

D LEVEL HIKING GROUP - TUESDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest Clubhouse at 6:30AM, depart at 6:45AM.

September 24 - Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) North loop (Estrella Mountain Ranch). Rating D. This is about a 4 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 400 ft on several trails in the Western part of the FINS bike trails system. The trails meander through several desert hills with many rock formations. There is an interesting area - an enchanted forest of stuffed animals. Trail condition - this is a very good biking trail. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles

RT.<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRanch/Fantasy-Island-North>

Directions to FINS – Fantasy Island Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south), which becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10. Continue for approx. 12.5 miles from Eagle's Nest. Turn right on West Westar Drive. Go approx. 1.1 mi. and turn left into the parking lot (this turn is easy to miss so turn just before a one-level concrete maintenance building; here is also a tall steel tower for power lines). No restrooms. No park fee.

October 1 – Cottonwood Trail to Pipeline Canyon Trail to Bridge (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating D. This is a 4+ mile hike in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 400 ft. This is a fairly easy hike. The hike goes from the northwest corner of Lake Pleasant to a floating bridge that crosses part of the lake. It's a good spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. And keep your eyes peeled for burros - there are many in the area. No restrooms at the trailhead, but along the trail. There is a park fee of \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/800/2.3]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Yavapai-Cottonwood>

Directions to Ramada 1 (North Entrance), Lake Pleasant Park Go left (west) on Indian School to Loop 303. Turn right (north) on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road. Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74. Turn left (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road (Lake Pleasant Regional Park turnoff) and turn right (North) and drive 5.2 miles to "T" intersection. Turn right at the "T" on Castle Creek Drive. Pay \$7.00 park fee and park on right. No restrooms are at the Trailhead

October 8 - 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 minimal elevation gain. Nice pleasant hike to get some of the holiday cheer off the waistline. Helps begin the postholiday conditioning program to get back in the groove. 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.

October 15 – Bootlegger/Granite Mountain/Turpentine Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale). Rating D. This is a 4.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of approximately 500 ft. It passes through a large boulder field of interesting shapes. It finishes by going through a small area of turpentine bushes. There are 3 rock formations that look like camels along the final section of the trail. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of Pebble Creek. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mt-North>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - 136th St Trailhead – Take Loop 303 North to I-17. Turn left (North) on I-17 stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Rd about 10 mi as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Dr. Take Cave Creek Road North (left) and turn right at next light on Dynamite Blvd. Follow Dynamite (name changes to Rio Verde) and turn left on 136th Street. For Granite Mt Loop, drive about 2 mi and park on the left under the power lines. For Hawknest Loop, drive about 5.1 mi and park just beyond the Nat'l Forest kiosk (last mile or so can be rough so recommend high clearance). There are no restrooms at trailhead (but you can stop off at the Brown's Ranch TH by turning left on Alma School Road and going about a mile to the end).

October 22 - Black Canyon Trail – 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)

October 29 - Maricopa Trail - Lake Pleasant East (Lake Pleasant). Rating C-. This is a 4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 500 ft. The hike goes across the front of the Lake Pleasant dam about half mile away. It goes through several washes as it climbs up above the level of the dam. It goes below, though not under the Arizona Canal (you have to do the hike to see why). Lots of typical desert brush including many types of cactus. This trail can be combined with the Morgan City Wash trail to form a nice 7 mile hike. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 64 miles RT.

Directions to Morgan City Wash Trail (Lake Pleasant) - Go left (west) on Indian School to Loop 303. Turn right (north) on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road. Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Hwy74. Turn left (west) and drive past MP 22. Turn right on Beardsley CSR Road a couple of hundred yards past MP 22. Drive about a quarter mile to the Maricopa Trail trailhead on the left (just as the road turns right). No park fee, but no facilities at the trailhead.