

"B" LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:00 a.m., depart at 7:15 (early meet/depart is 6:15/6:30...but, always check the weekly e-mail).

February 7 - Waddell/Ford Canyon/Mesquite Canyon Trails (White Tank Mountains). Rating B. 10 mi. loop hike starting on the Waddell trail with an elevation gain of 1600 ft. The Ford Canyon Trail begins the rocky scenic hike along the side of the canyon to large boulders and dam on the wash. Trail continues up onto a ridge. Will then pick up the Mesquite Canyon Trail and return near our starting point. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee: \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is approximately 30 miles RT.

<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 TH (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.

February 14 - Brown Mountain-Cathedral Rock-Balanced Rock Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating B. The B version is a 10.8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1250 ft. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weaver's Needle, Four Peaks, Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Brown's Ranch Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North and drive to I-17.

Turn left (North) on I-17.

Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road.

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

Take Cave Creek Road North (left).

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

Turn left on Alma School Road.

The road dead ends at the trailhead...restrooms at the trailhead.

February 21 - Ben Avery & Arch Loop (Eagletail Mountains). Rating B. This is a 10.7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1150 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 to the petroglyphs is fairly easy hiking. To get to the arch you follow an old road, then go through a wash before bushwhacking up a steep hill of loose rock and stones to reach the arch. Trail condition - good hiking trail to the petroglyphs then a semi-bushwhack to the arch and back. There are no facilities at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Eagletail-Mountains-Arches>

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; rest stop on I-10 between Buckeye and exit 81.

February 28 - Sunrise Mountain Trail (Peoria). Rating B. The "C" version is a multi-loop hike which goes up and down three mountain peaks. There are views of the community on one side, with the front of New River Dam in the background and mountain ranges beyond that. On the South side are views across the West valley. The trail itself is well maintained with three main hills to climb. After good winter rains, there would be a wide variety of wildflowers in bloom. Trail condition - average hiking trail, but the climbs are fairly steep. There is no park fee. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 56 miles RT.

[SCG=4.9/1100/2.9].

The "C" hike can be combined with the West Wing Mountain trail for a good "B" hike of 9.0 miles with an elevation gain of 2200 ft. It goes up and down over 5 short peaks.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CityofPeoria/Sunrise-Mountain>

Directions to Peoria Trails - Sunrise and Westwing

Drive North on Loop 303 and take Exit 125 (Happy Valley Pkwy/Vistancia Blvd)

Turn right on Happy Valley Pkwy and go to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn right on West Wing Parkway.

*Turn right into Westwing Neighborhood Park.
There is no parking fee.
Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.*