

Wednesday “C” Hikes - 9/23/20-4/28/21

As of 3/29/21

Wednesday September 23 - Goldwater Lakes In and Out (Prescott). Rating C+. Mary Hill – Leader.

This is an 9-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1100 ft. The hike goes through a pine forest and then skirts the two Goldwater lakes. After a break at picnic tables at the lake, the hike continues around and through a wooded section with groups of granite boulders. Trail condition – good hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. More restrooms and soda machines are at the lake where we will take our break. No Park Fee. Driving distance is 200 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Prescott-Circle-Trail-PCT>

Directions to Prescott: Goldwater Lakes Trail & Quartz Mountain Trail

Turn right on Pebble Creek Pkwy to Indian School.

Turn left on Indian School.

Turn right on Loop 303.

Turn right/then go left on U.S. 60 West.

Turn right on 93/89.

Turn right on 89 and go into Prescott.

Turn right into White Spar Campground (south end of parking lot).

Wednesday September 30 -

Toothaker/Gadsden/Butterfield Loop or reverse

(Estrella Mountains). Rating C. Kerry Walsh will lead.

This hike is approximately 7 miles with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail is relatively flat, with long views of the Estrella Mountains and valley to the East & West. There are foothills to the left and larger mountains to the right as you travel east on the Gadsden Trail. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Coldwater-GadsdenButterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkwy (south)

South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Turn right into Estrella Mountain Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.

Drive around the park to the left.

Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Wednesday October 7 - Joshua Tree South (Highway 93). Rating C. Pete Williams will lead. This hike is across the Tres Alamos Wilderness, an area of open desert full of Joshua Trees. The hike will be about 7 miles and an elevation gain of about 700 feet. There are more and larger Joshua Trees here than in Joshua Tree National Park. This is a true Joshua tree forest. And there are a couple of Saguaro cacti in the area - very unusual to see both species together as they live in different deserts - Saguaros in the Sonoran desert and Joshua Trees in the Mojave desert. The C version goes to one of the Saguaros living amongst the Joshua Trees. This is a "herding cats" hike as there is no trail and hikers have a tendency to wander off in all directions. Trail condition - this is mostly an open desert bushwhack hike with some boulder hopping in the beginning and at the end. No park fee. No restrooms. Driving distance is 140 miles.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Hwy93/Joshua-Tree-South>

Directions to Wickenburg - Joshua Tree South Trailhead

Take Indian School Road west.

Take Loop 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

Turn west (left) onto U.S. 60 for approx. 28 miles.

Turn right on Highway 93.

Go 26 miles to a large rest area/pull-off on the left just past MP 173.

Park at the near end where there is a gap for hikers to get through the fence.

No restrooms...might want to stop at McDonald's in Wickenburg.

Wednesday October 14 - Sonoran Loop - Competitive Track (White Tank Mountains). Rating C. Kerry Walsh will lead.

This is 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 portajohn at the trailhead. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee. Driving distance is approximately 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).

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 portajohn.

Wednesday October 21 – Star Tower Multi Loop (Star Tower) Rating C. Pete Williams will lead. This is a 6.7 mile multi loop hike, with elevation change of 900 feet. The hike goes through typical desert terrane near the Estrella community. The high point on the hike provides distant views of the surrounding area. This is another biking area developed by the same group as FINS and Estrella Foothills Park. They use interesting names for the trails. No Park Fee. No Restrooms at the trailhead.

Driving distance is 18 miles. Directions to the Star Tower Trail Head. Head south out the main gate on the Pebblecreek Parkway, which becomes the Estrella Parkway on the other side of I-10.

Continue just over 8 miles.

Turn right just past the Star Tower.

Park in the curved parking area.

Wednesday October 28 - Indian Mesa (I-17 at Exit #236) – Rating C+. Kerry Walsh will lead. This is an in and out hike of 7+ miles with an elevation gain of 1300 ft. The hike starts out by crossing the Agua Fria River. If the river is low you can hike along it to the base of Indian Mesa. If not, once across you go up out of the riverbed and hike parallel to it. If the lake is full, you will add a mile to the hike to get around a finger of the lake. You can see Indian Mesa from the parking lot – just look down the road at a flat-topped white stone mesa. You will probably encounter some of the free-range cattle that wander around along the riverbed. There are lots of views of the riverbed, Lake Pleasant, and the mountain ranges to the west of the lake. This area is closed from 15 December to 15 June as a Bald Eagle breeding area. The final 10 feet or so up to the top is very steep, but there are great views even from the saddle 50 feet below the

top. No restrooms at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Indian-Mesa>

Directions to Lake Pleasant East and Indian 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; approx. 4 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).

