

"B" LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:45 a.m., depart at 7:00 (early meet/depart is 6:15/6:30...but, always check the weekly e-mail).

November 1 - Constellation & Willow Lake Dells (Prescott). Rating B-. This is an 8-mile multi-loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1500 ft. There are lots of great views of the Granite Dells rock formations as well as Willow Lake and the mountains of Prescott. There are a couple of "fat man's pass" like cuts through the rocks as well as a bridge across a portion of the rock formations. Trail condition - much of the trail is on granite boulders (white paint marks the trail) and there are many short hills to go up over and down. No park fee. Restroom at the TH.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Constellation>

Directions to Prescott - Constellation Trails (223 miles RT)

Drive North on Loop 303 and follow until it ends at I-17.

Take I-17 north to Cordes Junction, Exit 262.

Turn North (left) on SR 69 to Prescott.

Turn right on Fain Road.

Take Exit 317 then left on SR 89.

Parking lot for Constellation Trail is on the right.

Restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee.

November 8 - Hawes Loop Trail long option, Granite Reef Rec Area (Usery Mountain Park). Rating B. This is an 11.7-mile, 2000 ft elevation gain hike with a variety of interesting views. Most of the hike provides views of Red Mountain, the Granite Reef Dam and the park. The hike starts out about 100 ft North of parking lot for the Hawes Trail trailhead. Cross the street to the trailhead for the Hawes Trail. Over the first 3 miles, the trail slowly rises about 400 ft through typical desert brush. Around the 5.4 mile point you will pass several large mansions. There are many large Saguaro in the center of the park, which forms a large bowl. The trail generally wanders around the edge of the bowl. This trail has the potential for numerous Spring wildflowers if winter rains are sufficient. There are restrooms in the Granite reef Rec Area. No parking fee with Senior Pass.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/UseryMountainRegionalPark/Hawes-Loop-Trail>

Directions to Hawes Loop Trail (100 miles RT)

I-10 HOV east to Rt 202E (HOV left exit)

Rt 202E to Power Rd exit, turn left (North).

Go about 2 miles to bottom of the hill and turn left into Granite Reef Rec Area.

The trail starts across the street, about 100 feet north of entrance to parking lot.

Free with Senior Pass...restrooms in the park area.

November 15 - Sunset Point Canyon Trail (I-17 North). Rating B. This is an 8.5-mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of about 1200 ft. The trail goes from the exit for Sunset Point down to the Agua Fria River. You then have a choice of following the riverbed or the trail that parallels the river going South (if you can find it). There is lots of clambering over boulders in the river. This is a beautiful hike through a nice river canyon. Trail condition – the trail to the river is a typical desert trail but is well marked with yellow ribbons but the hike along the river is sandy with lots of large boulders to climb over. There is no park entrance fee. Restrooms are at Sunset Point.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-3/Sunset-Point-Canyon>

Directions to Sunset Point Canyon Trail (110 miles RT)

Take Loop 303 north to I-17.

Turn left onto I-17 (north) toward Flagstaff.

Go to the Sunset Point exit.

Turn right at the stop sign and go around the corner to the end of the pavement.

Parking is on the right (restrooms are at Sunset Point rest stop).

The trail starts at the end of the parking area...look for a yellow ribbon.

November 22 - Arnett Canyon & Picketpost Loop Trail (Superior). Rating B. There are 3 versions of this hike – the B version is a full loop of 9.3 miles & 1000 ft EG; the C version is an in and out of Arnett Canyon & Telegraph Canyon and is 7 miles & 700 ft; the D version is just Arnett Canyon and is 4+ miles and 400 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. Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.

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

Directions to Picketpost Trailhead (160 miles RT)

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.

November 29 - Praying Hands/Massacre Falls Loop (Superstitions). Rating B. This is a 9-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 2000 feet. You start on Jacob's Crosscut trail for one mile, passing through typical desert terrain with lots of Saguaros and Jumping Cholla. Then turn left (uphill) on trail 56. Up the hill past a rock cropping is a bench at the junction with a trail going left. This is the Praying

hands trail and will pass to the right of the lower rock outcropping known as Praying Hands. There are several winding trails that get you up to the saddle – so take any of them that head toward Praying Hands. There are great views of the valley and various rock formations as you travel along the trail. Once you get past the Praying Hands rock formation, the trail is marked by cairns. The “B” hike includes a side hike to an interesting and scenic “hidden canyon.” Massacre Falls will appear around the 6 mile point - off to the right. After stopping at the falls, you take the trail angling right back down the mountain to the trailhead. Trail condition - the first and last thirds are good hiking surfaces, with the middle third a boulder covered semi-bushwhack. There are no restrooms (though you can go 1.5 miles further up the road to the 1st Water trailhead which has restrooms and then return to the trailhead). No park fee from this trailhead.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Massacre-Falls-Trail>

Directions to Superstitions - Crosscut Trailhead (122 miles RT)

Go east on I-10...exit onto Loop 202 East (carpool lane exit is on left)

Turn left on Brown Rd (exit 26) to Apache Trail (Hwy 88) (Brown Rd changes to Lost Dutchman Blvd in Pinal County)

Turn left on Hwy 88 and go past Lost Dutchman SP to FS 78 (near MP 201).

Turn right and follow this dirt road approximately 1 mile.

Parking for the Crosscut trailhead is on the right.

The Praying Hands hike heads straight out on the Crosscut trail.

The Massacre Falls hike heads off to the left, right in front of the parking area.

Note: restrooms are at the First Water Trailhead, about 1.5 miles further along the dirt road.