

**Monday, September 20 Sonoran Loop -Competitive Track (White Tank Mountains). Rating C.** Dana Thomas leads. This is a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 700 ft. This is the old orientation hike. This is a one-way competitive bike trail with plenty of ups and downs through washes plus one climb near the midpoint of the hike. On top of the hill is a good place to stop for a snack. Along the second half of the hike is a Crested Saguaro. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee. Driving distance is approximately 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Sonoran-Loop>  
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Competitive-Loop>

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). Sonoran Loop Trail is at the end of the main road, slightly right off the end of the paved road. The restroom on this hike is a porta-john.

**Monday September 28 - Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Tres Rios Wetlands.**

**Rating C.** Dave leads. This is a 6-8 mile in and out hike with about 100' of elevation gain. This trail starts at Monument Hill just east of the Racetrack. Trail travels along wetlands with flowing water, lots of vegetation and opportunities for viewing birds. If more elevation is desired, you can climb Monument Hill, which is to the right after you cross the pedestrian bridge. No entrance fee. No restrooms.

**Directions to Tres Rios trailhead.**

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south) South of I-10. Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Continue past the Phoenix Raceway and turn right into a parking area just past the grandstand and before the river bridge.

**Monday Oct 4 – Estrella Foothills Queen Anne’s Revenge Rating C. Dana leads.**

This is about a 7 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 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.

Directions to Estrella Foothills Park-High School Trailhead

Turn left out of 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.

**Monday, October 11 - Mountain Wash/Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Chuckwalla Loop (Skyline Park) Rating C Challenge due to elevation. Tom leads.**

This is about a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1200 ft. in the Western part of Buckeye's New Skyline Regional Park with the new Granite Falls Trail and an even newer Chuckwalla trail on the west side of the park. This is one of the trail loops in Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park. Trail condition -good hiking trail. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park>

Directions to Skyline Regional Park Trailhead

Go West on I-10.

Turn north (right) on Watson Road.

Drive to the end of road and trailhead parking.

Facilities are at the trailhead.

**Monday, October 18 – Chuckwagon + Devil's Bridge trails (Sedona) Rating C . Tom leads.**

Chuckwagon + Devil's Bridge trails (Sedona). Rating C. This is a 7 mile lollipop loop with a side trip to Devil's Bridge. Elevation gain is 1100 ft. This is a very scenic hike in Sedona's red rock country. The side trip to Devil's Bridge is very steep, but the views from the bridge are outstanding. Trail surface - the overall trail is a good bike trail with the quarter mile to the bridge being steep with stair-like steps. Restrooms are at trailhead. There is no park fee with a Senior Parks pass. Driving distance is approx 250 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Devils-Bridge>

Directions to Sedona - Dry Creek Vista Trailhead

Go West (left) on Indian School Rd to Loop 303. Go North (right) on Loop 303 to I-17 North.

Go North (left) on I-17 to exit 287 (Camp Verde). Go west (left) to Cottonwood.

Turn north (right) on 89A.

Turn left onto Dry Creek Road

Turn right on FS 152

Go about .2 miles to trailhead parking on the left.

There are restrooms at the trailhead and there is a McDonalds at I-17 exit 287.

**Monday, October 25 – Blackjack Trail at Estrella Foothills off Elliott Road – Rating C Challenge due to some edginess. Dana leads.**

Hike 6.7 miles with 900 ft elevation.

Park along side of Elliot Rd. Then we start out on Coyote trail to hook up trail to saddle up trail to Blackjack trail to Up There trail to Giddy Up trail to Whats Up trail to Surfs Up and back to Coyote trail. This hike goes up and across the highest ridgeline (Blackjack trail) in this area and makes a small loop around the top. This part of the trail offers outstanding views of the entire southwest valley. The hike is a typical desert terrain but the blackjack trail has one section of edginess across the ridgeline. No park fee. No restrooms at trail head. Driving distance 27 miles RT.

Directions to Estrella Foothills off Elliot Road

Turn left out of the main gate off onto Pebblecreek parkway (South), which becomes Estrella

Parkway on the other side of I10.