Keep left at the next Y (3.7 mi. from I-17; sign points to Boat Launch).

Pay \$7.00 at the self-pay station.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

Wednesday November 4th - Granite Mountain Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale). Rating C. Mary Hill leading.

This is a 7.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 ft. It passes through three different "forests" - Saguaro, Jumping Cholla, and two types of Yucca. 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 Pebble Creek. Trail condition - great hiking trail. No restrooms at trailhead. No park fee. Driving is 110 RT.

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - 136th St Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North to 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 names to Sonoran Desert Dr. Take Cave Creek Rd North (left) and true right at next light on Dynamite Blvd. Follow Dynamite (name changes to Rio Verde) and turn left on 136th St. Drive about 2 mi and park on the left under the power lines.

Wednesday November 11 - Toothaker/Gadsden/Butterfield Loop (Estrella Mtns) Rating C - Linda Schmillen leading

Approx. 7 miles, out and back, with an elevation gain of 750 ft. We will follow the trail to a large wash and parallel the wash for 2 miles or so. The

trail is relatively flat, with long views of the Estrella Mtns and valley to the east and west. There are foothills to the left and larger mountains to the right as you travel east on the Gadsden Trail. Porta Johns are located at the trailheads. Driving distance is 20 miles R/T

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park
South on Pebble Creek Prkway, to Vineyard Ave (approx. 3 miles past Goodyear Ballpark) and turn left immediately after crossing Gila River. After ~ 1 mile, turn right into Estrella Mtn Park, pay park fee of \$7. Drive around park to the left. Trailheads and rest rooms are on the west side at the end of the road in the parking lot of the rodeo arena.

Wednesday November 18 - Hogs Trails + Chicken Point + Submarine Rock (Sedona). Rating C. Mary Hill will lead.

This is a 7-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The hike provides excellent views of several named rock formations. It also goes to Chicken Point and Submarine Rock. It goes by one of the vortexes of Sedona. It epitomizes what hiking in the Sedona area really means. Trail condition - it is a typical Sedona trail with some hiking on bare red rock, including some edge. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee with Senior Parks Pass. Driving distance is about 230 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Hogs-Trail-Chicken-Pt>

Directions to Sedona - Hogs Trails Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North (right) and follow until it ends at I-17.

Turn left onto I-17 North.

Take exit 298, turn left and head towards Sedona on AZ 179.

Pass through the Village of Oak Creek. Keep on going past Bell Rock.

Turn right on Morgan Road (it's a roundabout).

No restroom at this trailhead.

Senior Parks Pass (free) or Red Rock Parking Pass (\$5.00) is needed.

We usually stop at the McDonalds on I-17 at exit 287.

Wednesday November 25 - Lizardhead/Chimney rock/Thunder Mountain Loop (Sedona). Rating C. Kerry Walsh will lead.

This is a 7-mile lollipop loop with an elevation gain of 900 feet. This is a very scenic hike on the edge of Sedona. There are lots of views of Red Rock formations and Sedona from above. Trail surface - the overall trail is an average hiking trail with the quarter mile of stair-like steps. Restrooms are at trailhead. There is no park fee with a Senior Parks pass. Driving distance is approx 250 miles RT.

Directions to Sedona - Dry Creek Vista Trailhead

Go West (left) on Indian School Rd to Loop 303.
Go North (right) on Loop 303 to I-17 North.
Go North (left) on I-17 to exit 287 (Camp Verde).
Go west (left) to Cottonwood.
Turn north (right) on 89A.
Turn left onto Dry Creek Road
Turn right on FS 152
Go about .2 miles to trailhead parking on the left.
There are restrooms at the trailhead and there is a McDonalds at I-17 exit 287.

Wednesday December 2 - Black Canyon Trail – K-Mine Segment/Black Canyon City Trailhead (I-17 Exit 242).

Rating C. Nancy Love will lead. This is a 6.1-mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The C level hike goes 2.5 miles along a ridge that follows the Agua Fria River before descending down 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.

<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)

Wednesday December 9 - Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Chuckwalla/Pyrite Lollipop Loop (Skyline Regional Park - Buckeye) Rating C+. Leader Linda Schmillen. This is

about a 6.7-7.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1200-1350 ft. in the southwestern part of Buckeye's New Skyline Regional Park Most. The trails meander through typical desert terrain. Pyrite is one of the newer trails in Buckeye's Skyline Regional Park. It goes up to the ridgeline in the southwestern corner of the White Tank Mountains. There is an optional summit trail that goes .3 miles with 170 ft of elevation gain. Trail condition – average to good trail, but steep up Pyrite to the top. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park>

Directions to Skyline Regional Park Trailhead

Go West on I-10.

