

January 2—Pyrite Loop at Skyline

January 9

Saddle Mountain Summit (Tonopah). Rating B+. This is a 6 mile in-and -out hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. The trail works its way up to a saddle of Saddle Mountain with extensive views to the west (Eagletail Mountains) and south. From the saddle it is a steep bushwhack to the peak over loose material. There are great views of the rugged rock formations that comprise the mountain. Trail condition - the first third of the trail is a very good surface, the second third is steeply uphill, with the final third is along the edge of the formation and is composed of loose stones and very steep. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles

January 16

Ford Canyon/Mesquite Canyon Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating B, 9.5 mi loop on the starting on the Ford Canyon Trail. Elevation change: 820 ft. Rocky scenic hike along the side of the canyon to large boulders and dam on the wash. Trail continues up onto a ridge. Will then pick up the Mesquite canyon Trail and return near tour starting point. There are restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-Canyon-Mes>

January 23

Marcus Landslide/East End/Tom's Thumb Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) Rating B. This hike combines multiple trails into a "B" level loop of approximately 10.6 miles with 2,100 ft. elevation gain. It first climbs from the north to Tom's Thumb on a short but steep trail and then proceeds south on East End (very steep)-Windmill-Coachwhip-Pemberton-Boulder-Marcus Landslide in a CCW loop, eventually passing in front of the Marcus Landslide area. There are great views to the east and north including the Superstitions and Four Peaks areas, plus views of impressive granite boulders. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead (no water). Driving distance is 108 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Toms-Thumb-Marcus-Landslide>

January 30

Elephant Mountain trail, Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating B This is a 10 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1600ft. The hike starts out on the Spur Cross and Tortuga trails. Most of the early trail is very rocky. Besides the view of Elephant Mtn, there is a rock formation that looks like a Buffalo. There are many Saguaro cactus along the trail. Park fee is \$3.) per person. Porta-john at the trailhead. Driving Distance is 110 miles RT. [SCG=7.2/1600/4.0].<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConse>