

**9/22/21 – Waddell Canal Trail, Maricopa Trail. Rating C/D. 6.1 miles, 530 ft Elevation. Kerry Walsh will lead.** This segment of the Maricopa Trail starts at the Beardsley CSR lot below the Lake Pleasant Dam, and takes you under Hwy 74, then parallels the Waddell Canal between Lake Pleasant and the Old Carefree Highway near the Pleasant Valley Airport. There are multiple climbs and descents, with views to the west of the Agua Fria River basin. No restroom facilities at the trailhead. Driving distance is 64 mi.

Directions to Beardsley CSR TH.

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.

**9/29/21 – Baseline/Rainbow/Dysart/Toothaker Loop. Barbara Kripps will lead. Rating C. 7.6 miles, 900 ft elev.** This trail wanders through the front portion of EMRP with distant views to the north/ It then joes south into more typical desert areas. Trail condition is very good. There is a porta potty at the trailhead. \$7 parking fee, and 20 miles R/T.

Directions:

Turn left (south) on Pebble Creek Pkwy South of I-10 about 4 miles, turn left on Vineyard Ave immediately after crossing the Gila river. Turn right just past the golf course, into Estrella Mountain Park. Continue on Casey Abbott Dr, north. Then turn right on Casey Allbott Dr south (first turn past turn-in to Nature Center). Continue on, and Baseline spur trailhead is just past the amphitheater. Park fee of \$7, and porta john is near the trailhead.

**10/6/21 - Library to Waterfall Trail (White Tanks). Dana Thomas leads. Rating C. This is a 7.3 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 550 ft.** We head north from the White Tanks library with expansive views of the west valley, before turning on the Black Rock trail that connects to the Waterfall Trail. This could be a great hike after winter or monsoon rains. 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 at the nature center in the library. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. Restrooms are in the library. Park Fee is \$2.00 per hiker (county park pass is good for 5 hikers). 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.

**10/13/21 – Indian Mesa Trail. Kerry Walsh will lead. Rating C+ . 6.6 miles, 900 elev.** A hike across the Aqua Fria river as it enters Lake Pleasant. Indian Mesa is a flat top mesa with Native American ruins. If the river is low (usually) you can hike along it to the base of Indian Mesa. There are free range cattle along the riverbed. Lots of views of Lake Pleasant, and mountain ranges to the west of the lake.

#### Directions to Indian Mesa

Take Loop 303 north to I-17. Go north on I-17, to exit 236 (Table Mesa Road). Turn left, cross over I-17, and then immediately turn right.

(Pavement ends within a mile, then approx. 4 miles of unpaved road to parking area). Keep right at first Y (1.2 mi from I-17), keep left at next Y (1.6 miles from I-17). Keep left at next Y (3.7 miles from I-17, sign points to boat launch). \$7 parking, no rest rooms at trail head.

**Wednesday, October 20, 2021 – Camp Verde – West Clear Creek. Rating C. Dennis Zigmunt will lead.** This is a 6.5-mile hike with elevation of 700 feet. This is a Fun Hike, but only if you don't mind getting wet. We usually do this hike during the hotter months when most snowbirds are cooling their heels in the northern climes. The C level crosses West Clear Creek three times, and again on the return. The canyon through which the creek flows is beautiful. You will get wet – the stream is 30 feet wide by 20" inches deep. It is recommended to bring waterproof hiking boots, water shoes, or an old pair of hiking boots that you are willing to sacrifice. You may want a dry pair of shoes for the drive back. Also, it is helpful to have a hiking stick to keep your balance when crossing the slippery rocks in the stream. Restroom at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 224 miles roundtrip.

