

C LEVEL HIKING GROUPS - WEDNESDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:00 am, depart at 7:15.

February 5 - Garden Valley Loop (Superstition Mountains). Rating C+. A 9.3 miles loop with 900 ft elevation gain. This is a very scenic loop with lots of rock formations. We will start at the First Water Trailhead, take the Second Water Trail to the Black Mesa Trail, and return on the Dutchman's trail. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No parking fee. Driving distance to the trailhead is 126 mi RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Garden-Valley-Loop>

Directions to Superstitions - 1st Water Trailhead

I-10 east to Route 202 east (stay in HOV all the way).

Take 202 east to Brown Rd., Exit 26.

Drive east on Brown Rd. to Apache Trail (Hwy 88).

Turn left onto Apache Trail (Hwy 88).

Go past Lost Dutchman State Park and turn right at sign to First Water Trailhead.

Follow this dirt road approx. 2.6 miles (past the horse-trailer parking on left).

Parking is free. There is a pit toilet restroom at the trailhead.

(Brown is Lost Dutchman Blvd in Pinal County on the way home)

February 12 - Black Canyon Trail – Copper Mountain Segment. Rating C/ B. This is an 8 mile C in-and-out hike or a 13.9 mile B loop with elevation change of 1000 or 1600 ft. The C version goes up to a series of colorful rock formations with views of the surrounding area. The B version does a loop along the base of Copper Mountain and through a large forest of Prickly Pear cactus. Trail condition - a good biking trail. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles RT. The Bs and Cs use different trailheads.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BCT-Copper-Mountain-Loop>

C hike Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Copper Mountain Loop Trailhead

Take Loop 303 to I-17.

Turn left onto I-17 north toward Flagstaff.

Take exit 262 (Hwy 69).

Turn West on Hwy. 69 (left - crossing I-17 towards Prescott).

Drive approx. 5 miles and turn left at the trailhead sign.

Restrooms are at the trailhead (we usually stop at McDonalds at Exit 262).

February 19 - 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. 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 stoney 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. [SCG=5.5/600/2.5]. <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.

Turn left (North) on Spur Cross Road.

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.

February 26 - Sunrise Mountain Trail (Peoria). Rating C+. This is a 5+ mile multi-loop hike with an elevation gain of 1230 ft, going 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].

<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.