

TUESDAY "D" LEVEL HIKES for 2021-22

PLEASE CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR MEET-UP TIME AND LOCATION!!

Sept 21 - Library North Trail (White Tanks Regional Park). Rating D. Kay Thomas will lead. This is a 4+ mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 350 ft. We head north from the White Tanks library with expansive views of the west valley, before taking our break at Ramada #4 and then returning to the library. For those interested in seeing some of the desert wildlife in a controlled environment, there is a small nature center with several rattlesnakes, a Gila Monster, a tarantula, and some scorpions (safely behind glass). Restrooms are in the library and Ramada #4. Park Fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 24 miles RT.

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).

Library trailhead: the sidewalk on the left of the building, turn right just before the gate and park on the left side of the library. Trail goes off the end of the sidewalk on the left of the building.

Sept 28 - Mule Deer/Black Rock/Waterfall Trails (White Tanks Regional Park). Rating D. Art Solorio will lead. This is a 5+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 525 ft. The hike starts on the Mule Deer trail at Ramada 3 and goes through typical desert along a good trail to a hidden waterfall (usually dry). Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

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.

Meet up at Ramada 3

Oct 5 - Deem Hills Inner Circumference Trail (Phoenix). Hike was rained out and moved to Oct 26.

Oct 12 - Cottonwood Trail to Pipeline Canyon Trail to Bridge (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating D. Art Solorio will lead. 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.

<https://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.

Oct 19 – Sonoran Loop - Competitive Track - Short Version (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. Art Solorio will lead. This is a 4.2 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 250 ft. This is a one-way competitive bike trail with a few ups and downs through washes. The high point gives you nice views back to the east. A short detour on the second half of the hike takes you to a Crested Saguaro. There's a porta-john at the trailhead. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee. Driving distance is approx 30 miles RT

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

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Competitive-Loop>

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).

Sonoran Loop Trail is at the end of the main road, slightly right off the end of the paved road.

The restroom on this hike is a porta-john.

Oct 26 - Deem Hills Inner Circumference Trail (Phoenix). Rating D+. Kay Thomas will lead. This is a 4.1 mile loop hike around the Deem Hills Recreation area with an elevation change of 560 ft. There are distinct vegetation areas on the different sides of the hills. There would be good wildflowers after a wet winter. Good views from the top showing the area north of 101 and west of I-17. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No Park Fee. Driving Distance is 65 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/DeemHillsPark/Circumference-Trail>

Directions to Deem Hills Park

Take 101 North

Turn North on 59th Ave

Turn North (left) on 55th Ave.

55th Ave becomes Deem Hills Pkwy.

The park is on the right.

There is no park fee.

Restrooms are at the parking lot.

Directions to Deem Hills - Alternate

Take 303 North.

Turn East (right) on Happy Valley Parkway.

Turn North (left) on 55th Ave.

55th Ave becomes Deem Hills Pkwy.

The park is on the right...No park fee.

Restrooms are at the parking lot.

Nov 2 - Black Canyon Trail – K Mine Segment (Exit 242) Rating D+. Dave Schuldt will lead. This is a 5 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. The hike goes 2.5 miles along a ridge that follows the Agua Fria River before descending down to the river using a series of sharp switchbacks. This stretch of the hike provides nice views of the river canyon as well as Black Canyon City. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Trail condition - a good biking trail with one steep section just before crossing the river. No park fee. Driving

distance is 110 miles RT - the last .25 miles are on a gravel road. The Rock Springs Café (great pies and burgers) is .8 miles from the trailhead and you will pass it to get back on I-17.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/K-mine-Segment-Exit-242>

Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Rock Springs Cafe 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)

Nov 9 - Ford Canyon View (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. Art Solorio will lead. This is a 4 mi out & back on the same trail with an elevation gain of about 500 ft. This is a scenic hike to a point with views of the white rocks in Ford Canyon. There are restrooms at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-Canyon-Mesquite>

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.

