**Monday, September 21**

Sonoran Loop -Competitive Track (White Tank Mountains). Rating C.

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/WhiteT ankMountainRegionalPark/Sonoran- Loop

http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteT ankMountainRegionalPark/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.

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 Carren Canyon 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 Elliott 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 Elloitt 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.

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** – 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 Pkw/Estrella Pkw (on other side of I-10).

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

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

Turn left on Indian Springs Road

At the fence that begins the parking for PIR turn right

Follow signs to trails

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

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.

**October 19, 2020 -**

Granite Mountain Loop (McDowell Sonoran

 Preserve, Scottsdale).

Rating C.

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 - Dixie Mt. Loop. Phoenix Sonoran Preserve**

Rating C+.

This is a 7.6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain to 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. There is no park fee.

**November 2, 2020 - C**

Rating C+. Competitive Track – Long Loop to Mountain

Pass (Sidewinder) Trail then finish the Technical Loop

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. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. 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.

**Nov 9,2020 - Estrella Foothills Park Elliott TH Loop - Bridge. Estrella Mountains Rating C.**

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 Elliott (light just past a shopping area) Park at the far end.

**November 16, 2020 - Mountain Wash/Turnbuckle/Granite**

 **Falls/Chuckwalla Loop (Skyline Park)**

. Rating C.

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. Mountain Wash, Lost Creek

**November 23, 2020 -** 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 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/WhiteT ankMountains- 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.