

C LEVEL HIKING GROUPS - WEDNESDAYS

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

March 4 - Red Top Trail A Loop (Wickenburg). Rating C. This is a loop hike of 7 miles with an elevation gain of 700 ft. The well groomed trail starts at Sophie's Flat and goes through typical desert before joining an old jeep road. Once it crosses the Blue Tank Wash it goes back to a typical desert trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 102 miles RT.

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

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-john at the trailhead.

March 11 - Victory View & Stairs Loop (Verrado). Rating C/D. The D version is about 4 miles and 300 ft EG, while the C version is 7.4 miles and 600 ft EG. The hike goes through typical west Valley desert terrain. It goes up 330 stairs to an overlook with views of the Victory develop, golf course and clubhouse. The hike gives you great views of the white trail you see from I-10, though not the part you see from Pebble Creek. The C version makes a loop over to and on the SOB trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/VerradoVictory>

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.

March 18 - Ben Avery Trail (Eagletail Mountains). Rating C. This is an 8 mile hike with an elevation gain of 650 ft. There are views of Courthouse Rock for most of the hike. From the trailhead, it is 3.6 miles along an old jeep trail and in a wash to over 100 Native American petroglyphs. The trail itself is fairly easy hiking. You can then continue through a high walled canyon for another 1.5 miles. Along this canyon is a series of volcanic lava flows, many of which have melted quartz rock imbedded in them. Trail

condition - good hiking trail. There are no facilities at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Ben-Avery-Trail-Courthouse>

Directions to Eagletail Mountains - Ben Avery Trailhead

Go West on I-10 to Exit 81 (Salome Road).

Turn South (left) across I-10.

Turn right on Harquahala Valley Road and go 6.0 miles.

Turn Right on Centennial, a straight dirt road (to the left is Courthouse Road).

Go 7.0 miles to a 3-way intersection (BLM Wilderness sign on the left).

Take the right fork, which parallels a natural gas pipeline.

Go 4.0 miles. There is a BLM Wilderness sign off to the left about 50 ft.

Turn left and go 1.5 miles to trailhead.

The last .4 miles requires a high clearance vehicle, but you can park on the side and hike to the trailhead, adding .8 miles to the total hike.

The final 12.5 miles is on dirt roads, but the roads are good until the final .4 miles.

No facilities at the trailhead; there is a rest stop on I-10 between Buckeye and exit 81.

March 23-25