Ford Canyon Trail trailhead parking is at Picnic area #7. Take the Waddell Trail across to the Ford Canyon Trail.

Nov 16 - Star Tower: Sidewinder-Coyote Creek-Scorpion-Coyote Creek-Thrasher-Coyote Creek-Copper State-Sidewinder (Estrella Foothills-Star Tower TH). Rating D. Dana Thomas will lead. This hike is 4.3 miles with an elevation gain of about 400 feet. Additional options include the Little Loop off of Copper State for 0.3 miles or Ridge Line (steep & 100 ft ascent) for 0.5 miles (RT). The trail provides panoramic views of the Estrella area and the Lucero community. Coyote Den is a good break point. This is a typical desert trail with a few short steep up and down sections in small washes. There is a coffee/pastry stand and public restroom near the trailhead (may be closed at the beginning of the hike and is open on the way out). No park fee.

Directions to Star Tower Trailhead

Head south out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy, which becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10. Continue for just over 8 miles.

Turn right just past the Star Tower

Park in the curved parking area.

Nov 23 –Bootlegger/Granite Mountain/Turpentine Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale).

Rating D. Art Solorio will lead. 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 trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance 110 miles RT.

<https://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 take exit 222 going Right 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).

Nov 30 - Rainbow, Baseline, Saddle, Quail Loop. (Estrella Mountain Reg Park). Rating D. Art Solorio will lead. A loop hike with typical desert scenery. 4.1 miles, 400' elevation gain. Restrooms at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7. Driving distance RT is 20 miles.

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow Trailhead

Turn out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)

South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. (just across the Gila River).

Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.

Drive around the park to the left.

Trailheads and restrooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Dec 7 - Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) North loop (Estrella Mountain Ranch). Rating D. Kay Thomas will lead. 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 also a biking trail. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRanch/Fantasy-Island-North>

Directions to FINS - Fantasy Island Trailhead

Turn 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.

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; there is also a tall steel tower for power lines).

No restrooms. No park fee.

Dec 14 - Dragonfly Trail + Metate Trails, Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating D. Kay Thomas will lead. This is about a 4.8 mile lollipop loop with an elevation gain of 540 ft. The hike starts out going back up the road for a quarter mile, then turns right on a slant. At the bottom of the hill, turn right. You will cross the creek and travel through a Saguaro forest with very tall Saguaro cactus. The whole area along the creek is a riparian area, which contains permanent pools of water and lots of vegetation. The trail makes a loop around the Jewel of the Creek Preserve, which contains many different bird species and up to 20 different dragonfly species. We then go in the other direction on the Spur Cross trail to the Metate trail. About ¾ of a mile on the trail is a forest of very large saguaros. This is our turn-around point. Porta-johns are just past the parking area in the park, but there is a park fee is \$3.00 per person. The Dragonfly trail is free, but the other trails in the park are not. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Metate-Dragonfly-Trails>

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 (watch for road after 53rd)

Turn left (North) on Spur Cross Road (main road veers left)

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.

Dec 21 – Entry Parking Lot-Turnbuckle-Granite Falls-Chuckwalla Loop Trail (Skyline Regional Park - Buckeye).

Rating D+. Gary Baker will lead. This is a loop hike of about 4.2 miles with an elevation gain of about 600 ft. This is one of the trails in Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park. There are great views of the area from the saddle. There are several optional trails to the tops of the ridges. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park/Skyline-Regional-Park/>

Directions to Skyline Regional Park Trailhead

Go West on I-10.

Turn north (right) on Watson Road.

Drive to end of road and trailhead parking.

Facilities are at the trailhead.

Dec 28 - Rainbow Valley/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mountain Regional Park). Rating D. Gary Baker will lead. This is a 4.7 mile loop with a 400 ft elevation gain. Beginning on the west side of the rodeo. The Rainbow Valley trail is wide and relatively flat. It intersects the Dysart Trail. Turn left onto the Dysart Trail to the Toothaker Trail. Turn left on the Toothaker Trail and head back to the rodeo. Trail condition - good hiking trail. A restroom is at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Rainbow-Toothaker>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow

Turn out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south) South of I-10

Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.

