

Monday, September 21 Sonoran Loop -Competitive Track (White Tank Mountains). Rating C. Wayne 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's 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 – Blackjack Trail at Estrella Foothills off Elliott Road – Rating C+ hike 6.7 miles with 900 ft elevation. Wayne Leads.

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, October 5 - Mountain Wash/Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Chuckwalla Loop (Skyline Park) Rating C. Wayne 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 Oct 12 – Estrella Community Lake Loop plus Trail to Safeway (Estrella Mountain Ranch). Rating C. Pete Leads.

This is about a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 700 ft. It starts with a loop of the South Lake and then follows a trail along the ridgeline to the Safeway. There are 3 US flags along the route as well as a giant rabbit and other interesting sites. There are nice views of the Estrella Mountain community. The hike is in typical desert

terrain. Trail condition - the lake loop is concrete will the rest is mostly a good hiking trail. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead.

Directions to Estrella Community lake Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south)

PCP becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10.

Continue up the hill into Estrella Mountain to the shopping area

Turn right on Elliott (light just past shopping area)

Turn left into the school sports complex parking lot

Park at this end of the parking lot.

October 19, 2020 -Granite Mountain Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale).

Rating C. Ron 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 Dr.

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.

Oct 26, 2020 - Metate/Spur Cross/Dragonfly Loop Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating C. This is a 7.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. Tom Leads.

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, but there is a park fee is \$3.00 per person. 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 MC pass). Porta-johns are at the trailhead another .1 miles down the road.

November 2, 2020 - Estrella Foothills Park Elliott TH Loop - Bridge. Estrella Mountains Rating C. Ron Leads.

This loop hike is about 7 miles long with an elevation gain of about 800 ft. The hike starts at a parking lot off Elliott Drive on an old road. It then follows several trails ending up at a wooden bridge that crosses a wash. There are nice views of the Estrella Mountain community. The hike goes through typical desert terrain. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 24 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Estrella-Foothills/C-Exploratory-Hike-5-14-18ElliotRd-MappingLynnW2017-2018/>

Directions to Estrella Foothills Park - Elliott Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south) PCP becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10. Continue up the hill into Estrella Mountain to the shopping area. Turn left on Elliot (light just past a shopping area). Park at the far end.

November 9, 2020 - Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Mountain Wash/Lost Creek/Skyone Crest/Quartz Mine (Skyline Regional Park). Rating C+.
This is a loop hike of 7.2 miles with an elevation gain of 1400 ft.

Wayne Leads.

This hike does a loop up to a high point in the park and then circles back on the east side of the valley. There are lots of views of the west valley. Trail condition – average hiking trail with one long uphill section. 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. Facilities are at the trailhead. Mountain Wash, Lost Creek

**** Please note. The next two hikes are in the Tucson area. The hike organizers will be driving down on Sunday November 15, and staying in a hotel in nearby Green Valley for two nights. This is an informal overnight only so there will be no planning for social hours, multiple level hikes or a discounted hotel rates or reservations as a block for the Club. If you choose to go, you are on your own to find your own hotel, dining and entertainment. Directions to the trailheads will be provided with a meetup time specified and the Hike Coordinator will reveal where he is staying and at what room rate. With that said, this is a fantastic area to hike with much different terrain to enjoy than we have in the Phoenix Valley.****

Nov 16,2020 - Vault Mine Loop in Madera Canyon. C+/B hike of 7.1 miles and 2000'. Tom Leads.

Go to the top parking area and hike up the Old Baldy trail to Josephine Saddle, then across from there on the Agua Caliente trail to the Agua Caliente Saddle, and then down the Vault Mine Trail. The Old Baldy trail is moderate, then the Agua Caliente section from the saddle to the cut off to the Vault is easy, and the Vault trail down is really steep so you get a good mix of everything on this loop. Great views along the AC section back towards Mt. Wrightson.

Directions to Vault Mine Loop Trail in Madera Canyon.

From Green Valley, turn left onto E. Continental Road and proceed under the freeway. Go 0.8 miles. Turn right onto Madera Canyon Rd and proceed 12 miles until you reach the entrance. Go to the top parking area.

November 17, 2020 Hutch's Pool in Sabino Canyon. C+/B. 8.7 miles and 1450'. Tom Leads.

Excellent hiking trail that shows the great potential of what the Santa Catalina Mts have to offer. This takes off from the last tram stop and proceeds up and over a saddle into a canyon with a flowing creek that is usually easy to cross without getting wet. The pool itself has a few deep runs amidst the trees and is quite beautiful. This is an in and out hike.

Directions from Green Valley to Sabino Canyon.

From Green Valley, drive 22 miles north on I-19. Keep left toward I-10 and proceed 2.6 miles and take exit 257 toward Speedway Blvd.

Proceed 7.4 miles on Speedway and turn left on Wilmot Rd. Go 1.7 miles and turn left onto N. Sabino Canyon Rd. Go 2.1 miles and turn right onto N. Sabino Canyon Rd. Turn right into the parking lot after 2.3 miles.