Continue on Estrella Parkway thru the Estrella MT. Development until you come to Elliot Rd which is across from the Safeway Store.

Turn left onto Elliott Rd and go straight into the trailhead parking.

**Monday, November 1 - Ford Canyon to the Dam (White Tank Mountains). Rating C+. Pam M. leads.**

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.

**Monday November 8 – Pipeline Canyon + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C. Tom W. Leads**

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 high point. Restrooms are at the trailhead and at the snack break point. There is a park fee of \$7.00.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-YavapaiCottonwood>

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.

**Monday November 15 -Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial Trail (Yarnell)  
Rating C Challenge due to elevation. Tom W leads and Wayne W lead.**

**WE PLAN TO LEAVE THE PARKING LOT AT 6:30 FOR THIS HIKE.**

This is a 6-7.5+ mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1200-1800 feet. There will be two groups; one will be hiking at a D level pace and the other will be going faster. Please drive with people who will be going at your pace. The trail is a memorial to the Hotshots firefighting team from Prescott who lost their lives fighting the 2013 Yarnell Hill fire. It goes up over the ridge where they lost their lives and includes plaques for each of the 19 firefighters who died there. You may choose to stop at the overlook area which has memorabilia that has been left by visitors or continue down to the fatality site. Trail condition - the trail is a good hiking surface but goes steadily up from the parking lot. This is a must-see for those who have never been there. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Granite-Mountain-HotshotsMemorial-StatePark>

Directions to Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park--Drive north on Loop 303. Take Highway 60 west toward Wickenburg. Turn right on Highway 93/89 (toward Las Vegas). Turn right on 89 and drive toward Yarnell. Just before reaching Yarnell, follow the brown signs to the park (left turn). The park has a dozen parking spots and a restroom. There is no park fee. (If the parking lot is full, there is no parking on the road. We will have to go to Yarnell for a shuttle: \$5/hiker. Suggested driver donation is \$\$10.00.

Directions to Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park

Drive north on Loop 303.

Take Hwy 60 west toward Wickenburg.

Turn right on Hwy 93/89 (toward Las Vegas).

Turn right on 89 and drive toward Yarnell.

Just before reaching Yarnell, follow the brown signs to the park (left turn).

The park has maybe a dozen parking spots and a restroom...no park fee.

(If lot is full, no parking on the road...have to go to Yarnell for shuttle: \$5/hiker

**Monday November 22, 2021 - Victory View & Stairs Loop (Verrado). Rating C.**

Wayne Wills leads. The C version is 7.4 miles with an elevation gain of 900 feet. 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 PebbleCreek. The C version makes a loop over to and on the SOB trail. No restroom at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles round trip.

<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. Suggested driver donation is \$2.00.

**November 29, 2021 - Competitive Track - Long Loop to Technical (Estrella Mountain Regional Park) Start on Technical Loop going the prescribed bike direction – Connector – Finish Long Loop. Rating C.** Tom Wellman leads. This is a 7.7-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. The trail meanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro cactus. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Park fee is \$7.00. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Competitive Trails. Turn right out the main gate onto PebbleCreek Pkwy/Estrella Pkwy (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 the Phoenix Raceway, turn right. Follow the signs to the trails. Pay the park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle at the self-pay station. Continue on to the parking on the right.

**Monday December 6, 2021 - Metate/Spur Cross/FairyDuster/Dragonfly Loop Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating C.** Tom Wellman leads. This is a 7.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. The trail crosses Cave Creek a few times (using wooden planks or rock hopping). The Metate trail goes through a forest of very large Saguaros. The Spur Cross trail goes for a couple of miles through typical desert terrain. The Dragonfly trail goes through a riparian area known for its many bird species. Trail condition: overall an average hiking trail with a couple of stony creek crossings. Porta-johns are just past the parking area in the park. The Dragonfly trail is free, but the other trails in the park are not. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://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 (watch for road after 53rd). Turn left (North) on Spur Cross Road (main road veers left). 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 Maricopa County Park pass).