Drive around the park to the left.

Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Jan 4 - Cottonwood Ln + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating D+. Art Solorio will lead. This is a 4.9 mile hike in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 500+ ft. The hike goes from Area 3 on Cottonwood Ln to the Yavapai Point trail and goes up to the point, before returning to Area 3. There are excellent views of the lake from the top of Yavapai Point. It's a good spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. And keep your eyes peeled for wild burros - there are many in the area. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is a park fee of \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Yavapai-Cottonwood>

Directions to Ramada 3 Lake Pleasant Regional Park

Drive north on Loop 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.

Turn left on Hwy 74 (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road (Lake Pleasant Regional Park turnoff) and turn right (North).

Turn right on Castle Creek Drive (T intersection where pavement ends).

Pay \$7.00 park fee... Turn right on Cottonwood Lane. Restrooms are at the trailhead.

Jan 11 – Estrella Foothills-Elliott TH, Pirates Cove/SK/WU/UT Rating is D. Kay Thomas will lead. This is a 4.1 miles in and out hike, 450 feet elevation gain. Shiver me timbers thru Pirate Cove trail, on to Scallywag, What's Up and Up There. Beautiful views of Estrella lakes. Driving distance is 20 miles RT. No park fee, No restrooms at trailhead.

Directions to Estrella Foothills

Turn out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south)

PCP becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10.

Continue up the hill into Estrella Mountain to the shopping area

Turn left on Elliott (light just past the shopping area)

Park at the far end

Jan 18 - Sidewinder-Copper State-Coyote Creek-Thrasher-Coyote Creek-Recluse (use road)-Copper State-Sidewinder (Estrella Foothills-Star Tower TH). Rating D. Gary Baker will lead. This hike is 4.6 miles with an elevation gain of about 400 feet. The trail provides panoramic views of the Estrella area and the Lucero community. Coyote Den is a good break point at just over 2 miles from the trailhead. This is a typical desert trail with a few short steep up and down sections in small washes. There is a coffee/pastry stand and public restroom near the trailhead (may be closed at the beginning of the hike and is open on the way out).

Directions to Star Tower Trailhead

Head south out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy, which becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10. Continue for just over 8 miles.

Turn right just past the Star Tower

Park in the curved parking area.

No restrooms. No park fee.

Jan 25 - Brown Ranch (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) - Cathedral Rock Amphitheater. Rating D+. Gary Baker will lead. Distance is 6 miles, elevation 365 ft. Brown's Ranch Road/Maverick/Cholla Mtn Loop to the Cathedral/Cholla Mtn Loop to the Amphitheater/Watershed/Chuckwagon/Brown's Ranch Road. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Four Peaks, the Boulders and Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail with many different cacti species. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/BrownMountain>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Brown's Ranch Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North and drive to I-17.

Turn left (North) on I-17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road.

Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 mi. (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive).

Take Cave Creek Road North (left).

Turn right at first light on Dynamite Blvd (later changes to Rio Verde).

Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. There are restrooms at the trailhead

Feb 1 – Entry Parking Lot-Turnbuckle-Granite Falls-Chuckwalla Loop Trail (Skyline Regional Park - Buckeye). Rating D+. Art Solorio will lead. This is a loop hike of about 4.2 miles with an elevation gain of

about 600 ft. This is one of the trails in Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park. There are great views of the area from the saddle. There are several optional trails to the tops of the ridges. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park/Skyline-Regional-Park/>

Directions to Skyline Regional Park Trailhead

Go West on I-10.

Turn north (right) on Watson Road.

Drive to end of road and trailhead parking.

Facilities are at the trailhead.

Feb 8 - Brethren North – SR/JL/BL/GS/UT Loop (Estrella Foothills). Rating D. Kay Thomas will lead.

