

THURSDAY D HIKES, 12/31/20–4/22/21

12/31/20 Gray Fox/Ironwood/Ford Canyon (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. This is a 4.5 mile lollipop hike with >200' elevation gain, good trail condition. Start at the Gray Fox Trailhead in the Competitive Track parking area. Turn right for a short distance to the Ironwood Trail, turn left on the Ford Canyon Trail, turn left on the Ironwood Trail to Gray Fox and return to parking lot. Hike could be extended by taking Ford Canyon to the road and returning to Ironwood. Park fee is \$7 per car. 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.

Park fee is \$7.00/car

Grey Fox Trail is at the end of the main road, left off the end of the paved road.

The restroom on this hike is a porta-john.

1/7/21 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)

1/14/21 Maricopa Trail-Tres Rios Wetlands. Rating D. This is a 4-7 mile in and out hike with about 100' of elevation gain. This trail starts at Monument Hill just east of the Racetrack. Trail travels along wetlands with flowing water, lots of vegetation and opportunities for viewing many bird

species. The Salt River and Gila River join just south of the park. It's a flat, easy, fun hike. If more elevation is desired, you can climb Monument Hill, which is to the right after you cross the pedestrian bridge. No entrance fee. No restrooms.

Directions to Tres Rios trailhead.

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. Continue past the Phoenix Raceway and turn right into a parking area just past the grandstand and before the river bridge.

1/21/21 Petroglyphs/South of Border (SOB) Loop (Verrado)Opt A. Rating D+.

This is a 4.9 mile loop hike with elevation gain of 600'. Take the single-track trail at the entry point staying left through a wash to the Petroglyph rock. Climb to the saddle and take the SOB trail to the right at the saddle. SOB will cross Lost Creek road and continue to the parking lot. This trail is all single-track. Trail condition - A very good hiking surface. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT Gaia.

[http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/Petroglyphs\](http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/Petroglyphs)

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

1/28/21 Hassayampa River Preserve (Wickenburg). Rating D. This is a series of short trails totaling 3.2 miles with one hill overlooking the preserve that has an elevation gain of about 200 ft. The preserve is one of the two areas where the Hassayampa River flows above ground. There are lots of tall palm and cottonwood trees as well as lush undergrowth. Over 50 bird species call this home for part of the year. The best time to go is spring (March). Open F/S/S May 15 to Sept 15. Open W/T/F/S/S Sept 15 to May 15. There are restrooms in the visitor's center. Park fee is \$5.00 per person. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

Directions to Wickenburg - Hassayampa River Preserve Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60. Turn west (left) onto U.S. 60. The Preserve is on the left near Milepost 114. Distance is 80 miles RT. There are restrooms at the preserve. Entrance fee is \$5.00 per person. Maricopa Parks Passes are accepted. The Preserve opens at 8:00 AM Sept-May.

2/4/21 Maricopa Trail North (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. 4.5-5 mile out and back hike with >200' elevation gain, trail in excellent shape. Start at the White Tanks Trail Staging Area; Follow signs for Maricopa Trail/Mule Deer Trail to gate, leave the Park and proceed 2-2.5 miles along the Maricopa Trail and return. Great views of the White Tanks Mountains and lots of wild flowers in the Spring. Park fee is \$7 per car. 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.

Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads . Park at the horse staging area. PortaPotty in parking lot.

2/11/21 Maricopa Trail - Lake Pleasant East (Lake Pleasant). Rating D. 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 Hwy 74. 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.

2/18/19 Marcus Landslide/Rock Knob Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) Rating D. The D version is an in-and-out hike to the Marcus Landslide area of 4 miles with an elevation gain of 300 ft. 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. <http://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.

2/25/21 Verrado North Trail (White Tank Mountains). Rating D. This is a 4.4 mile loop hike towards Dead Man's Pass, then to the Petroglyphs, 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. 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.

3/4/21 Maricopa Trail from Northern Ave. Rating D.

This is a 4-5 mile out and back hike with >200' of elevation gain and good trail conditions. Trail parallels the White Tank Mountains toward Verrado. Park on the south side of Northern Ave just across the Beardsley Canal. Trail starts just west of parking area. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance 22 miles est.

Directions to Maricopa Trail Trailhead at Northern Ave.

Take 303 North (right). Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West). Continue on Northern across Citrus Ave until it crosses the Beardsley Canal. Park on the left side of the road on the west side of the Canal. Trail will be to your right (west).

3/11/21 Coyote Den & Painted Desert Star Tower, Rating D This is a 4.5 mile hike from the Star Tower area in Estrella Ranch to the Coyote Den break area near Cotton Road. This hike follows most of the perimeter trails around the area, and it includes a trip up or down the Painted Desert trail which has an interesting collection of painted rocks. Good single track trails for the most part, with some rocky sections. The Painted Desert trail has a steep climb or descent to about 50'. Elevation gain 530' on good trails thru rolling hills. This is an area of new trails on the west side of Estrella Parkway. Restroom in the parking lot.

Directions to Star Tower Parking. Go south on Pebble Creek Pkwy and Estrella Parkway to a driveway just past the Star Tower (a rusty steel and rock tower on the west side of Estrella Parkway).