**Monday, December 13, 2021 - Saguaro Lake Nature Trail (Saguaro Lake). Rating C.** –**Early departure at 6:30 for this hike.** Ruth Bindler leads. This is a 6 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of 500'. The trailhead is at the Butcher Jones Recreation Area on the left side of the beach area. Trail is an undulating trail over open desert area. On a clear day you can see Four Peaks across the lake at the turnaround point of the hike. After good winter rains, there will be over 2 dozen different wildflowers blooming in April and there is a chance to see wild horses. There are scenic views of the wilderness area and the surrounding peaks. There are restrooms at the trailhead. If parking at the picnic areas, place the Golden Age pass on the windshield. The Tonto Pass is needed only if using the water sports areas. (For use of water sport facilities park admission is \$7.00 per car or \$3.00 with Golden Age Pass: Tonto National Forest passes are available at Sporting goods stores in advance). Driving distance is approximately 120 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/ButcherJonesRecreationArea/Nature-Trail-Sugaro-Lake>  
Driving directions to Saguaro Lake – Take the I-10 East to SR 202 East. Turn left on Power Road (which becomes Bush Highway). Drive past the Saguaro Lake turnoff. About a mile past the turnoff is a sign to the Butcher Jones Recreation Area. Turn right and go 2 miles to the parking area for the Butcher Jones Rec Area.

Alternate directions to Saguaro Lake – Alternate from PebbleCreek. Take the 101 North. Turn left (East) on Shea Blvd. Turn left (North) on the Beeline Hwy (Rt. 87) and go about 15 miles (8 miles past Verde River). Turn right off of the Beeline Hwy (towards Saguaro Lake). In about 2.5 miles there is a sign on the left to the Butcher Jones Recreation Area. Turn left and go 2 miles to the parking area for the Butcher Jones Rec Area

**Monday December 20, 2021-ButterfieldGadsden/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C.** Tom Wellman leads. This hike is approximately 7.9 miles, out and back, with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. We will follow the trail to a large wash, and parallel the wash for 2 miles or so. The trail is relatively flat, with long views of the Estrella Mountains and valley to the East & West. There are foothills to the left and larger mountains to the right as you travel east on the Gadsden Trail. There are Porta-Johns located at the trailheads. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Coldwater-GadsdenButterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkwy (south) South of I-1. Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River. Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle. Drive around the park to the left. Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena. Suggested driver donation is \$2.00.

**Monday December 27, 2021 –Competitive Track – Long Loop to Mountain Pass (Sidewinder) Trail then finish the Technical Loop. Rating C.** Wayne Wills leads. This is a 7.9 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 950 ft. The trail meanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro cactus. Trail condition - average hiking trail.



Park fee is \$7.00. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. Driving distance is 26 miles round trip.

#### Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park Competitive Trails

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy/Estrella Pkwy (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.

#### **Monday January 3, 2022 - Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Chuckwalla/Pyrite Lollipop Loop (Skyline Regional Park - Buckeye) Rating C Challenge due to elevation of Pyrite.**

Wayne Wills leads. This is about a 6.7-7.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1200-1350 ft. in the southwestern part of Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park Most. The trails meander through typical desert terrain. Pyrite is one of the newer trails in Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park. It goes up to the ridgeline in the southwestern corner of the White Tank Mountains. There is an optional summit trail that goes .3 miles with 170 ft of elevation gain. Trail condition – average to good trail, but steep up Pyrite to the top. No park fee.

Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles

RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park>

Directions to Skyline Regional Park Trailhead Go West on I-10. Turn north (right) on Watson Road. Drive to end of road and trailhead parking.

**CANCELED Monday January 10, 2022 - Granite Mountain Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale). Rating C.** Ron Hoffman leads. This is a 7.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 ft. It passes through three different “forests” - Saguaro, Jumping Cholla, and two types of Yucca. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. You get nice views from the Balanced Rock formation on the second half of the hike. Balanced Rock is a gigantic granite boulder balancing on its pointy end. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of Pebble Creek. Trail condition – Great hiking trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mt-North>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - 136th St Trailhead Take Loop 303 North to I-17.

