**THURSDAY D HIKES, FALL 2020**

**Sept 24. Dogbone Marty’s Loop.**  Rating D. This is a 4.5 mile lollipop loop on good, relatively flat, trails with about 300’ of elevation gain. There are interesting rock formations and good views to the White Tanks to the North. No park fee and no restrooms at the trailhead.

**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).

**Oct 1. Rainbow Valley/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mountains).  Rating D.**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 Dycsart 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.

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

**Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH**

 Turn left 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.

**Oct 8. NEW HIKE Bell Rd South. Rating D.** proceeds south for 4-6 miles with minimal elevation gain. You have good views of the White Tank Mountains on a good hiking trail. You will pass a radio controlled aircraft club and may be able ot observe R/C planes dogfighting—pretty interesting. No park fee. No restrooms.

**Driving directions:** Hwy 303 North to Bell Rd West which becomes Sun Lakes Pkwy. Watch for a sign about a mile past the developed area for Maricopa Trail Parking on the right.

**Oct 15. 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 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) Verrado North Trail (White Tank Mountains). Rating D. This is a 4.4 mile lollipop loop hike towards Dead Man’s Pass, then to the Petrojlyphs, returning on a two-track road. The first part of the hike is rather flat then you parallel a wash and follow it up to a point that will give you nice views of the west side of the White Tank Mountains. Goof hiking trails. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT. GAIA map. Directions to Trailhead at Verrado West Go West on Indian School Road. Turn left on Acacia Way (just past the high school). Turn right on Lost Creek Drive Parking for the trailhead is at the end of Lost Creek Drive. You walk between the green and a tee on the Raven at Verrado golf course to get to the trailhead.

**Oct 22. NEW HIKE** **Maricopa/Estrella Foothills (SR/PA) from EMRP boundary to Estrella Foothills HS parking lot.** 2 miles. Trail follows the Park Ave Trail to power lines (SR Trail) to parking lot**.** Crosscut Trail from Pedersen to Park boundary is .8 miles.

**Oct 29. Verrado North Trail** (White Tank Mountains). Rating D+. This is a 4.7 mile lollipop loop hike, with 640’ of elev gain, towards Dead Man’s Pass, then to the Petroglyphs, returning via SOB trail. The first part of the hike is rather flat then you parallel a wash and follow it up to a point that will give you nice views of the west side of the White Tank Mountains. Good hiking trails. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT. GAIA map.

**Directions to Trailhead at Verrado West** Go West on Indian School Road. Turn left on Acacia Way (just past the high school). Turn right on Lost Creek Drive Parking for the trailhead is at the end of Lost Creek Drive. You walk between the green and a tee on the Raven at Verrado golf course to get to the trailhead.

**Nov 5. NEW HIKE Coldwater Trail to Saddle.** (Estrella Mtn Reg Park). Rating D. This is a 4.6 mile in and out hike to a saddle that will give D hikers a view into the southern area of the park . Trail is a wide road for about a mile, then a scenic 4WD road to the saddle with a gradual climb of about 350'. PortaPotty at trailhead. Park fee is $7. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

**Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park -**

Turn left 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. Park at Coldwater trailhead near rodeo arena

**Nov 12. Walking  Jim  Trail** (Hells Canyon Wilderness).  Rating C.    This is a 7 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 900 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).  The break occurs at an interesting red rock ourcropping coverd with lichen.  Trail condition – an average hiking trail.  There are no restrooms and 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.

**Nov 19. Toothaker/Dysart/Butterfield Loop(Estrella Mountains)**. Rating D.   This is a 4.2 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 400 ft.  The Toothaker (TH) trailhead is on the west side of the Rodeo Arena. This is a shared trailhead with the Rainbow Valley Trail (RB). Very soon after starting on the path Toothaker Trail (TH) will split off to the south (left). In 1.1 miles you will come to the Dysart Trail (DS) junction. Turn left to go to Butterfield trail.  Turn left again on Butterfield to get back to Toothaker.  Turn right on Toothaker to return to the trailhead.  Park on the west side of the Rodeo Arena.  There are restrooms on this side with running water.  There is a $7.00 park entrance fee.  Driving distance is approx 20 miles RT.

  <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Toothaker-Gadsen-Butterfield>

**Nov 26. Thanksgiving. No Hike.**

**Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park** - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left 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.

**Dec 3. Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) South loop** (Estrella Mountain Ranch).  Rating D.  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.<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 maint building; there is also a tall steel tower for power lines).

No restrooms.  No park fee.

**Dec 10. Ford Canyon View** (White Tank Mountains).Rating D+, 5.1 mi out & back starting on the Waddell 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.  [SCG=6.7/1300/3.6].

<http://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.   Park at Ramada 7.

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).

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

**Dec 17. Fat Man’s Pass from the West** (South Mountain). Rating D+.  A 4.5 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 600 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.    Restrooms are at the park office.  No park fee.  Driving distance is 60 miles RT.  [SCG=5.0/750/2.6]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-West>

**Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance**

 Take I-10 east to I-17 south (exit 143B).  Exit I-17 at 7th Ave.

 Turn right on 7th Ave to Baseline.  Turn left on Baseline to Central Ave.

 Turn right onto Central Ave.     Follow Central into South Mountain Park.

 Meet at park office / restrooms.  Caravan to trailhead (trailhead is at the Buena Vista Parking area).

**Dec 24. Library North Trail (White Tanks).** Rating D.  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).  Restrooms are at the trailhead for each of the hikes (inside the library for the hikes from the library).  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 of the sidewalk on the left of the building.

**Dec 31. Old Intro Hike (Verrado)**.  Rating D.  This is a loop hike of 3.6 miles and 400” elevation gain.  Turn North on Cat Rd then take trail to the left at the end of a sidewalk.  Trail climbs a rocky outcropping and continues thru a wash and along petro ridge to the Petroglyphs Rock.  Then climb to a saddle and proceed down a rocky trail to the 4-way junction with Lost Creek Rd, turn left and return to the parking area.   No facilities at the trailhead.  No park fee.  Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

**Directions to Trailhead at Verrado West** Go West on Indian School Road.

Turn left on Acacia Way (just past the high school). Turn right on Lost Creek Drive

Parking for the trailhead is at the end of Lost Creek Drive.