**Wednesday 2020-2021 B Hike Descriptions Jan. – May**

***January 2021***

***01-06-2021:* Pass Mountain + Wind Cave Trails (Usery Mtn Park). Rating B.** This is an 11 mile hike. The Wind Cave Trail is a 3.2 mi round trip out and back hike with an elevation change of 650 ft. The trail begins relatively flat then climbs steadily to a large over hanging rock. The “Wind Caves” are shallow depressions that eroded out of the tuff layer of rock by wind & rain. Pass Mountain is a 7.4 mile loop, with an elev. change of 600 ft, & elev. gain 1900 ft on a trail in good condition, with great scenery. The trail encircles Pass Mountain and starts by going through a Saguaro cactus forest. It offers nice views on clear days of other distant mountain ranges including the Catalina, Superstitions, Mazatzal, Four Peaks, and McDowell Mountains. A portion of the loop is on adjacent Tonto Natl Forest land. This is a long hike –bring plenty of water. Restrooms are at the TH. Park fee is $7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is approx 110 miles RT.

http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/UseryMountainRegionalPark/Pass-Mountain-Trail

**Directions to Usery Mountain Trails**

I-10 HOV east to Loop 202 (HOV exit on left)

Loop 202 to Power Rd (exit 23A), turn right (south).

In a few blocks turn left onto McDowell Blvd East.

Turn left onto Usery Pass Rd (“T” intersection)

Turn right onto Usery Park Rd (across from the “Phoenix arrow”)

Turn left onto Wind Cave Dr West to the trailhead.

***01-13-2021:* Black Canyon Trail – Copper Mountain Segment. Rating B.** This is

a 13.9 mile loop with elevation change of 1600 ft. The hike does a loop along the base of Copper Mountain and through a large forest of Prickly Pear cactus. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No restrooms at the TH. 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. 5.3 miles and turn right on Old Sycamore Rd.

Park at the top of the hill (1 mi.) after passing the BCT trail crossing.

***01-20-2021:* Inside/Outside Trail Meander (Estrella Foothills Park) SR/PA/RR/GR//UT/UY/SU/BU/BL/SR Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B.** This is a 10 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and heads south before cutting in to go up a high saddle. It then goes up and around the top. The hike heads out to some of the lesser-travelled perimeter trails before returning to the high school. Trail condition - mostly a very good hiking trail in typical desert terrain. Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.

**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.

***01-27-2021:* Mule Trail/Maricopa Trail South to White Tank boundary; bushwhack extension to explore *upper* old road, (White Tank Regional Park/Border).  Rating B.**10.4 miles in & out with 1077 ft elevation gain.  Good trail for part of hike; then bushwhack very steep up to saddle. We will explore the newly discovered **upper dirt road** that climbs into the mountains. Start at the White Tanks Library/Visitor Center or the South Trail; take Mule Deer Trail South to the Maricopa Trail out of the Park. Once out of the park we will follow service roads and bushwhack.  Restrooms at the visitor center.  Driving distance: 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.

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.

***February 2021***

***02-03-2021:* Toothaker/Gadsden/Butterfield Loop (Estrella Mountains).**

**Rating B.** This is a 10.2-mile loop beginning on the west side of the rodeo. This hike is relatively flat with 612 ft elev. gain. From the trailhead, turn left onto Toothaker Trail. Follow TH until it ends at Gadsden; turn left onto Gadsden Trail, then right on the Butterfield trail and head back to the rodeo. A restroom is at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is $7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

**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 are on the near (East) side of rodeo arena.

***02-10-2021:* PA to CX to EMRP Pedersen/TH/GD/PD to CX/PA (Estrella Foothills into EMRP) Rating B.** This is a9.4 mile/300 Ft elevation gain hike. From Estrella Foothills HS, we will take the Maricopa Trail following the PA trail into Estrella Mtn Reg Park. We will then follow the Crossover (CX) trail for about a mile where it ends at the Pedersen trail. Turn left on PD, then right on Toothaker, right on Gadsden, and then right on PD. Continue for 0.5 mile and go left on CX, back to PA, and then back to the high school. This is a lollipop hike; average flat hiking trail. The Gadsden section is sandy. Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. There is a self-pay park fee as you enter the park at CX. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