Turn left (North) on I-17...stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Rd about 10 mi as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Drive. Take Cave Creek Road North (left) and turn right at next light on Dynamite Blvd. Follow Dynamite (name changes to Rio Verde) and turn left on 136th Street. For Granite Mt Loop, drive about 2 mi and park on the left under the power lines.

For Hawknest Loop, drive about 5.1 mi and park just beyond the National Forest kiosk (last mile or so can be rough so recommend high clearance). There are no restrooms at the trailhead (but you can stop off at the Brown's Ranch Trailhead by turning left on Alma School Road and going about a mile to the end)

#### **Monday January 17, 2022 - Wave Cave & Lost Goldmine Trails (Superstitions). Rating C Challenge due to elevation. Early departure will be at 6:30 AM for this hike.**

Ron Hoffman leads. This is a 7 mile two fingered in-n-out hike with an elevation gain of 1300 feet. Starting at the Carney Springs Trailhead, the Wave Cave trail goes up very steeply, on a loose pebble/dirt trail to a cave that has a wave like rock formation in it. From the top of the

wave, you get great views towards the east side of the Superstitions. You then hike back down to the Lost Goldmine trail and go south (right) for about 2 miles before returning to the trailhead. No restrooms at Carney Springs (Peralta has some a mile further along the road) and no park fee. Driving distance is 140 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Wave-Cave>

Directions to Superstitions - Lost Goldmine Trailhead

Take I-10 east to Hwy 60 east (HOV all the way). Go 8.5 mi past Apache J to the Peralta Rd turnoff (approx. 32 mi. from I-10). Turn left on Peralta Road. The trailhead is about 7.6 miles north on the left. The last 6.5 miles is on a well-maintained dirt road. Restrooms are available .5 mile further at Peralta Trailhead.

### **Monday January 24, 2022 - Dixie Mountain Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve).**

**Rating C/Challenge.** Tom Wellman leads. This is a 7.6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. The main loop hike (4.6 miles) goes up and down a couple of saddles through typical desert terrain. The 6 mile version adds 500 ft EG going up 2 peaks along the loop. The 7.6 mile version adds another 1.5 miles and 200 ft EG. There are excellent views in all directions. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. Trail condition - overall a good hiking trail, steep to the peaks. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

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

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Dixie-MountainUnion-Peak-Lolli>

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South Take 303 North towards I-17. Continue straight, going under I-17. Turn right on North Valley Parkway. Go past Norterra Parkway (coming in on the right) 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.

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South – Alternate Take 101 North. 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

### **Monday January 31, 2022 - Granite Mountain Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale). Rating C.**

Ron Hoffman leads. This is a 7.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 ft. It passes through three different “forests” - Saguaro, Jumping Cholla, and two types of Yucca. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. You get nice views from the Balanced Rock formation on the second half of the hike. Balanced Rock is a gigantic granite boulder balancing on its pointy end. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of Pebble Creek. Trail condition – Great hiking trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mt-North>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - 136th St Trailhead Take Loop 303 North to I-17. Turn left (North) on I-17...stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Rd about 10 mi as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Drive. Take Cave Creek Road North (left) and turn right at next light on Dynamite Blvd. Follow Dynamite (name changes to Rio Verde) and turn left on 136th Street. For Granite Mt Loop, drive about 2 mi and park on the left under the power lines.

For Hawknest Loop, drive about 5.1 mi and park just beyond the National Forest kiosk (last mile or so can be rough so recommend high clearance). There are no restrooms at the



trailhead (but you can stop off at the Brown's Ranch Trailhead by turning left on Alma School Road and going about a mile to the end)

**Monday February 7, 2022 - Red Top Trail A Loop (Wickenburg). Rating C.**

Tom Wellman leads. 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 Route 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).