Directions to Clear Creek Trailhead--Turn left on I-17 N to Camp Verde exit 287 (AZ-260) (McDonald's at this exit). Follow AZ 260 right for 8.1 miles. Turn left on FR618, a gravel road (there's a small brown sign to Bull Pen. Take FR 618 about 2.25 miles. Turn right onto FR 215. A sign here directs you to Bull Pen/West Clear Creek. Follow FR 215 about 3 miles to the end. At the Bull Pen sign, go left about 200 yards to the parking area and gate access to the trail. Note: distance is 112 miles from PebbleCreek to trailhead. High profile vehicle recommended for gravel roads. They are graded but rough. Suggested driver donation is \$13.00.

**10/27/21 - Rainbow Valley/Toothaker Loop Trail (Estrella Mountains). Barbara Kripps leads. Rating C. Approximately 6.7 miles, out and back, with an elevation gain of 800 ft.** This is a 6.7 - mile loop hike beginning on the west side of the rodeo. It has an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail goes through typical desert terrain. The Rainbow Valley trail is wide and relatively flat. It ends at the Toothaker Trail. Turn left onto the Toothaker Trail to return to the rodeo. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. Restrooms & water are at the trailhead. Park entrance is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

#### Directions to Estrella Regional Park

Turn south out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw. South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River. Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park

**11/3/21 – Pyramid/Bursera/Gila Loop (South Mountain). Rating C.**

Kerry Walsh will lead. This is a 6.6 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1200 ft (this includes the short hike to the ruins). Starting from the south side of South Mountain, we hike up a ridge to the west with great views of the Estrella Mountains and areas to the south. We then drop into a valley of typical desert vegetation. We then return up over a saddle and down through a second valley. You can

take an optional .25 mile trail to the ruins before going back to the trailhead. No facilities. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Busera-NationalPyramid>

Directions to South Mountain Park (South) Telegraph Trailhead

Take I-10 east.

Turn right (south) on 202.

Take the exit for 17th Ave and go left (north) under the highway.

Turn left (west) on Chandler Blvd.

Turn right (north) on 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Turn left (west) into the trailhead parking lot.

No restrooms at this trailhead

**11/10/21 - Tom's Thumb Trail via Windgate Pass & Gateway trails (McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Scottsdale). Rating C+. Mary Hill leads.** This is a 7.4-mile hike with an elevation change of 1000 ft. The hike starts at the Gateway trailhead area and pass through a typical Saguaro Forest. The hike goes from the Gateway trail, to the Windgate trail, and then onto the Tom's Thumb trail for about .7 miles. There is an outcropping of quartz a short distance into the Tom's Thumb trail. Once we pass that, we will stop at a small waterfall and another rock outcropping. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Windgate-Pass>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Gateway Trailhead

Take Hwy 101 north all the way around to Scottsdale.

Exit at Princess/Pima-Bell Road (exit #36).

Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road.

Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approx. 1.4 miles.

Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway.

Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 mi. up the road.

Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.

**11/17/21 - Black Canyon Trail - Bumblebee Trailhead North (I-17 Exit 248). Nancy Love leads. Rating C. This is a 7.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft.** It wanders through typical desert terrain with views of an abandoned house/mine, a working cattle ranch, and distant views of Sunset Point Rest Area. Turn around point is a rock outcropping that overlooks a wide valley. No park fee. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No rest rooms (Sunset Point Rest Area is 4 miles further up I-17 with easy return). Driving distance is 120 miles RT. [https:// pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/ Government-Springs](https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/Government-Springs)

Directions to Black Canyon Trail

Bumblebee 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 5 miles (the last 3 are on a well maintained dirt road) Turn left into an unpaved parking area (this is just before the yellow "Welcome to Bumblebee"

sign on the right). Immediately turn right and go about .2 miles to the end. Trail is about 50 yards on the other side of the little canyon and runs parallel to the road - cross wherever you can and you will run into the trail. Go to the right on the trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. Rock Springs Café is at Exit #242 on the way back.

**11/24/21 - Deem Hills Outer Circumference Trail (Phoenix). Carol Rice leads. Rating C Challenge due to elevation and distance. This is a 7.6 mile loop hike around the Deem Hills Recreation area with an elevation change of 1350 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  
<http://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.

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.

