

C LEVEL HIKING GROUPS - FRIDAYS

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

January 3 - Dog Bone Batman Rock (Buckeye). Rating C. This is an in and out hike of 8-10 miles with an elevation gain of 600-700 ft. The Dog Bone trail system is a sister bike trail system to FINS. This hike combines several trails on the far eastern side of the Dog Bone biking area on the west side of Buckeye. While the overall hike is through typical desert terrain, there are several interesting rock formations as well as views of the surrounding mountains. Our goal for this hike is to see a rock formation that looks like Batman's head. Near the beginning of the hike, there are 3 Saguaros that look like old versions of our club logo – a subtle reminder that we ourselves are no longer young. There is an optional extension to Chloe's Charisma – a ghost bike memorial. 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 50 miles RT.

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

Directions to Dog Bone Trailhead (Buckeye)

Go West on I-10 to Highway 85.

Drive South on Hwy 85 for about 7 miles.

Turn left on Robbins Butte Game Road.

Turn left at the sharp turn and immediately right on Narramore Road.

Just before the wash, turn left onto a dirt road.

Park on the right about a block down the road (where it widens).

Hike back to Narramore Road

The trail starts across Narramore Road slightly to the right.

January 10 - Cave Creek Trail #4 (Seven Springs Rec Area). Rating

C. This is a 7 mile out and back hike, with an elevation gain of about 880 ft. At about .8 miles the trail splits: Cave Creek (#4) to the right, Skunk Tank (#246) to the left across a small creek. At 1.8 miles we encounter a gate (fence). At 1.9 miles we encounter the first creek crossing – you step across via a number of large rocks. At 2.1 miles the first of two Crested Saguaros can be seen along the hillside to our right (about 3 o'clock). You need binoculars or a good telephoto lens to fully appreciate this oddity of nature. At 3.0 miles we encounter the second creek crossing. A quarter mile further up the trail is the second crested Saguaro cactus, just off the trail. A little further along the trail is a nice waterfall and shaded area where we will

turnaround. You have to drive on a 10 mile dirt road with 2 possible creek crossings to reach the trailhead, but a 4WD is not needed. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee for hiking. Driving distance is 140 miles RT. [SCG=6.5/1100/3.2].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SevenSpringsRecreationArea/Cave-Creek-Trail>

Directions to Cave Creek - Seven Springs/Skunk Tank Trailhead

Take Loop 303 to I-17.

Go North on I-17.

Turn right on Hwy 74 (Carefree Highway).

Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road.

Turn right on Cave Creek Road.

Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest.

At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road.

Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow.

Drive past the camp sites & look for a green 'Trail' sign which points to a parking area (with bathroom) on the left side of the road.

January 17 - Hassayampa Arch Trail (Morristown). Rating C/B. This is an in and out (C level) or lollipop loop (B level) hike of 7.5-9 miles with an elevation gain of 800-1200 ft. While the overall trail surface is pretty good as it follows old roads, the short by steep section up to the arch is mostly gravel and larger stones. The hike starts out by crossing the usually dry Hassayampa River. The arch is large - we can easily walk through it and there is room for many hikers to be shaded for the snack break. There are excellent views of the surrounding area and you can see as far as the White Tanks and beyond. Trail condition - mostly on old roads, with a short steep climb up to the arch. No restrooms. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Hassayampa-Arch>

Directions to Wickenburg - Hassayampa Arch Trailhead

Take Rt. 303 to Rt. 60 (Grand Ave.).

Go left on Rt. 60 towards Wickenburg.

Near Morristown (just past Castle Hot Springs Road),
turn left on W Gates Road

Drive down to the edge of the Agua Fria River and park.

Start the hike by crossing the river and following the road.
No restrooms at the trailhead.

January 24 - Caterpillar Hill Loop (Verrado). Rating C+/B. THIS IS PETE'S ANNUAL CHALLENGE HIKE FOR C HIKERS! This is an 8 to 10 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 800-1900 feet. For the C+ version, the first 2 miles are fairly flat, rising only 100 ft. Then the hike goes up the 9% grade Caterpillar Hill (700ft) over the next 1 3/4 miles. You then come back down the 11% grade road you see from Pebble Creek. Finally, you skirt the hill between the two trails and return on the 2 mile flat portion of the trail. For the B version, you would go to the top of the hill before coming down the 11% grade road. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

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.

January 31 - Circumference Trail # 302 (Piestewa Peak Rec Area).

Rating C+. A 4.7 mi. loop with an elevation gain of 1240 ft. We will hike this moderate, multi-use trail counter clockwise with sun on one side and shade on the other. The trail varies with flat, gentle and steep climbs around Piestewa Peak. We will hike to the saddle level-not the peak. The downhill side will have heavy use with people walking, jogging or running up to Piestewa Peak. Trail condition – most of the trail is an average hiking trail, but there are 3 steep climbs. Restrooms are at trailhead. There are no park fees. Driving distance is approx. 66 miles RT. This trail is also called the Freedom Trail.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixMountainsPreserve/Circumference-Summit>

Directions to Piestewa Peak Trailheads

Take I-10 East.

Exit onto Piestewa Peak Freeway (SR 51) north (right, exit 147)

Turn right on Lincoln Drive/Glendale Road (exit 5).

Turn left on Squaw Peak Drive (2nd stop light).

Drive to the end of the road (Apache Ramada).
The trails begin here. Restrooms are at the trailhead.