**Monday February 14, 2022 - Peralta Trail #102 (Superstition Mountains). Rating C Challenge due to elevation and some rocky surfaces. Early departure will be at 6:30 AM for this hike.**

Ron Hoffman leads. This is an in and out hike of about 6 miles (add .5 to go to GC) with an elevation gain of 1,500 ft – a steep, continuous climb. But it is one of the most beautiful hikes we do - Weaver's Needle will be in front of you at the top. We also go to a lone tree with terrific close-up views of Weavers Needle. An optional addition is to hike to Geronimo's Cave, which provides great views of the valley just hiked and points East. The Peralta Road turnoff is located 8.5 miles past Apache Jct. on Hwy 60 east. The trailhead is about 9 miles north on this road – the last 8 miles of which are dirt (a car usually has no problems getting through). Restrooms are available at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approximately 140 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Peralta-Trail>

Directions to Superstitions - Peralta Trailhead. Access Peralta Trail #102, Dutchman's Trail #104, Bluff Springs Trail #235 to "50 in 1" saguaro cactus. Take I-10 east to Hwy 60 east (HOV all the way). Go 8.5 mi past Apache J to the Peralta Rd turnoff (approx. 32 mi. from I-10). Turn left and the trailhead is about 9 miles north on this road. The last 8 miles are on a well-maintained dirt road.

**Monday, February 21, 2022 – Overton/Go John/Quartz Trails (Cave Creek Recreation Area). Rating C+.** Ron Hoffman leads. This is an 8-mile hike on a combined trail loop with an elevation gain of about 1100 ft. We usually travel the trail in a clockwise direction but could dispatch a group counterclockwise, which provides steeper climbs. On the Lime Kiln trail about .3 miles from the Quartz trail intersection is a segmented Saguaro named the Michelin Man. About .5 miles from the trailhead (near the junction of the Jasper trail) there is a group of 3 saguaros that look very much like the hiking club logo. Trail condition – average hiking trail. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Driving distance is 93 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/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 and continue into Cave Creek Regional Park. There is a \$7 fee required to enter the park. Continue along the main park road - just before the horse staging area, you will see the access road for the Go

John Trailhead on the left (Tonalite Dr). There is a restroom near the trailhead.

**Monday February 28, 2022 – Deem Hills Outer Circumference Trail (Phoenix).**

**Rating C.** Wayne Wills leads. This is a 7.6 mile loop hike around the Deem Hills Recreation area with an elevation change of 1350 feet. There are distinct vegetation areas on the different sides of the hills. There would be good wildflowers after a wet winter. Good views from the top showing the area north of 101 and west of I-17. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No Park Fee.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/DeemHillsPark/Circumference-Trail>

Directions to Deem Hills Park. Take 101 North Turn North on 59th Ave. Turn North (left) on 55th Ave. 55th Ave becomes Deem Hills Pkwy. The park is on the right.

Directions to Deem Hills – Alternate. Take 303 North. Turn East (right) on Happy Valley Parkway. Turn North (left) on 55th Ave. 55<sup>th</sup> Ave. becomes Deem Hills Pkwy. The park is on the right.

**Monday March 7, 2022 - Lake Pleasant Beardsley/Morgan City Wash Lollipop Loop (Lake Pleasant Regional Park).**

**Rating C.** Dave Schuldt leads. 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 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. 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 Regional 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.

**Monday, March 14, 2022 - Blue Wash/Camp Creek Falls Trail (Cave Creek)**

**Rating C.** Clare Bangs leads. This is a 7-8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1000 ft. It goes down a series of dry waterfalls to an intersection with Camp Creek. Just past the intersection going up the ridgeline is a section of the Maricopa Trail. We take that up to the road. On the return we stay in an interesting wash, which comes out at Camp Creek. Then we go up Camp Creek about a third of a mile to a wet waterfall of about 15 feet. Beyond that the creek stays above ground and meanders through a lush riparian area to a campground. The return goes up the ridge running parallel to Blue Wash, providing views of the whole area. Trail condition – part is in a sandy wash and part is an average trail with one steep section going out of the main wash. No restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 122 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Other>

Directions to Cave Creek - Blue Wash/Camp Creek Trailhead. Take Loop 303 North to I-17. Turn North (left) on I-17. Turn right (east) on Carefree Hwy (Hwy 74) and drive to the end.

Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort). Turn right on Cave Creek Road and continue past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive just over 2 miles past that turnoff. Trailhead will be on the left just past the Blue Wash #1 sign.

