

March D LEVEL HIKING GROUP - TUESDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest Clubhouse at 6:45 AM, depart at 7:00AM.

March 3 – Walking Jim Trail (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating D. An 4-4.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 400 ft. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek and offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (wild burros, etc). No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim>

Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead - Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road. Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74. Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway). Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off). Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).The trail goes off the left end of the parking area. No restrooms at the trailhead.

March 10 – Desert Park/Horseshoe/Gateway/Saguaro Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve South) D+ This is a 5.0 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of approximately 600 ft. This is a loop hike beginning from the Gateway Trailhead through typical desert scenery with many very nice Saguaro Cacti. The trail climbs to the Gateway Saddle with views of the north edge of Scottsdale before returning back to the trailhead. There are restrooms at the trailhead with no park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT.

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Gateway Trailhead
Take Hwy 101 north all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima-Bell road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approx. 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 mi. up the road. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.

March 17 – Brethren North – SR/JL/BL/GS/UT Loop (Estrella Foothills Park). Rating D+. This is a 4.8 mile Lollipop loop considered somewhat of a desert ramble with 500' of elevation gain. Typical desert scenery. Trail condition - good hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No parking fee. Driving distance 13 miles. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Estrella-Foothills>

Directions to Estrella Foothills Park - High School Trailhead - Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south), which becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10. Continue into and through the Estrella Mountain development. Turn left into the parking lot just before the Estrella Foothills High School building. Park at the far end of the parking Lot. Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee.

March 24 Skyline Segment (Rock Springs Trailhead - I-17 Exit 242) Rating D. This is a 3.7 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 430 feet. You hike to the Agua Fria River at about the 1.5 mile point. This section has great views of the river valley as you descend down to the river. You can walk along the river in both directions. The main climb is on the way back as you ascend from the river to the top of the ridge. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Trail condition - a good biking trail with one steep section just before getting to the river. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT - the last .25 miles are on a gravel road. The Rock Springs Café (great pies) is .8 miles from the trailhead and you will pass it to get back on I-17.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BCT-Skyline-Segment>

Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Rock Springs Café Trailhead – Take Loop 303 to I-17. Turn left onto I-17 North toward Flagstaff. Take exit 242 (Black Canyon City & Rock Springs Cafe). Turn left (West), crossing I-17. At the stop sign, turn right on the frontage road. Drive about 300 feet and turn left on Warner Road (trail sign on left). Drive about 1300 feet and turn right at the first crossroad. Drive just over 300 feet to the parking area on the right, near end of road. There is a restroom and water at the trailhead. (Rock Springs Café is .8 miles from the trailhead)

**March 31 – Dog Bone Wilderness Area. Death Wish/Bird/Madd
Bird/Highways & Byways Minors/Roller Coaster/ Turtle Rock Loop. Rating**

D - This is a 4.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 350 ft. This is a new hike just south of Buckeye that passes through typical undulating desert by a hill discovered this summer. This hike passes an old mine shaft that was occupied by an owl during our previous two exploratory hikes. There are some interesting rock formations. There are no facilities at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx. 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Sonoran-Loop>

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).