**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.

***02-17-2021:* Lookout Mountain + Shadow Mountain. Circumference Trails + summit (Phoenix Mountain Preserve). Rating B.** This is two hikes - a 3.86 mile loop around Shadow Mountain and a 3.57 mile hike around and up Lookout mountain, both in the north Phoenix area. It has elevation gains of 960 & 875 ft. The trail around Shadow Mountain goes past a mega church. The circumference trail around Lookout Mountain (#308) is an easy to moderate trail, with the summit trail (#150) being fairly steep. The Summit trail is one of the hikes of the SevenSummits of Phoenix Challenge that takes place every year in November. Trail condition - average hiking trail, but steep going to top of Lookout Mountain. Water and restrooms are at the Lookout Mountain Park trailhead off 18th St. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx. 76 miles RT.

**Directions to Shadow Mountain Trailhead**

Take 101 North

Take I-17 South (right)

Turn left on Greenway off

Turn right on Cave Creek Road

Turn left on E Claire Drive

Turn right on E Acoma Drive

Trailhead at the curve (street parking)

**Direction Shadow Mountain Trailhead to Lookout Mountain**

Go north on E Acoma drive. -- Then left on E Claire Drive

Turn left on Cave Creek Road

Turn right on E Sharon Drive

Turn right on 18th st. Trailhead is at the end of the street

***02-24-2020:*  Estrella Foothills-- Elliott TH: Includes CO/BJ/WU/UT/GU/SU/CO Loop Plus Pirate Flag option (Estrella Mountains). Rating B.** This will be an 8.9 lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 1125 ft. The hike starts at the Elliot TH. We will be climbing Black Jack in reverse, with an option to climb to the pirate flag. This trail offers outstanding views of the entire southwest valley. The hike is typical desert terrain. Trail condition - mostly an excellent hiking trail with one section of edginess across the ridgeline. No park fee. No bathrooms at TH. Drive distance is 20 miles RT.

**Directions to Estrella Foothills Park - Elliott Trailhead**

Turn left 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.

***March 2021***

***03-03-2021:* Competitive Track – Long Loop (Estrella Mountain Regional Park). Rating B.**  This is a 9.6-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 792 ft. This hike goes through typical desert terrain with lots of Saguaro cactus.  The first half of the hike goes up 700 ft very gradually, and then starts a slow descent before returning to the parking lot. Trail condition -good hiking trail.  Driving distance is 26 miles RT. There is a porta-john at the TH. Park fee is $7.00 per vehicle.

**Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Competitive Trails**

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 ISM turn right.

Follow signs to trails. Continue on to the parking on the right.

***03-10-2021:* Mule Trail/Maricopa Trail South to White Tank boundary; bushwhack extension to explore *lower* old road, (White Tank Regional Park/Border).  Rating B.**10.5 miles in & out with with 1100 ft elevation gain.  Good trail for part of hike; then bushwhack very steep up to saddle. We will explore the newly found **lower dirt road** that goes back into the mountains. Start at the White Tanks Library/Visitor Center or the South Trail; take Mule Deer Trail South to the Maricopa Trail out of the Park. Once out of the park we will follow service roads and bushwhack.  Restrooms at the visitor center.  Driving distance: 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.

Library TH: sidewalk on the left of the building.turn right just before the gate and park on the left side of the library.

***03-17-2021:* San Tan + Goldmine + Dynamite + Hedgehog Loop (San Tan Park). Rating B.** This is a 9.5-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1460 ft. The hike goes up over the Goldfield Mountains and loops back through another saddle. It goes through a large Saguaro forest before going over another saddle with expansive views of the east valley all the way to the Superstition Mountains. There are restrooms and a visitor center at the trailhead. Trail condition - good hiking trail with one steep uphill & downhill section. Park Fee is $7.00 per car. Restrooms available at TH. Driving distance is 135 miles RT.

**Directions to San Tan Park Trails**

Take I-10 east HOV lane to Hwy 60 east.

Exit the HOV lane left onto Hwy 60 east (towards Globe).

At exit 190B, take ramp right to Loop 202 South.

Take 202 south approx. 3.5 mi. to exit 34A, take ramp right for AZ 24 East.

Take AZ 24 for approx. 2 mi. and exit south (right) on Ellsworth Road.

Stay on Ellsworth Rd. as it becomes Ellsworth Loop.

Stay on main road as it turns left (east) and becomes Hunt Highway.

Turn right (south) on Thompson Road and go approx. 1 mi.