This is a 4.8 mile Lollipop loop considered somewhat of a desert ramble with minimal elevation gain. Nice pleasant hike to get the new hiking season conditioning. 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 out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south), 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 past Westar Dr and before the Estrella Foothills High School building.

(You will see a brown sign "Foothills Community Park")

Park at the far end of the parking Lot.

Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee.

Feb 15 - Marcus Landslide (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating D. Art Solorio will lead. The D version is an in-and-out hike to the Marcus Landslide area of 4.2-4.7 miles with an elevation gain of 700 ft (depending on the side trips you take). The D hike has much of the elevation gain on the return trip. There are lots of great views to the east and north including the Superstitions and Four Peaks areas. Plus there are views of great granite boulders. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 108 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Marcus-LandslideRock-Knob-Loop>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Tom's Thumb Trailhead (108 mi. RT)

Take Loop 303 North to I-17.

Turn left (North) on I-17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road.

Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Dr.)

Take Cave Creek Road North (left).

Turn right on Dynamite Blvd (becomes Rio Verde).

Turn right on Alma School Road.

Turn left on Jomax Road.

Turn right on 118th St.

Turn left on Ranch Gate Road.

Turn right on 128th St. Stay left as the road runs into the new trailhead. There are restrooms but no water at trailhead.

Feb 22 – Sonoran Loop - Competitive Track - Short Version (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D.

Gary Baker will lead. This is a 4.2 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 250 ft. This is a one-way competitive bike trail with a few ups and downs through washes. The high point gives you nice views back to the east. A short detour on the second half of the hike takes you to a Crested Saguaro. There's a porta-john at the trailhead. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee. Driving distance is approx 30 miles RT

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

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Competitive-Loop>

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).

Sonoran Loop Trail is at the end of the main road, slightly right off the end of the paved road.

The restroom on this hike is a porta-john.

March 1 – Bajada/GoatCamp/South/Mule Deer/Bajada (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. Kay Thomas will lead. This is a 4.6 mile hike with an elevation gain of 250 ft. The hike starts on the Bajada trail at Ramada 2 and goes through typical desert along a loop trail that works itself south of the Nature Center and back again north. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

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.

Drive to Ramada #2

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

March 8 - Overton Trail Loop (Cave Creek). Rating D. Art Solorio will lead. Trail is a 4.6 mile heavily trafficked loop trail, elevation gain of 524 feet, located near Cave Creek, Arizona that features beautiful wild flowers and is rated as moderate. The trail offers a side loop near the end to see the "Michelin Man" saguaro. There are restrooms near trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.

Directions to Overton Trailhead

Take 303 North (right)

Turn North on I-17

Take Exit 223A onto W Carefree Hwy (Hwy 74)

Turn left onto N 32nd St and follow it into the Cave Creek Regional Park entry station

Follow E Cave Creek Pkwy to the Overton Access Trailhead

March 15 - Mule Deer/Black Rock/Waterfall Trails (White Tanks Regional Park). Rating D. Gary Baker will lead. This is a 5+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 525 ft. The hike starts on the Mule Deer trail at Ramada 3 and goes through typical desert along a good trail to a hidden waterfall (usually dry). Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

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.

Meet up at Ramada 3

March 22 - Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) South loop (Estrella Mountain Ranch). Rating D.

Kay Thomas will lead. This is about a 3.7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 400 ft on several trails in the eastern part of the FINS bike trails system. The trails meander through several desert hills with many rock formations. There is an interesting area - a boneyard of dozens of cow bones. Trail condition - this is a very good biking trail. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.

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

Directions to FINS - Fantasy Island Trailhead

Turn 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; there is also a tall steel tower for power lines).

No restrooms. No park fee.