**12/1/21 - Tom Thumb trail from the North trailhead (McDowell Sonoran Preserve Scottsdale). Mary Hill leads. Rating C, 6.4 miles, elevation gain 1100.** It has a steep steady climb for the first 1.5 miles.

Uphill portion is decomposed granite, which makes for a slippery surface. Tom's Thumb is a 140 ft high granite rock sticking out at the top of the mountain. A side trail (Lookout Trail) takes us up to a viewpoint with 350 degree views. Trail condition - overall good hiking trail, but fairly steep on initial climb.

Directions:

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.

**12/8/21 - Beardsley/Frog Tank/Roadrunner Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Mary Hill leads. Rating C. This is 7.7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft.** The hike starts out crossing a road and then travels through a Saguaro forest. Along the trail is a very tall Saguaro (30+' ) with no arms. Frog Tank takes you up for some views of the lake and meets Roadrunner, which travels along the edge of the lake. There is a good chance to see wild burros on this trail. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Restrooms with water are at the trailhead as well as along Roadrunner trail. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Beardsley-Trail>

Directions to Ramada 8 (Desert Tortoise), Lake Pleasant Reg. Park.

Drive 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 and turn right (North). Go 2.1 miles and turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road. Pay \$7.00 park fee then turn right on South Park Road. Turn left on Desert Tortoise Road. Trailhead is on the right.

Restrooms are at this trailhead.

**12/15/21 - Black Canyon Trail – K-Mine Segment/Black Canyon City**

**Trailhead (I-17 Exit 242). Nancy Love leads. Rating C. This is a 5 to 10 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft.** The C level hike goes 2.5 miles along a ridge that follows the Agua Fria River before descending 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.

[SCG=5.4/800/2.7]. <http://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)

**12/22/21 - Cairn Canyon Loop - SR/PA/RR/GR/UT/PC/JL Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C.**

Hike leader Kerry Walsh. This is a 6.4-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 600 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and goes through several washes and up over a couple of saddles. The hike is in typical desert terrain. Trail condition - average hiking trail. No park fee. Restrooms are t the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.

<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.

**12/29/21 - Sonoran Loop - Competitive Track (White Tank Mountains). Mary Hill leads. Rating C.**

**A 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 700 ft.** This is the old orientation hike. This is a one-way competitive bike trail with plenty of ups and downs through washes plus one climb near the midpoint of the hike. On top of the hill is a good place to stop for a snack. Along the second half of the hike is 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.

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). 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.

**1/5/22 – Desert Rose Hike. EMRP. Dana Thomas leads. Rating C/D. 5-7 mile in and out, elevation gain 800 ft.** The trail meanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro cactus. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Park fee is \$7.00 Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/DesertRoseGadsden>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park Desert Rose Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw (on other side of I-10).

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

Follow Vineyard as it curves to the right, becoming 143rd Ave

Turn left on Indian Springs Road

At the fence that begins the parking for PIR turn right

Follow signs to trails

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle at the self-pay station

Angle right immediately after the self-pay station into the open parking area.

Drive across at a 45-degree angle – there is a trail sign indicating the trailhead.

**1/12/22 - Tom's Thumb Trail via Windgate Pass & Gateway trails (McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Scottsdale). Rating C challenge for distance. Kerry Walsh eads.** This is a 7.4-mile hike with an elevation change of 1000 ft. The hike starts at the Gateway trailhead area and pass through a typical Saguaro Forest. The hike goes from the Gateway trail, to the Windgate trail, and then onto the Tom's Thumb trail for about .7

miles. There is an outcropping of quartz a short distance into the Tom's Thumb trail. Once we pass that, we will stop at a small waterfall and another rock outcropping. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Windgate-Pass>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Gateway Trailhead Take Hwy 101 north all the way around to Scottsdale.

Exit at Princess/Pima-Bell Road (exit #36).

Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road.

Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approx. 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway.

Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 mi. up the road. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.