November 23, 2020 - Victory View & Stairs Loop (Verrado). Rating C/D. Ron Leads.

The C version is 7.4 miles and 900 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. GAIA for D hike.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/VerradoVictory>

Directions to Trailhead

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.

Nov 30th - Competitive Track – Long Loop to Mountain Pass (Sidewinder) Trail then finish the Technical Loop. Rating C+. Tom 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. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park Competitive Trails

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

(Estrella Mountain Regional Park). Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Follow Vineyard as it curves to the right, becoming 143rd Ave Turn left on Indian Springs Road

At the fence that begins the parking for PIR turn right. Follow signs to trails.

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle at the self pay station. Continue on to the parking on the right.

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.

December 7, 2020 - Mesquite Canyon/Willow Spring trails (White Tank Mountains). Rating C+. It is a 6.3 to 8.0 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1100-1500 ft. Wayne Leads.

The basic trail goes to the base of Willow Springs/falls with an option to go around to the top of the waterfall. The trail starts on the Mesquite trail in area #7 just off of Ramada Way. Mile one is very steep and rocky, around 1.8 miles the trail then turns north and drops into Mesquite Canyon and then over a ridge into Willow Canyon. The trail follows the wash up to Willow Springs where the remnants of a cabin,

stock tank and corral once stood at the steep walled end of the canyon. The spring usually has some water, though it might be only a trickle. Trail condition - average hiking trail with a couple of steep climbs. Restrooms and water fountain are at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 30 miles RT. [SCG=6.6/1700/3.8].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/MesquiteWillow-Springs>

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). Mesquite Canyon/Waddell trailhead is at Picnic area #7.

December 14, 2020 - Walking Jim Trail (Hells Canyon Wilderness).

Rating C. This is a 7 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. Ron Leads.

The trail parallels a mostly dry creek and offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (wild burros, etc). The break occurs at an interesting red rock outcropping covered with lichen. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. There are no restrooms and no park Fee.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim>

Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road. Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74. Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway). Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn

off). Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection). The trail goes off the left end of the parking area. No restrooms at the trailhead.

December 21, 2020 - Toothaker/Gadsden/Butterfield Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. Approx 7 miles, out and back, with an elevation gain of 750 ft. Wayne Leads.

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. Porta-Johns are located at 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 Pkw (south) South of I-10, 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.

December 28, 2020 - Beardsley/Frog Tank/Roadrunner Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C. This is 7.7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. Wayne Leads.

The hike starts out crossing a road and then travels through a Saguaro forest. Along the trail is a very tall Saguaro (30+') with no arms. Frog Tank takes you up for some views of the lake and meets Roadrunner,

which travels along the edge of the lake. There is a good chance to see wild burros on this trail. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Restrooms with water are at the trailhead as well as along Roadrunner 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.

January 4, 2021 - Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Chuckwalla/Pyrite Lollipop Loop (Skyline Regional Park - Buckeye) Rating C+. Ron 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 New 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.

<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. Facilities are at the trailhead.

January 11, 2021 - Quartz Trail (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating C/B. This is a 7-8.5 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of 1100-1500 ft. Tom Leads.

You start out hiking through a neighborhood of nice houses, before starting to climb the mountain. The C version goes up to a quartz outcropping while the B version continues further up the mountain. There are lots of great views of Scottsdale and Phoenix. Trail condition - overall an average hiking trail, but steady uphill going and downhill coming back. No restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park entrance fee.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Quartz-Trail>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Quartz 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 south (right) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn left on McDowell Ranch Road. Turn right into Quartz Trailhead parking.

January 18, 2021 - Dutchman to Miner's Needle (Superstition Mountains). Rating C. Elevation gain is approximately 1000 ft. Ron Leads.

This 7 mile out-and back hike starts at the Peralta Trailhead off Route 60 east of Phoenix and goes through an interesting Saguaro forest along the Miner's Needle trail on the way to the base of Miners Needle,

which has a hole (arch) in it. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Miners-Needle>

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. Restrooms are at the trailhead.

January 25, 2021 - Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) loop (Estrella Mountain Ranch). Rating C+. This is a 7.5 mile double loop hike with an elevation gain of 1250 ft. Tom Leads.

This hike utilizes several trails of the FINS bike trails system. The trails meander through several desert hills with many rock formations. There are also a couple of interesting areas - an enchanted forest of stuffed animals and a boneyard of dozens of cow bones. Trail condition - overall, this is a good biking trail. No park fee.

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

Directions to FINS - Fantasy Island Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south), which becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10. Continue for approx. 12.5 miles from Eagle's Nest. Turn right on West Westar Drive.

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

No restrooms. No park fee.

February 1, 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. Ron Leads.

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.

<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 8, 2021 - 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. Wayne Leads.

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.

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.

February 15, 2021 - Peralta Trail #102 (Superstition Mountains). Rating C+. This is an in and out hike of about 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1,500 ft – a steep, continuous climb. Tom Leads.