March 29 - Fat Man's Pass from the West (South Mountain). Rating D+/C. Gary Baker will lead. A 4.5 to

6.8 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 600-1080 ft. It follows the National Trail starting at the Buena Vista lookout, looping at Hidden Valley through boulders and rock tunnels, and returning on National Trail. Interesting, fun hike, with a few large boulders to climb over and slide down. An optional extra half-mile hike with an elevation change of 130 ft can be added by taking a side trail to the right at marker #18. This trail goes to the top of the ridge giving hikers a 360-degree view of the surrounding area. A second optional addition is a .8 mile out and back hike (150 ft elevation change) going west from the parking lot to the China Wall, a natural rock formation that looks like a manmade wall from a distance. A third option is to go to an overlook to the left of the parking area, adding another .8 miles and 50 ft EG. Trail condition - mostly an uneven surface of rock so you need to keep your eyes on the trail. Several "drop your poles and slide on your butt" areas. Restrooms are at the park office. No park fee. Driving distance is 70 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-West>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance

Take I-10 east

Take Exit 138. SR-202 Loop south

Take either the Baseline Rd or Dobbins Rd exit and turn left onto them.

Turn right onto Central Avenue into South Mountain Park

Go through the South Mountain Park guard shack (no fees)

Go through another guard shack to the Park Office area.

Restrooms available here. Proceed up the Summit Road about 6.5 miles following the signs to Buena Vista Parking area.

Trailhead is at the Buena Vista Parking area.

April 5 - Brethren North – SR/JL/BL/GS/UT Loop (Estrella Foothills). Rating D. Gary Baker will lead.

This is a 4.8 mile Lollipop loop considered somewhat of a desert ramble with minimal elevation gain. Nice

pleasant hike. 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 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 past Westar Dr and before the Estrella Foothills High School building. (You will see a brown sign "Foothills Community Park")

Park at the far end of the parking Lot.

Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee.

April 12 - Rainbow Valley/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mountain Regional Park). Rating D. Gary Baker will lead. This is a 4 mile loop with a 400 ft elevation gain. Beginning on the west side of the rodeo. The Rainbow Valley trail is wide and relatively flat. It intersects the Dysart Trail. Turn left onto the Dysart Trail to the Toothaker Trail. Turn left on the Toothaker Trail and head back to the rodeo. Trail condition - good hiking trail. A restroom is at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Rainbow-Toothaker>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow

Turn out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south) South of I-10

Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.

Drive around the park to the left.

Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

April 19 - Cottonwood Ln + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating D+. Art Solorio will lead. This is a 4.9 mile hike in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 500+ ft. The hike goes from Area 3 on Cottonwood Ln to the Yavapai Point trail and goes up to the point, before returning to Area 3. There are excellent views of the lake from the top of Yavapai Point. It's a good spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. And keep your eyes peeled for wild burros - there are many in the area. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is a park fee of \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Yavapai-Cottonwood>

Directions to Ramada 3 Lake Pleasant Regional Park

Drive north on Loop 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74.

Turn left on Hwy 74 (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road (Lake Pleasant Regional Park turnoff) and turn right (North).

Turn right on Castle Creek Drive (T intersection where pavement ends).

Pay \$7.00 park fee... Turn right on Cottonwood Lane. Restrooms are at the trailhead.

April 26 - Ford Canyon View (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. Kay Thomas will lead. This is a 4 mi out & back on the same trail with an elevation gain of about 500 ft. This is a scenic hike to a point with views of the white rocks in Ford Canyon. There are restrooms at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-Canyon-Mesquite>

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.

Ford Canyon Trail trailhead parking is at Picnic area #7. Take the Waddell Trail across to the Ford Canyon Trail.

May 3 – Doubloon Loop – SR/PA/JR/DO/RR/PA/SR (Estrella Foothills Park). Rating D. Kay Thomas will lead. This is a 5-mile lollipop loop with 400' elevation gain and typical desert scenery. Trail condition - good hiking trail - the intersection of Jolly Roger, Doubloon and Queen Anne's Revenge is clear but no signage exists so consult the map. There are two paths from Doubloon to Rum Runner; one is slightly longer than the other but both get to the same place. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No parking fee. Driving distance is 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.