Directions to Cave Creek - Blue Wash/Camp Creek Trailhead - Alternate Take Loop 101 North. Turn left on Loop 101 to Cave Creek Rd. Turn left on to Cave Creek Rd. Turn right on Carefree Hwy (Hwy 74). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort) Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive just over 2 miles from that intersection. Trailhead will be on the left just past the Blue Wash #1 sign. No park fee.

**Monday March 21, 2022 - Tom's Thumb trail from the North trailhead (McDowell Sonoran Preserve Scottsdale). Rating C Challenge due to the steepness of the Tom Thumb trail.**

Tom Wellman leads. This is a 6.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The uphill portion of the trail is decomposed granite, making for a somewhat slippery surface to hike upon so the hike will go at a slower than normal pace. Tom's Thumb is a 140 ft high granite rock sticking up on the top of the mountain. The top of the mountain has a small valley with many interesting boulder formations. A side trail takes us up to a viewpoint with 360 degree views. There are excellent views of Scottsdale and areas to the West as well as Fountain Hills and the Superstition Mountains to the East. Trail condition - overall a good hiking trail, but fairly steep going up the initial climb. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 108 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Toms-Thumb>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Tom's Thumb Trailhead Take Loop 303 North to I-17. Turn left (North) on I-17, but stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Dr.) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Alma School Road. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th St. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th St. Stay left as the road runs into the trailhead.

**Monday March 28, 2022 - Toothaker/Coldwater Trails (Estrella Mountains).**

**Rating C.** Ron Hoffman leads. This is a 7.6 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 770 ft. The Toothaker trailhead is on the west side of the Rodeo Arena. This is a shared trailhead with the Rainbow Valley Trail (RB). Very soon after starting, the Toothaker Trail will split off to the south (left). In 1.1 miles you will come to the Dysart Trail (DS) junction. Stay on Toothaker. In .9 miles you will cross the Rainbow Valley (RB) junction. Continue on Toothaker (TH) trail for another 1.6 miles to the Pederson Trail (PD) junction. Take the Pederson Trail to the left for .7 miles to the Coldwater Trail (CW) junction. Turn left on to the Coldwater Trail and follow it back to the Butterfield Trail. Turn left and follow it back to the parking lot. Trail condition – good hiking trail. There are restrooms available. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee. Driving distance is approximately 20 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Toothaker-Gadsen-Butterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow trailhead. Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkwy (south) South of I-10. Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River. Turn right into Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Drive around the park to the left. The trailheads is on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

## **April 3-5 Informal Overnight to Prescott**

**Sunday, April 3, 2022 - Lynx Lake Loop+Salida Gulch trail. Rating C.** Ron Hoffman leads. This actually two hikes in one totaling 8 miles with an elevation gain of 800 ft - the Lynx Lake Loop trail plus the Salida Gulch trail forming a large loop hike. The Lynx Lake Loop is a very nice tree lined hike around the lake. The Salida Gulch trail takes you up over a ridge with great views of the surrounding area. Trail condition - typical hiking trail. There are restrooms at several spot along the trail. No Park fee with the Senior Parks Pass. Driving distance is 200 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Lynx-Lake>

Directions to Prescott - Lynx Lake Ruins Trailhead. Drive North on Loop 303 and follow until it ends at I-17. Take I-17 North to Prescott exit #262. Turn North (left) on SR 69 to Prescott. Turn left on Walker Road (just past Costco). Go 1.3 miles and turn left (a sign on the right points to trailhead). The trailhead will be on the left. There is a rest room at the trailhead.

**Monday, April 4, 2022 - Iron Springs Loop (Prescott). Rating C.** Tom Wellman leads. This is an 8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. starting at around 5600 ft. The hike goes through a pine forest with sections of granite boulders. It crosses 3 seasonal creeks and goes through a tunnel. Trail condition - most of it is a typical Prescott forest trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 210 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Watson-Lake-Loop/C-Exploratory-Hike-2PrescottWatson-LakeLynnW2018-2019/>

Directions to Prescott - Iron Springs Trailhead. Take Loop 303 north to US 60. Turn left on US 60 to Wickenburg, AZ. Turn right on US 93 toward Kingman, AZ. Turn right on AZ 89 toward Prescott. Take AZ 89 about 31 miles to Kirkland Valley Road. Turn left on Kirkland Valley Road and go 4.4 miles. Turn right on Iron Springs Road (County Road 10)) and go 21.6 miles. Turn right on Spence Springs Road and park at the trailhead on the left.