**1/19/22 - Union Peak Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South). Carol Leads. Rating C & B. This is a 7.2 (C level) or 8.4 (B) mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000-1200 ft.** This trail system is made up of well-maintained trails. The hike goes through typical desert terrain before ascending a hill for excellent views to the south. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. Trail Condition – average hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South

Take 303 North to I-17. Turn South (right) on I-17. Turn East (left) on

Jomax Road (exit 219, should be the 1st exit). Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway (should be the 1st light). Turn right on North Valley Parkway (a "T" intersection). Go .2 miles and turn left on Copperhead Trail. Go .1 miles and turn left on W Melvin Trail. Go .2 miles and turn right on Desert Vista Trail. Go to the end of the road. Trailhead is at the end of the road. There is no park fee.

#### Alternate Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South

Take 101 North. Turn North on I-17. Turn East (right) on Jomax Road. Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway. Turn right on North Valley Parkway (a "T" intersection). Go .2 miles and turn left on Copperhead Trail. Go .1 miles and turn left on W Melvern Trail. Go .2 miles and turn right on Desert Vista Trail. Go to the end of the road. Trailhead is at the end of the road.

**1/26/22 - Black Canyon Trail – Bob Bentley Segment (Emory Henderson Trailhead - New River). Nancy Love leads. Rating C Challenge because of distance.** This is an 8 mile in and out hike, with an elevation gain of 800 ft. There is lots of vegetation with numerous types of cactus. Wildflowers would be abundant after good winter rains. Trail condition - a good biking trail. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 74 miles RT.

#### Directions to Black Canyon Trail

Emory Henderson Trailhead 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 for 1 block and then right onto New River Rd. Drive for about 6 miles and turn left at the Emory Henderson Trailhead sign. Restrooms are at the trailhead.

**2/2/22 - Calderwood Loop** Peoria –Mary Hill leads. Rating C. This is an in and out 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of 600 feet. This hike is an urban hike, starting in a residential neighborhood, follows a paved portion of the Maricopa Trail for awhile before heading up the butte. The trail then is a usual desert, rocky trail with a few steep portions. There is a 360 degree view from the top, overlooking Loop 303, the Agua Fria River and the city of Peoria. We will break at a small park before heading back. No park fee. Round trip driving distance is 45 miles. No restrooms available.

#### Directions to 108<sup>th</sup> Lane and Cottontail Lane:

Take Loop 303 north. Exit at West Happy Valley Parkway. Turn right. Cross the Agua Fria River. Turn left onto N. Tierra Del Rio Blvd. Turn left onto W. El Cortez Pl. Curve left onto N 107<sup>th</sup> Lane. Turn right onto Cottontail Lane. It will curve left. Park on the street across from a small park.

**2/9/22 - Deem Hills Outer Circumference Trail. Rating C Challenge for Elevation. Mary Hill leads.** This is a 8.0-mile loop hike around the Deem Hills Recreation area with an elevation change of 1350 feet. This trail covers the outer edge of two hills on the north side of Phoenix. Trail conditions are generally good but with some areas of bare rock to navigate. You climb up from base level twice on your way to the summit where switchbacks lead you down to the trail to the large parking lot. 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 west of Highway 101 and the irrigation canal system. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 65 miles roundtrip.

Directions to Deem Hills -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North. Turn east (right) on Happy Valley Parkway. Turn north (left) on 55th Avenue. 55th Avenue becomes Deem Hills Parkway. The park is on the right.

**2/16/22 - Fat Man's Pass from the West (South Mountain). Mary Hill leads. Rating C. A 4.5 to 6.8 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 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.

[SCG=5.0/750/2.6]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-MansPass-West>

**2/23/22 - Black Canyon Trail - Glorianna Trailhead North (I-17 Exit 248). Nancy Love leads. Rating C. This is a 7-mile hike with an elevation gain of 600 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 - dry waterfall in one, a large Saguaro in one, etc. 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.

