

## **C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS**

**Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:45 am, depart at 7:00.**

### **November 1 - Constellation & Willow Lake Dells (Prescott). Rating C+.**

This is a 7 mile multi-loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1400 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 (they use white paint to park the trail) and there are many short hills to go up over and down. No park fee. There is a porta-john across the road on the trail. Driving distance is 223 miles RT.

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

### **Directions to Prescott - Constellation Trails**

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.

Turn left into the Phippen Museum parking lot.

Trailhead parking is up the hill on the right.

No restrooms. No park fee.

**November 8 - Dog Bone Big Bird Loop (Buckeye). Rating C.** This is a loop hike of about 7 miles with an elevation gain of 600 ft. The Dog Bone trail system is a sister bike trail system to FINS. This hike combines several trails to the west side of the Dog Bone biking area. It goes up to the highest point in the system (the end of Big Bird trail). While the overall hike is through typical desert terrain, there are several interesting rock formations as well as views of the surrounding mountains. 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. 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.

**November 15 - Mesquite Canyon/Willow Spring trails (White Tank Mountains). Rating C+.** It is a 6.3 to 8.0 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1100-1500 ft. The basic trail goes to the base of Willow Springs/falls with an option to go around to the top of the waterfall. The trail starts on the Mesquite trail in area #7 just off of Ramada Way. Mile one is very steep and rocky, around 1.8 miles the trail then turns north and drops into Mesquite Canyon and then over a ridge into Willow Canyon. The trail follows the wash up to Willow Springs where the remnants of a cabin, stock tank and corral once stood at the steep walled end of the canyon. The spring usually has some water, though it might be only a trickle. Trail condition - average hiking trail with a couple of steep climbs. Restrooms and water fountain are at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 30 miles RT. [SCG=6.6/1700/3.8].  
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Mesquite-Willow-Springs>

**Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park**

Take 303 North (right).

Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West).

Turn right on Cotton.

Turn left on Olive and follow it to the park gate.

Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads (except from the library which is \$2.00 per hiker).

Restrooms are at the trailhead for each of the hikes (inside the library for the hikes from the library).

Mesquite Canyon/Waddell trailhead is at Picnic area #7. Turn left on Waterfall Canyon Rd and then left at the road just past the Waterfall Trail trailhead to find Picnic area #7.

**November 22 - Massacre Falls Loop (Superstitions). Rating C+.** This is a 6 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1500 feet. You start at the Crosscut trailhead and head off to the left along the fence for the parking area. There are great views of the valley and various rock formations as you travel along the trail. As you work your way up you will pass a shot side trail that overlooks the area of the massacre. Massacre Falls itself will be off to the right. Trail condition – an average hiking trail, but steady uphill going and downhill on the return. There are no restrooms (though you can go 1.5 miles further up the road to the 1<sup>st</sup> Water trailhead which has restrooms and then return to the trailhead). No park fee from this trailhead. Driving distance is 122 miles RT.  
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Massacre-Falls-Trail>

#### **Directions to Superstitions - Crosscut Trailhead**

Go east on I-10.

Exit onto Loop 202 East (carpool lane exit is on left)

Turn left on Brown Rd to Apache Trail (Hwy 88)

(Brown Rd changes to Lost Dutchman Blvd in Pinal County)

Turn left onto Apache Trail (Hwy 88)

and go past Lost Dutchman State Park to FS 78 (near mile marker 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 away from the parking lot on the Crosscut trail.

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

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

**November 29 - Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial Trail (Yarnell). Rating C+/B.** This is a 6-7.2+ mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1200-1800 ft. The trail is a memorial to the Hotshots firefighting team from Prescott who lost their lives fighting the 2013 Yarnell Hill fire. It goes up over the ridge where they lost their lives and includes plaques for each of the 19 fire fighters who died there. Trail condition - the trail is a good hiking surface but goes steadily up right from the parking lot. No restrooms at this time at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Granite-Mountain-Hotshots-Memorial-State-Park>

#### **Directions to Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park**

Drive north on Loop 303.

Take Hwy 60 west toward Wickenburg.

Turn right on Hwy 93/89 (toward Las Vegas).

Turn right on 89 and drive toward Yarnell.

Just before reaching Yarnell, follow the brown signs to the park (left turn).

The park has maybe a dozen parking spots and a restroom...no park fee.

(If lot is full, no parking on the road...have to go to Yarnell for shuttle: \$5/hiker)