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022 Watson Lake Loop Trail (Prescott). Rating C.** Wayne Wills leads. This is a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 ft. Part of the trail is an old railroad track that has been smoothed out for hiking and biking. The trail also goes through a cluster of large Cottonwood trees. There are great views of Watson lake dam from both sides of it and many granite rock formations. The trail goes close to the lake and then up, over, and through the Granite Dells rock formations. Trail surface - mostly on bare granite rock (trail is marked with painted white dots). Very scenic – bring your camera! Restrooms are available at the trailhead. Park fee is \$2.00 (free on Wednesdays). Driving distance is 210 miles RT - on paved road, with dirt parking off Granite Dells road.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Watson-Lake-Loop>

Directions to Prescott - Watson Lake Trails. Drive North on Loop 303 and follow until it ends I-17. Turn left onto I-17 towards Flagstaff. Take I-17 North to Cordes Junction, exit #262. Turn North (left) on SR 69 to Prescott. Turn right on Fain Road. Take exit 317 then left on SR 89. Turn left on Prescott Lakes Pkwy. Turn left on Sundog Ranch (animal rescue is on the corner). Trailhead parking is on the left a block down Sundog Ranch. trailhead.

Directions to Prescott - Watson Lake Trails off SR 89. Drive North on Loop 303 and follow until it ends at I-17. Turn left onto I-17 towards Flagstaff. Take I-17 North to Cordes Junction, exit #262. Turn North (left) on SR 69 to Prescott and go 21 miles. Turn right on Fain Road and go 14 miles to Exit 317. Take exit 317 then left on SR 89 and go 3 miles. Turn left on Granite Dells road. Trailhead is on the right.

**Monday, April 11, 2022 - Ben Avery Trail (Eagletail Mountains). Rating C.** Tom Wellman leads. 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. 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.

**Monday April 18, 2022 - SOB/Skyline Crest/Lost Creek Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating C Challenge due to elevation.** Wayne Wills leads. 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.

**Monday April 25, 2022 – Lost Dog Wash Trail / Quartz Trail Lollipop Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating C Challenge.** Tom Wellman leads. This is a 7.2-7.6-mile hike with an elevation gain of 1000-1300'. It starts as a good trail at the Lost



Dog Wash Trailhead but there are long stretches of rocky trail but with competent footing. It leads up to the Taliesen Overlook and then onto the Quartz trail to a spot where some will choose to scramble up a steep, rocky trail 300' and 0.2 miles to an outcropping of milk white quartz. This scramble is what turns the hike into a Challenge, but it is worth the climb. We return to the Outlook for our break before completing the lollipop loop on an old Jeep trail and then following the Ringtail Trail back to the trailhead. Highlights of this hike are beautiful views in new territory for most of us. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Driving distance 102 miles RT.

Directions to Lost Dog Wash Trailhead in McDowell Sonoran Preserve Take Hwy 101 north all the way around to Exit 38 for Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd. Take a slight left onto N Pima Rd, after 0.5 miles. Turn a slight left onto East Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd and go 4.4 miles. Turn left on Via Linda and go 1.3 miles to N 124th Street. Turn left and follow it to the trailhead parking.

**Monday May 2, 2022 - Quartz Mine/Tortuga/Old Road/Lost Creek/Turnbuckle Loop (Skyline Regional Park). Rating C.** Wayne Wills leads. This is a loop hike of 7 miles with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. This hike does a loop up to a high point in the park and then circles back through a valley. There are lots of views of the west valley. Trail condition – average hiking trail with two uphill sections. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park/Outer-Loop-Trails>

Directions to Skyline Regional Park Trailhead Go West on I-10. Turn north (right) on Watson Road. Drive to the end of road and trailhead parking.