Turn north (right) on Watson Road.

Drive to end of road and trailhead parking.

Facilities are at the trailhead.

Wednesday December 16 – Quartz Mine/Lost Creek/Turnbuckle East Loop Mountain Wash/Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Chuckwalla Loop (Skyline Park). Rating C. Carol Rice leading

This is a 6 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1100 ft in Buckeye's New Skyline Regional Park. The Quartz Mine trail gradually climbs the first part of the hike to Lost Creek Trail, which connects to Turnbuckle for the descent back to the trail head. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

Directions to Skyline Regional Park:

West on I 10, turn north (right) on Watson Rd.

Drive to the end of the road and trailhead parking. Facilities are at the trailhead.

Wednesday December 23 - Coachwhip/Cholla/Arrowhead Point Loop (Thunderbird Park - Glendale). Nancy Love will lead this hike. Rating C.

This is a 6.6-mile hike with an elevation gain of about 1150 feet. The trails offer 360 degree views of the surrounding areas and have different primary vegetation from each other. Arrowhead Point Trail provides a view of a housing development wrapped around a series of canals (water, water everywhere). Arrowhead, Lake including this development, was built on former citrus orchards and is considered one of the Valley's most affluent neighborhoods (a 2001 survey found that the area's 85308 zip code had more millionaires, 1011, than any other in the valley). The Cholla trail includes views of some large custom homes. The

Coachwhip trail provides views of another housing development and golf course. Trail condition – as of January 2018 it is mostly a rough hiking trail with lots of imbedded rocks and loose stones. There are restrooms at the trailheads. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx 50 miles RT - on paved roads. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/ThunderbirdConservationPark/Coachwhip-Ridgeline-Trails>

Directions to Thunderbird Park

Take 101 North.

Turn left (north) on 59th Ave.

Turn Left into parking lot of Thunderbird Park.

Turn immediately left at yellow gate and park a block down, near the restrooms.

The trails start by going right in front of the restrooms and cross the street near the park entrance.

There is no park fee...Restrooms are at the parking lot.

Wednesday December 30 - Pyramid/Busera/Gila Loop (South Mountain). Mary Hill will lead.

This is a 6.6 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 Mtns, and areas to the south. We then drop into a valley of typical desert vegetation. We will then return up over a saddle and down through a secondary 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-National-Pyramid>

Directions to South Mtn 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 19th Ave.

Turn left (west) into the trailhead parking lot

Wednesday January 6, 2021 -Beardsley/Morgan City Wash Lollipop Loop (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C.

Linda Schmillen/Pete Williams will lead. This is 7.6 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 840 ft. The hike starts out crossing a road and then travels through a Saguaro forest. Along the trail are some very interesting Saguaros. Morgan City Wash is an unusual overgrown riparian area that has over 100 species of birds. There are several creek crossings over a year round creek. There is a good chance to see wild burros on the Beardsley trail. Trail condition- Beardsley is a good hiking trail while the wash is through a wooded area. Restrooms with water are at the trailhead. Trail condition - good hiking 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.

Wednesday January 13 - Fat Man's Pass from the West (South Mountain). Rating C-. Leader Mary Hill, Carol Rice coleading.

A 4.5 to 6.2 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 600-1080 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 1 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. Trail condition - mostly an uneven surface of rock so you need to keep your eyes on the trail. Restrooms are at the park office. No park fee. Driving distance is 60 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-West>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance

Take I-10 east to I-17 south (exit 143B).

Exit I-17 at 7th Ave.
Turn right on 7th Ave to Baseline.
Turn left on Baseline to Central Ave.
Turn right onto Central Ave.
Follow Central into South Mountain Park.
Meet at park office / restrooms.
Caravan to trailhead (trailhead is at the Buena Vista Parking area).

Wednesday January 20 - West Valley Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Baseline/Rainbow/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mtn Regional Park). Rating C. Carol Rice will lead.

This is a 7.7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. The trail wanders through the front portion of EMRP with distant views to the north. It then goes south into more typical desert areas. Trail condition - a very good hiking trail. There's a Porta-John at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Baseline-Rainbow-Dysart>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Baseline Loop TH

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 on Casey Abbott Dr South (first turn past turn-in to Nature Center).

Baseline Spur trailhead is just past the amphitheater. There is a porta-john near the trailhead.

January 27 - Walking Jim North to Lucifer's Gate (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating B/C. Kerry Walsh will lead.

This is a 7.4 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek before heading north on an old dirt road. It then continues along a canyon and creek to the spring. It offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (lots of wild burros have been seen). Trail condition - most of the trail is a good hiking trail with one section of loose stones on an old jeep road. No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim-North>

Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.
Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).
Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).
Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).
The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.
No restrooms at the trailhead.

