

## Wednesday 2020-2021 B Hike Descriptions Nov. -- Dec.

**11-04-2020: No Hike due to Sedona trip**

**11-11-2020: Mesquite Trail + Ford + Willow Springs Trail (White Tank Mountains).** **Rating B.** This is an 8.7 mi. lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 1490 ft. The Mesquite Trail trailhead is at picnic area #7. The trail goes west through a rocky section for 1.8 miles to a junction with the Willow Canyon Trail. Continue west on the Mesquite Trail for another 2.4 miles to the Ford Canyon Trail. Take the Ford Canyon Trail to the right for .9 miles to the other end of the Willow Springs Trail. About .3 mile into the Willow Springs Trail there is an old corral and a spring feed water tank – Willow Springs. Continue on the Willow Springs Trail another 1.4 miles to the Mesquite Trail. Turn left to go back to the parking lot. Trail condition - avg hiking trail, but steady uphill on Mesquite trail. Restrooms located at trailhead. 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

Turn left on Waterfall Canyon Rd & then left at the road just past the Waterfall Trail trailhead to find Picnic area #7.

**11-18-2020: Sonoran Loop + Gray Fox + Ironwood + Ford + Ironwood back to Gray Fox (White Tank Mountains).** **Rating B.** This is a 10+-mile hike: a loop + a lollipop loop, for an elevation gain of 700 ft. The Sonoran loop is a one-way competitive bike trail with ups and downs through washes, plus a climb near the midpoint of the hike. Along the second half of the hike is a Crested Saguaro. We return to the Comp Track parking area, and begin at the Gray Fox TH; proceed for 0.9 miles. Turn right for a short distance to the Ironwood Trail, turn left on Ford Canyon Trail, turn left on Ironwood Trail, back to Gray Fox to parking lot. There's a porta-john at the trailhead. 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

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.

**11-25-2020: Toothaker/Pedersen/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. Follow Toothaker Trail from the TH until it intersects with the Pedersen Trail. Turn right on the Pedersen Trail. Turn left on the 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.

**12-2-2020: Estrella High School to FINS North & Return (Estrella Foothills/ Estrella Mt Ranch).** **Rating B.** This is a 10.5-mile figure eight lollipop hike with elevation change of 500 ft. The hike begins from the High School south and west through some of the developed areas to the FINS trailhead. At the FINS TH the hike will continue as a 4-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. There are restrooms 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.

Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. No park fee.

**12-9-2020: Quail/Rainbow Valley/ Toothaker/Pedersen/Gadsden/ Butterfield /TH/RV/Quail (Estrella Mountains).** **Rating B.** This is a 11.4 mile lollipop loop with an elevation gain of 1150 ft. The trail goes from the Nature Center and wanders through the front portion of EMRP with distant views to the north. After 1 mile, Quail Trail intersects with the Rainbow Valley trail. Go right. After 2.6 miles, turn right onto the Toothaker Trail. After about 2.2 miles, turn left on Pedersen Trail, then turn left on the Gadsden Trail, then right on the Butterfield trail. BU ends at TH; go right for about 0.1 mile, then go left on RV for 0.8 miles. Go right on Quail to return to the Nature Center. There are restrooms at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 mi RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Quail-Trailhead>

**Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Quail Trailhead**

Turn left onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw and go to the other side of I-10.

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

Turn right just past the golf course entrance into Estrella Mountain Park.

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle .. continue straight on Casey Abbott Dr North.

Turn right at the turn-in to Nature Center).

Park at the Nature Center

**12-16-20: 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, then starts a slow descent. Trail condition -good hiking trail. There is a porta-john at the TH. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

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

**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

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

Continue on to the parking on the right.

**12-23-2020: Shaw Butte Trail Loop #306 +North Mtn Loop (Phoenix Mtn Preserve). Rating B.** This is a combo hike of Shaw Butte Trail and North Mtn in the Phoenix Mtn. Preserve. It is a 6-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1600 ft. Shaw Butte is one of the hikes of the *Phoenix Seven Summits Challenge*, which takes place every year in November. North Mountain is a short steep hike mostly on a paved road, offering good views of the surrounding area. The TH begins from the parking lot where North 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Phoenix) dead ends. You begin up the south side of Shaw Butte, going around the west side of the mountain; watch for the trail leading off to the right, which takes you to the summit of Shaw Butte at 1.5 miles into the hike. You descend Shaw Butte and hike 1-mile hike over to the North side of North Mountain. Climbing to the top of North Mountain is on a paved road with a steep descent down the west ridge; then back to the parking lot.

**Directions to Shaw Butte Trail Loop #306 TH**

Take I-10 East from N. Pebble Creek Parkway.

Follow I-10 East towards Phoenix for about 17.5 miles to North 7<sup>th</sup> **Avenue.**

Get off on exit 144a for 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Use any lane to turn left onto N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Proceed for about 8.7 miles. The road ends at the TH parking lot.

**12-30-2020: PA to CX to EMRP Pedersen/TH/GD/PD to CX/PA (Estrella Foothills into EMRP) Rating B.** This is a 9.4 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, then right on PD. Continue for 0.5 mile and go left on CX, back to PA, then back to the high school. This is a lollipop hike; average flat hiking trail. The Gadsden section is sandy. Driving distance is 26 miles RT. Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark. There is a self-pay park fee as you enter the park at CX.

**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.