

### **A LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS**

#### **January 7 – Steep Steep Steep: Caterpillar Hill with return bushwhack via Deadman's Pass**

**Trails:** Gateway Loop / Bell Pass / East End / Tom's Thumb / Tom's Thumb Trail / The Lookout / Windgate Pass Trail / Gateway Loop Trail

#### **Rating A-**

An 11-12 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of over 2400 ft.

This hike climbs Caterpillar Hill from the Verrado Lost Creek Drive parking lot. The trail follows the rough truck track to the crest of Caterpillar Hill. After exploring the area at the crest we will return to the base of the hill and then bushwhack west, crossing into the north end of Deadman's Pass. We will follow or parallel the wash until meeting up with the Deadman's Pass formal trail. From this point we will loop through the Verrado trail system back to the car.

#### **What you need to know:**

This route uses a mix of rough truck roads, bushwhack and hiking trails

Caterpillar hill climb is very steep on a rough truck road

2-3 miles of bushwhacking

No Restrooms at the trailhead.

#### **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.

**A LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS****January 13 – Tour de Peoria****Trails: Sunrise, Westwing and Eastwing Trails**

This is a combination of three trails in Peoria totaling 11+ miles with a total elevation gain of 2600 ft, going up and down several peaks in three mountain ranges.

**Rating B**

**Sunrise Mountain Trail (Peoria).** This is a 5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1230 ft, going up and down three mountain peaks.

**West Wing Mountain trail** This is a 4 mile hike that goes up and down over 5 small peaks. Elevation gain is approx. 1000 feet.

**East Wing Mountain trail** This trail goes to the top of a short mountain (450 ft) within 1.3 miles using several switchbacks. There are 360 degree views from the peak.

What you need to know:

Average trail conditions

Some steep sections

Restrooms and water are at the trailhead

**Directions to Peoria Westwing Neighborhood park – 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.

**Directions from Westwing to Eastwing**

Turn right onto Westwing Parkway.

Turn Left onto Jomax Road.

Turn Left onto N Pyramid Peak Parkway – this changes to N Sonoran Mountain Ranch Road

Turn left on Chalfen Road

Immediately turn right on Miner Trail

Immediately turn right into parking lot – trail is further down Chalfen Road

**Directions from Eastwing to PebbleCreek**

Return to N Sonoran Mountain Ranch Road and turn right. This changes to N Pyramid Peak Parkway and follow to 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Drive to Happy Valley Road and turn right. Take to the 303 and head south back to PC.

**A LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS****January 20 – Superstition Mountains – Flat Iron****Trails: Flat Iron Trail via Syphon Draw****Rating A-**

This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation change of 2,800ft. The trail starts out with a gradual climb and into switchbacks to Siphon Draw and waterfall area. From there it is a lot of climbing over boulders and steep trail to the top of Flatiron. There is a rewarding view at the top. It is recommended that you bring a pair of gloves and long pants for this hike. Restrooms are located at the trailhead, which is in Lost Dutchman Park on the west side of the Superstitions. There is a park entrance fee of \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is approx. 120 miles RT. [SCG=6.0/3800/6.3].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Superstition-Mtn-to-Flatiron>

What you need to know:

Low mileage but Steep and rough scramble over informal trails, boulders and slab rock

Gloves and long pants recommended

Restrooms at trailhead

**Directions to Superstitions - Lost Dutchman State Park**

Out the main gate, south to I-10.

Take I-10 east to Route 202 east (carpool lane exits on left)

Exit onto Brown Road.

Turn left on Brown Road.

Turn left onto Apache Trail (Hwy 88).

Turn right into Lost Dutchman State Park and pay \$7.00 fee  
Park at the Cholla trailhead

**A LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS****January 27 – Spur Cross Adventure Hike: Skull Mesa**

**Trails:** # 247 # 248, Cottonwood, Quiensabe

**Rating A-**

**Distance** 12.4 miles roundtrip with an elevation gain of 3180 ft. Skull Mesa Trail # 248 features panoramic views of the desert foothills. This is a good place to see deer, javelina, and snakes. From the west junction with Cottonwood Trail at an elevation of 3260 feet the trail climbs many switchbacks, gaining over 1000 feet in a mile. For next mile, traverse Skull Mesa reaching elevation 4560 feet, then drops to the junction with Quiensabe Trail. The trail climbs and descends for 1.5 miles to its east junction with Cottonwood trail. Directions from Cave Creek: Travel north on Cave Creek road and turn left on Spur Cross Road. The trailhead is about 1.5 miles after the road turns to gravel. Porta-johns at the trailhead. Park fee is \$3.00 per person. Driving distance is approx 110 miles

RT <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SevenSpringsRecreationArea/Skull-Mesa>

What you need to know:

Long Mileage

Steep uphill to the top of Skull Mesa – be aware of loose stones on the descent  
Porta-johns at the trailhead.

Driving distance is 110 miles round trip.

**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.