

C LEVEL HIKING GROUPS - MONDAYS

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

February 3 - Big Horn Mountain Wash (Big Horn Mountain Wilderness).

Rating C. This is a 7-8 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of about 800 feet. While there are no formal trails in the area, the brush is scattered so hiking is easy until you start going up the mountainside. You head towards a finger of rock and then turn left up the mainwash. Shortly after turning left up the wash, look back to your right to see the Moon Arch, a nice round arch on a ridge. You can get to the arch by going up the ridge at the beginning of the wash, though you can't see the arch from this position. On the return, you simply head towards Black Mountain (in front of you as you park). There are lots of interesting rock formations along the wash including a 10 foot dry waterfall made of red rock. You can either climb up it or go around. From the ridgeline, you have great views of the surrounding region. No rest rooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 93 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BigHornMountainWilderness/Arch-Wash-Ridge>

Directions to Big Horn Wilderness

Go West on I-10 to 411th Ave (Exit 94)

Turn left across I-10.

Turn right on Indian School Road.

Drive 5.0 miles and turn right on another gravel road.

Follow the road as it winds towards I-10.

It will turn right near I-10 then make a sharp left to go under I-10.

[Once past I-10, you basically follow the power lines going between two mountains]

Turn left, then right to cross the Central Arizona Project canal.

There is a gate just across the canal – open it & drive through.

After a short distance, you come to another gate (about 11 miles from 411th) to open, go through and close.

When you come to a sign saying "Area Closed", park wherever you want and start exploring. The fine print on the sign says closed to motorized traffic.

Indian School Road and beyond are gravel roads.

There is no real trailhead (and no facilities).

February 10 - * NEW HIKE *** Arnett Canyon & Picketpost Loop Trail (Superior). Rating B/C.** There are 2 versions of this hike – the B version is a full loop of 9.3 miles & 1000 ft EG and the C version is an in and out of Arnett Canyon & Telegraph Canyon and is 7 miles & 700 ft. Arnett canyon is similar to West Fork of Oak Creek canyon – a few creek crossings (seasonal), many cottonwood trees, and red rock formations. Telegraph canyon is a bare rock wash with lots of trees, and the rest is a typical desert hike with many Saguaros. There are lots of interesting views of the surrounding area - bring your camera. Trail condition – average hiking trail plus the creek crossings. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Superior/Picketpost-Mtn-Arizona-Trail/Picketpost-Loop>

Directions to Picketpost Trailhead

Take I-10 east to Hwy 60 east (HOV all the way).

Go approx. 50 mi. and turn right just before Boyce Thompson Arboretum (watch for brown sign indicating Picketpost)

Follow signs for a couple of miles to the parking lot.

Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles RT.

February 17 - Dog Bone - Lot's Wife-Jim's Sidewinder Loop from Joe Fosse Trailhead (Buckeye). Rating C. This is a loop hike of 7.4 miles with an elevation gain of 440 ft. The Dog Bone trail system is a sister bike trail system to FINS. This hike uses two loop trails (Lot's Wife and Jim's Sidewinder) as part of the loop. While the overall hike is through typical desert terrain, there are several interesting rock formations as well as views of the surrounding mountains. Trail condition – while this is a biking area, the surface is somewhat rough in places. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 54 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Buckeye-Dog-Bone-Trails>

Directions to Dog Bone Joe Fosse Trailhead (Buckeye)

Go West on I-10 to Highway 85.

Drive South on Hwy 85 for about 9 miles.

Turn left opposite the Buckeye Hills regional Park (and Joe Fosse Shooting Range). Park on the left just before the fence.

The trail starts on the other side of the fence heading left (parallel to Hwy 85).

February 24 - Quail/Rainbow/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mtn Regional Park). Rating C. This is a 6.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 750 ft. 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. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<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 on Casey Abbott Dr **South** (first turn past turn-in to Nature Center).

Turn right on Trailhead Drive...Quail TH on the left, parking on right.

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.