This 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 to the east. Restrooms are available at the trailhead. There is no park fee.

<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. Restrooms are at the trailhead.

February 22, 2021 - Quail/Rainbow/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mtn Regional Park). Rating C. This is a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. Wayne Leads. The trail goes from the Nature Center and wanders through the front portion of EMRP with distant views to the north. It then goes south into more typical desert areas. Trail condition - a very good hiking trail. There are restrooms at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per car.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Quail-Trailhead>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Quail Trailhead

Turn left onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw and go to the other side of I-10.

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

Turn right just past the golf course entrance into Estrella Mountain Park.

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle .. continue straight on Casey Abbott Dr North.

Turn right at the turn-in to Nature Center).

Park at the Nature Center.

March 1, 2021 - Dixie Mountain Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve). Rating C+. This is a 7.6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. Tom Leads.

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.

<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. There is no park fee.

**March 8, 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. Ron Leads.**

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.

<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 for each of the hikes (inside the library for the hikes from the library). Ford Canyon Trail trailhead parking is at Picnic area #7. Take the Waddell Trail across to the Ford Canyon Trail.

March 15, 2021 - Wolf Creek Falls Trail (Prescott). Rating C/B. This is a 6-8 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1000-1200 ft. Tom Leads.

The C version of the hike is an in and out hike that goes through a typical pine forest down to the top of Wolf Creek Falls. The falls, which are dry most of the year, are actually a quarter mile long series of falls, including one of 30 feet and one over 60 ft. While the dry falls rocks are excellent, in the spring after a wet winter the falls would be spectacular. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Wolf-Creek-Falls>

Directions to Prescott - Groom Creek Trail #307

Take Loop 303 north to I-17. Take I-17 north to AZ 69 in Cordes Junction. Turn left on AZ 69 to Prescott. From the intersection of AZ 69 and US 89 in Prescott, go left on Gurley St. to Mt. Vernon Ave. Turn left on Mt. Vernon Ave. (which becomes Senator Hwy) and follow paved road for 6.5 mi. to the Groom Creek Horse Camp and #307 trailhead. There is a restroom at the trailhead.

March 22, 2021 – Blackjack Trail at Estrella Foothills off Elliott Road – Rating C+ hike 6.7 miles with 900 ft elevation. Wayne Leads.

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.

March 29, 2021 - Toothaker/Coldwater Trails

(Estrella Mountains). Rating C. This is a 7.6 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 770 ft. Ron Leads.

The **Toothaker** (TH) 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 on this side with running water. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee.

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

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

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. 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.

April 5, 2021 - Deem Hills Outer Circumference Trail (Phoenix). Rating C+. This is a 7.6 mile loop hike around the Deem Hills Recreation area with an elevation change of 1350 ft. Tom Leads.

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. There is no park fee. Restrooms are at the parking lot. Directions to Deem Hills - Alternate Take 303 North. Turn East (right) on Happy Valley Parkway. Turn North (left) on 55th Ave. 55th Ave becomes Deem Hills Pkwy. The park is on the right...No park fee. Restrooms are at the parking lot.

April 12, 2021 - Sonoran Loop -Competitive Track (White Tank Mountains). Rating C. Wayne 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's a porta-john at the trailhead. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee.

<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.

April 19, 2021 - Fat Man's Pass from the East (South Mountain). Rating C. This is a 7.1 mi. round trip hike with an elevation gain of about 960 ft. Ron Leads.

A nice hike to Fat Man's Pass starting in Ahwatukee at the 48th Street entrance to South Mountain Park. The trail starts out flat going out of the parking lot on an old road, then climbs to Hidden Valley where it loops back through large rocks and tunnels. There are great views of the valley from the ridge on which we will be hiking. This popular trail is considered to be fun by many past hikers. Trail condition – an average hiking trail, but a steady climb up to Hidden Valley. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There are no park fees.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-East>

Directions to South Mountain Park (East) Pima Trailhead

Take I-10 east to 48th St. Right turn onto 48th St. (exit 153). Turn left at the roundabout (just before entering The Pointe at South Mountain--Pointe Pkwy East). One block past Guadalupe Rd turn right onto 48th St. Turn left onto Pima Canyon Rd (just before stop sign to enter The Pointe at South Mountain). Follow Pima Canyon Rd into South Mountain Park. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead.

April 26 - Chuckwagon + Devil's Bridge trails (Sedona). Rating C/B. This is a 7-9.5 mile lollipop loop with a side trip to Devil's Bridge. Elevation gain is 800-1300 ft. Wayne and Ron Lead.

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.

<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.

May 3 - Quartz Mine/Tortuga Trails (Skyline Regional Park). Rating C. This is an in-and-out hike of 6.4 miles with an elevation gain of 1260 ft. Wayne Leads.

This hike goes to the eastern most point in the park and then returns. There are lots of views of the west valley. Trail condition – average hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. 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. Facilities are at the trailhead.