**3/2/22 – Bell Rock and Courthouse Loop. Kerry Walsh will lead.**

**Rating C. 6.5 miles, elev 600 ft.** A fun hike up the vortex at Bell Rock, and then looping around Courthouse Rock. Great views of Sedona and red rock formations. 240 miles R/T.

Directions to Bell Rock Trailhead:

Turn right on Pebble Creek pkwy to Indian School and turn left. Get on Loop 303 North, and follow until it meets I-17. Go north on I-17, and take exit 298, turn left and head towards Sedona on AZ hiway 179. Pass through village of Oak Creek. Keep going past Bell Rock, and turn right into Courthouse Vista overlook. (first scenic overlook, just past and very close to Bell Rock. There is a restroom at trailhead, parking is \$5 or senior parks pass.

**3/9/22 - Black Canyon Trail - Glorianna Trailhead North (I-17 Exit 248). Rating C. Nancy Love will lead.** This is a 7-mile hike with an elevation gain of 600 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 - dry waterfall in one, a



large Saguaro in one, etc. 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. Rock Springs Café is at Exit #242 on the way back. Suggested driver donation \$8.00.

**3/16/22 - Mountain Wash/Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Chuckwalla Loop (Skyline Park) Dana Thomas leads. Rating C. This is about a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1200 ft.** in the Western part of Buckeye's New Skyline Regional Park with the new Granite Falls Trail and an even newer Chuckwalla trail on the west side of the park.

This is one of the trail loops in Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park. Trail condition - good hiking trail. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

Directions to Skyline Regional Park Trailhead

Go West on I-10. Turn north (right) on Watson Road. Drive to the end of road and trailhead parking. Facilities are at the trailhead.

**3/23/22 – Coldwater/Butterfield Gadsden Loop. Ron Hoffman will lead. Rating C. 7.6 miles, 900 ft elev.** The trail is relatively flat with long views of the Estrella mtns, and the valley to the east and west. There is a small arch in one of the washes next to the trail. Trail condition – good hiking trail. \$7 parking fee, 20 miles R/T. Directions to trailhead. Turn right out main gate of Pebble Creek and head south. South of I- 10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave (immediately after crossing river bed). Turn right on Estrella Mountain Park and drive around park to the left, until you reach rodeo grounds.. \$7 parking, trailheads and restrooms are on the east side of rodeo grounds.

**3/30/22 - Black Canyon Trail – Copper Mountain Segment. (I-17 Exit 262). Nancy Love leads. Rating C. This is an 8 mile C in-and-out hike with elevation change of 1000 ft.** The C version goes up to a series of colorful rock formations with views of the surrounding area. Trail condition - a good biking trail. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles RT.

Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Copper Mountain Loop Trailhead Take Loop 303 to I- 17. Turn left onto I-17 north toward Flagstaff. Take exit 262 (Hwy 69). Turn West on Hwy. 69 (left - crossing I-17 towards Prescott). Drive approx. 3.5 miles and turn left at the trailhead sign. Restrooms at the trailhead (we usually stop at McDonalds at Exit 262).

**4/6/22 - Indian Mesa Trail. Kerry Walsh will lead. Rating C+ . 6.6 miles, 900 elev.** A hike across the Aqua Fria river as it enters Lake Pleasant. Indian Mesa is a flat top mesa with Native American ruins. If

the river is low (usually) you can hike along it to the base of Indian Mesa. There are free range cattle along the riverbed. Lots of views of Lake Pleasant, and mountain ranges to the west of the lake.

Directions to Indian Mesa Take Loop 303 north to I-17. Go north on I-17, to exit 236 (Table Mesa Road). Turn left, cross over I-17, and then immediately turn right. (Pavement ends within a mile, then approx. 4 miles of unpaved road to parking area). Keep right at first Y (1.2 mi from I-17), keep left at next Y (1.6 miles from I-17). Keep left at next Y (3.7 miles from I-17, sign points to boat launch). \$7 parking, no rest rooms at trail head.