3/18/21 Frog Tank/Beardsley/Morgan City Wash/Roadrunner Loop. Rating D. This is about a 4.1 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 530 ft. The hike starts out at the north end of the Frog Tank Trail, between areas 10 & 11. It goes down hill to the Beardsley trail, turns right for .2 miles, then turns left to go along an interesting canyon. The canyon ends at the Morgan City Wash Trail signs. We then turn left and follow the trail through Morgan City Wash before reconnecting with the Beardsley trail. Turning left on Beardsley we return to the Frog Tank trail and back to the trailhead. There is a very nice dry waterfall area just off the Beardsley trail with some interesting rock formations. MSW is an interesting "jungle" area with a running creek. Trail maintenance has recently been completed to make MSW a very nice hike through the "jungle" area. The hike can be extended to a C level hike by adding the Roadrunner trail to the Nature center (not open as of 5/2016). Restrooms with water are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Morgan-City-Wash-Maricopa>

Directions to Ramada 12 (Frog Tank), Lake Pleasant Regional Park

Take Loop 303 north 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). Go 2.1 miles to the park, turn right on Lk Pleasant Access Rd...Pay \$7.00 park fee. Turn Right on South Park Road...the trailhead is on the left at the top of the hill. Look for the sign for the 10 Ramp Boat Launch. (TH is a large parking lot overlooking the lake, park on the right near restrooms).

3/25/21 Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) North loop (Estrella Mountain Ranch). Rating D. This is about a 4.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 460 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 maint building; there is also a tall steel tower for power lines). No restrooms. No park fee.

4/1/21 Maricopa Trail South (White Tank Regional Park). Rating D. 5 mile out and back hike with >200' elevation gain, trail in excellent shape. Start at the White Tanks Library/Visitor Center or the Sout Trail; take Mule Deer Trail South to the Maricopa Trail out of the Park. Turn around at the Beardsley Canal and return to the visitor center. Restrooms at the visitor center. 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. Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads
Restrooms are at the trailhead

4/8/21 Black Canyon Trail - Glorianna Trailhead North (I-17 Exit 248). Rating D. This is a 4-5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 200-300 ft. This segment of the Black Canyon Trail heads north along the east edge of Black Canyon and travels below the Sunset Point rest area, though you don't really see much of the rest area. It has typical desert vegetation with views up and down Black Canyon. There are several interesting little canyons with different points of interest in each - a dry waterfall in one, a large Saguaro in one, etc. The 2 smallest Saguaro (4 inches high) that we know of are on this trail. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No park fee. No rest rooms (Sunset Point Rest Area is 4 miles further up I-17 with easy return). Driving distance is 110 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/Glorianna-TH-North>

Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Glorianna Trailhead

Turn right on PebbleCreek Pkwy to Indian School. Turn left on Indian School and go to Loop 303. Turn right on Loop 303 and follow until it ends at I-17. Turn left onto I-17 North toward Flagstaff. Take exit 248 (Bumble Bee). Turn left (West), crossing I-17. Drive about 1.1 miles and turn left into an unpaved parking area. No restrooms at the trailhead. Rock Springs Café is at Exit #242 on the way back.

4/15/21 Pipeline Canyon to Bridge + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park).

Rating D+. 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 the Pipeline trail to the floating bridge. It then returns 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. [SCG=4.0/800/2.3].

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

Directions to Ramada 3 (Pipeline North), 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.

4/22/21 Maricopa Trail-Tres Rios Wetlands. Rating D. This is a 4-7 mile in and out hike with about 100' of elevation gain. This trail starts at Monument Hill just east of the Racetrack. Trail travels along wetlands with flowing water, lots of vegetation and opportunities for viewing many bird species. The Salt River and Gila River join just south of the park. It's a flat, easy, fun hike. If more elevation is desired, you can climb Monument Hill, which is to the right after you cross the pedestrian bridge. No entrance fee. No restrooms.

Directions to Tres Rios trailhead.

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. Continue past the Phoenix Raceway and turn right into a parking area just past the grandstand and before the river bridge.

4/29/21 Maricopa Trail, 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 to 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.

5/6/21 Maricopa Trail through FINS to Rainbow Valley Rd. 5 miles, 120' elev. FINS parking to Eileen's, Joeys, Spent Spade, Connie's, Rita's trails to S. Rainbow Valley Rd. Good hike that includes the Enchanted Forest segment in FINS.

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.

5/13/21 Victory View & Stairs Loop (Verrado). Rating D. This is about 4 miles and 300 ft EG. The hike goes through typical west Valley desert terrain. It goes up 330 stairs to an overlook with views of the Victory develop, golf course and clubhouse. The hike gives you great views of the white trail you see from I-10, though not the part you see from Pebble Creek. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT. GAIA for D hike.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/VerradoVictory>

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.

5/2021 Sonoran Loop - Competitive Track - Mid Version (White Tank Mountains).

Rating D. This is a 4.9 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 300 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. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Sonoran-Loop>

<http://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.

5/27/21 Petroglyphs/South of Border (SOB) Loop (Verrado)Opt A. Rating D+.

This is a 4.9 mile loop hike with elevation gain of 600'. Take the single-track trail at the entry point staying left through a wash to the Petroglyph rock. Climb right to the saddle and take the SOB trail to the left at the saddle. SOB will cross Lost Creek road and continue to the parking lot. This trail is all single-track. Trail condition - A very good hiking surface. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles R Gaia.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/Petroglyphs>

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.