasant Regional Park (80 mi. RT)

Drive north on Loop 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.

Turn left on Hwy 74 (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road (Lake Pleasant Regional Park turnoff) and turn right (North).

Go 2.1 miles to the park, turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road. Pay \$7.00 park fee.

Drive about 3 miles to the southern trailhead.

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Drive north on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.  
Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.  
Turn left (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road and turn right  
(North). Go 2.1 miles and turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road.

Pay \$7.00 park fee then turn right on South Park Road. Turn left on  
Desert Tortoise Road.

Trailhead is on the right.

Restrooms are at this trailhead.

### **March 19, 2021 Estrella Mtn Park**

Desert Rose to Gadsden Trail – (Estrella Mountain Regional Park).

Rating C/D. This is a 5 to

7 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail  
meanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro  
cactus. There is no restroom at the trailhead. Trail condition - average  
hiking trail. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

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

[EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Desert- RoseGadsden](#)

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Desert Rose Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek

ParkwayParkwayParkwayParkwayParkwayParkway/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

Angle right immediately after the self-pay station into the open parking  
area. Drive across at a 45 degree angle – there is a trail sign indicating  
the trailhead. No restrooms are at the trailhead.

### **March 26, 2021 Emery Henderson area/Boy Scout Loop (Part of Black Canyon trials)**

**New Hike**

6.5 miles Rating C. Typical desert terrain with a saguaro forest. We will hike one side of the Boy Scout Loop and go to the saddle between two peaks then back down the other side. Burro sightings possible. Parking is along the New River Road. We walk along a dirt road for approx. 1 mile before approaching the bottom of the Loop.

**Directions:** 303N to Lake Pleasant Parkway. Turn Left. Turn left again at Route 74 and immediately turn right onto New River Road. Go 2.8 miles past the Emery Henderson trailhead to 42nd Ave and turn left for parking.

## **April 2, 2021 Phoenix Sonoran Preserve**

**Union Peak Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South).** Rating C & B. This is a 7.2 (C level) or 8.4 (B) mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000-1200 ft. This trail system is made up of well-maintained trails. The hike goes through typical desert terrain

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Directions to Star Tower Trailhead

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

Continue for just over 8 miles.

Turn right just past the Star Tower

Park in the curved parking area.

No restrooms. No park fee.

**April 16 McDowell Cathedral Rock/Balanced Rock Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve).** Rating C/C+. This is a 6.5 to 8.4 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 600-800 ft. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weaver's Needle, Four Peaks, Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains. The optional side trip is to the Balanced Rock formation to the east. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Trail condition - great hiking trail. Driving distance is 100 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Cathedral-Rock>

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Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 mi. (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive).

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There are restrooms at the trailhead.

**April 23, 2021 Peoria Sunrise Mountain Trail (Peoria). Rating C+.**

This is a 5+ mile multi- loop hike with an elevation gain of 1230 ft, going up and down three mountain peaks. There are views of the community on one side, with the front of New River Dam in the background and mountain ranges beyond that. On the South side are views across the West valley. The trail itself is well maintained with three main hills to climb. After good winter rains, there would be a wide variety of wildflowers in bloom. Trail condition – average hiking trail, but the climbs

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Directions to Peoria Trails – Sunrise and West wing  
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Turn left on Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn right on West Wing Parkway.

Turn right into West wing Neighborhood Park.

There is no parking fee.

Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.

**April 30, 2021 Lake Pleasant Pipeline Canyon + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C. This is a 6.8 mile hike**



in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 960 ft. The hike uses a floating bridge that crosses part of the lake. There are excellent views of the lake from the top of Yavapai Point. It's a good spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. Keep your eyes peeled for burros - there are many in the area. Trail Condition – Overall an average hiking trail, but somewhat steep to the highpoint. Restrooms are at the trailhead and at the snack break point. There is a park fee of \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/800/2.3]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Yavapai-Cottonwood>

Directions to Ramada 4 (Pipeline South), Lake Pleasant Regional Park (80 mi. RT)

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Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.

Turn left on Hwy 74 (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road (Lake Pleasant Regional Park turnoff) and turn right (North).

Go 2.1 miles to the park, turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road.

Pay \$7.00 park fee.

Drive about 3 miles to the southern trailhead.

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