**April 13, 2022 – Sedona - West Fork Trail #108, Oak Creek Canyon. Rating C. Ann Rohlman will lead.** A 7.0 mi. round trip with an elevation gain of about 500 ft. This easy, almost level trail extends about 3 miles upstream through the narrow canyon of West Fork, a major tributary of Oak Creek. Sheer canyon walls rising hundreds of feet, luxuriant vegetation with beautiful fall colors, and the clear stream make this an idyllic spot. The stream, which you'll be crossing many times, usually only requires a little rock hopping. The trailhead is off the back of a day use parking area on the west side of US89A midway between mileposts 384 & 385 (10 mi north of Sedona). The trail crosses Oak Creek, then a dirt trail continues past the ruins of Mayhews Lodge and into West Fork Canyon. Restrooms are at the trailhead. \$10.00 per car entrance fee (half price with Golden Age Pass). Driving distance is approximately 270 miles. RT <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/West-Fork-Trail>

Directions to Sedona - West Fork, Trail 108, Oak Creek Canyon. Go West (left) on Indian School Rd to Loop 303. Turn North (right) on Loop 303 to I-17 North. Turn North (left) on I-17 to exit 298 (Rte 179). Take Rte. 179 west (left) 15 miles to jct. 89A. Take Rte. 89A north (right) 10.6 miles to West Fork trailhead. Watch for a small sign for West Fork trail just before a sharp curve to the right. The left turn into the parking area is not allowed and there is no place to turn around. Therefore, park on the right side shoulder after the curve. The parking fee is \$11.00 per car or \$2 per person. There are McDonald's at I-17 exits 262 and 287. Suggested driver donation is \$23.00.

**4/20/22 – Table Mesa. Nancy Love will lead. Rating C. 6.6 miles, elev 900 ft. Black Canyon National Recreation Trail: Black Canyon City North, Black Canyon City Trailhead (Exit 244). Rating C.** This is a 7-mile hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 feet. The trail goes around, up/down and through several little canyons parallel to Black Canyon City. There is an abundance of cacti including hundreds of pincushion cacti, plus more small saguaro cacti (under 5 feet) than large (over 5 feet). The canyons have many interesting rock formations and there are expansive views of Black Canyon City. At the 2-mile point, the trail crosses Black Canyon Creek, which is usually dry. At the crossing is a rock formation they call the China Wall. This could be a great spring hike when the cacti are in bloom. Trail condition--a good biking trail. There are no restrooms at the trailhead and no park fees. Driving distance is 110 miles roundtrip.

Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Black Canyon City Trailhead--Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Turn left onto I-17 North toward Flagstaff. Take exit 244 (Black Canyon City). Start measuring from the stop sign at the top of the off-ramp. Turn left (west), crossing I-17. At .2 miles turn left, then a quick right on Maggie Mine Road. At .9 miles, turn left onto Maren Avenue and cross the river. At 1.2 miles turn right onto Lisa Drive. At 1.3 miles (just before the bottom of a deep wash), turn left on Soap Creek Road (narrow dirt road - fine for any car). At 1.5 miles, there is a pullout for 2-3 cars. The BCT trail sign is on the right just past the pullout area. There is lots of parking about .25 miles further up the road, where the Black Canyon Trail goes south.

**4/27/22 - Granite Mountain Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale). Rating C. Mary Hill will lead.** This is a 7.3-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet. It passes through three different “forests” - saguaro, jumping cholla, and two types of yuccas. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. You get nice views from the Balanced Rock formation on the second half of the hike. Balanced Rock is a gigantic granite boulder balancing on its pointy end. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of PebbleCreek. Trail condition – Great hiking trail. Nice restrooms at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 110 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mt-North>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - 136th Street Trailhead -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I-17. Turn left (north) on I-17...stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Drive. Take Cave Creek Road North (left) and turn right at next light on Dynamite Boulevard. Follow Dynamite (name changes to Rio Verde) and turn left on 136th Street. For Granite Mountain Loop, drive about 2 miles and park on the left under the power lines.