Turn right (west) on Phillips and go 2 mi. to San Tan Park at the end of the road.

***03-24-2021:* Inside/Outside Trail Meander (Estrella Foothills Park) SR/PA/RR/GR//UT/UY/SU/BU/BL/SR Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B.** This is a 10-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and heads south before cutting in to go up a high saddle. It then goes up and around the top. The hike heads out to some of the lesser-travelled perimeter trails before returning to the high school. Trail condition - mostly a very good hiking trail in typical desert terrain. Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.

**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.

***03-31-2021:* Hike to be determined (Prescott). Rating B.**

***April 2021***

***04-07-2021:* No Hike**

***04-14-2021:* Estrella High School to FINS North & Return (Estrella Foothills/ Estrella Mt Ranch). Rating B.** This is a 11.5-mile figure eight lollipop hike with elevation change of 600 ft. The hike begins from the High School south and west through some of the developed areas to the FINS trailhead. At the FINS Trailhead, the hike will continue as a 5+ mile figure 8 loop 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 enchanted forest of stuffed animals. The hike then returns to the high school. Trail condition – good this is also a biking trail. Restrooms are at the TH.

No park fee. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

**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.

***04-21-2021:* Palo Verde Trail #512 (Bartlett Reservoir). Rating B.** This is a 8.9 mile hike. It has little elevation change, but an elevation gain of about 1500 ft. The trail is loose, decomposed granite; consequently, please wear proper hiking footwear. This is a lovely hike with continuous water views. The Bartlett Reservoir is part of the Verde River between New River and Mazatzal Mountains. It is visible the entire hike. Trail condition – mostly granular granite and sandy/rocky beach. Restrooms are at the Rattlesnake trailhead. The park is free with a Golden Age Parks Pass (put pass in the window). Restrooms and water at the trailhead. Driving distance is ~136 miles RT.

**Directions to Bartlett Reservoir - Palo Verde Trail**

Take Loop 303 to I-17.

Go North on I-17.

Turn right on Hwy 74 (Carefree Highway).

Turn left on Scottsdale Road/Tom Darlington Drive (at Boulders Resort).

Turn right on Cave Creek Road.

Turn right on Bartlett Dam Road.

Stop at Ranger Station (.25 mi down rd on left) & pay $7fee (free w/Golden Age Pass).

Follow signs to lake (about 13 miles).

Turn right on Rattlesnake Cove turnoff and drive .8 miles to trailhead.

Follow the paved path at the North end of the facility to the fishing dock.

Trailhead starts to the left where the paved path meets the dock.

***04-28-2021:* Black Canyon Trail – Doe Springs Segment/Table Top Mesa Trailhead (I-17 Exit 236). Rating B**. This is a 10-12 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. It covers the segment just north of the Boy Scout Loop of the Black Canyon Trail. It goes through typical rolling desert terrain with distant views of Black Canyon City and the hills around it. There are two nice saguaro forests along the trail - the one at the 5-mile point is excellent and has shade for a break. Trail condition - the trail itself is a national bike trail - very good surface and no steep ups or downs. No rest rooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.

**Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Table Mesa Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 north to I-17.

Turn left onto I-17 (north) toward Flagstaff.

Take exit 236 (Table Mesa Road).

Turn left crossing over I-17, then immediately turn right.

(Pavement ends within a mile; 2.5 miles of unpaved road to the parking area)

Keep **right** at the first Y (1.2 mi. from I-17--road going left goes into a quarry).

Keep **left** at the next Y (1.6 mi. from I-17).

Go another 1.9 mi. to a side road on the right (3.5 mi. from I-17).

Turn right on the road and the trailhead parking is immediately on the left.

***May 2021***

***05-05-2021:* Chiricahua Box of Candy—All Trails (Chiricahua National Monument). Rating B.** This route consists of the Echo Canyon, Upper Rhyolite Canyon, Sarah Deming, Heart of Rocks, Big Balanced Rock, Inspiration Point, Mushroom Rock and Ed Riggs trails. It is a 10-12 mile hike with 1744 ft elevation gain. Chiricahua National Monument is truly one of the National Park Service's hidden gems. You will be surprised to discover a mountain wonderland of trees, and amazing balanced rocks and towering pinnacles that make this place so awe-inspiring. It is a 500 mile RT, so hotel accommodations in Willcox are strongly suggested. More information upon request.