Wednesday February 3 - Tom's Thumb trail from the North trailhead (McDowell Sonoran Preserve Scottsdale). Rating C+. Mary Hill will lead. This is a 6.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The uphill portion of the trail is decomposed granite, making for a somewhat slippery surface to hike upon so the hike will go at a slower than normal pace. Tom's Thumb is a 140 ft high granite rock sticking up on the top of the mountain. The top of the mountain has a small valley with many interesting boulder formations. A side trail takes us up to a viewpoint with 360 degree views. There are excellent views of Scottsdale and areas to the West as well as Fountain Hills and the Superstition Mountains to the East. Trail condition - overall a good hiking trail, but fairly steep going up the initial climb. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 108 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Toms-Thumb>

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 exit 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.

Wednesday February 10 - Estrella Foothills Park Cairn Canyon Loop - SR/PA/RR/GR/UT/PC/JL Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. Kerry Walsh will lead. 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 at 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.

Wednesday February 17 - Black Canyon Trail – Copper Mountain Segment. Rating C. Nancy Love will lead.

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. The B version does a loop along the base of Copper Mountain and through a large forest of Prickly Pear cactus. Trail condition - a good biking trail. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles

RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BCT-Copper-Mountain-Loop>

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.

No restrooms at the trailhead (stop at McDonalds at Exit 262).

Wednesday February 24 – Library to Waterfall Trail (White Tanks). Rating C. Linda Schmillen to Lead

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 would 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. Trail condition - 0 average hiking trail. Restrooms in the library. Park fee is \$2. Per hiker. Distance 24 miles R/T.

Directions to White Tank Mountains 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, library is on the right.

Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads (except from the library which is \$2.00 per hiker).

Wednesday March 3 - P.A. Seitts Preserve Fingers Hike

(Cave Creek). Rating D/C. Nancy Love will lead. This is a 4.5 -7.5 mile multifinger in & out hike with an elevation change of 400-880 ft. There are several short trails branching out from the trailhead. The hikers will simply select some of them to hike. This is a preserve to protect the assorted vegetation along this portion of Cave Creek. The C version crosses the creek bed. There is a wide variety of desert vegetation including many large Saguaros. This is a good area for Spring wildflowers. Trail condition - good hiking trail. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is approx 110 miles RT.

Directions to Cave Creek - P.A. Seitts Preserve Trailhead Take

Loop 303 north and follow until it ends I-17.

Turn north (left) on I-17. Exit to the right (east) on Hwy 74 (Carefree Highway)

Turn left (North) on Cave Creek Road.

Go .6 miles and turn left (West) on New River Road.

Go .3 miles and turn right on 54th St

Go .4 miles to the parking area on the right near the intersection with 52 St No restrooms at this trailhead.

Wednesday March 10 - Bell Rock & Courthouse Rock Loop

(Sedona). Rating C. Kerry Walsh will lead. This is a 6-7 miles hike with an elevation gain of 600+ ft. The hike starts near Bell Rock and goes up to the vortex at Bell Rock before looping around Bell and Courthouse rocks. Very scenic with many well-known rock formations in view as you go around these two rocks. Trail condition - good hiking trail with Bell Rock itself being steep bare rock. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Free with a Golden Age Pass. Driving distance is approx 240 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Bell-RockCourthouse-Rock-Loop>

Directions to Sedona Bell Rock Trailhead

Turn right on Pebble Creek Pkwy to Indian School. Turn left on Indian School. Turn right on Loop 303 and follow until it ends at I-17. Turn left onto I-17 North toward Flagstaff. From I-17, take exit 298, turn left and head towards Sedona on AZ 179. Pass through the Village of Oak Creek. Keep on going just past Bell Rock. Turn right into Courthouse Vista overlook (first scenic overlook just past Bell rock (it's very close to Bell Rock). There is a restroom at this trailhead. Senior Parks Pass or Red Rock Parking Pass (\$5.00) is needed. There are McDonalds at I-17 exits 262 and 287

Wednesday March 17 - Red Top Trail A Loop

(Wickenburg). Rating C. Nancy Love will lead. This is a loop hike of 7 miles with an elevation gain of 700 ft. The well groomed trail starts at Sophie's Flat and goes through typical desert before joining an old jeep road. Once it crosses the Blue Tank Wash it goes back to a typical desert trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 102 miles RT.

Directions to Wickenburg - Sophie Flats Trailhead

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

Turn west (left) onto U.S. 60.

Turn North (right) on El Recreo Drive.

Continue straight as the road changes name to Constellation Road.

The road will become unpaved in a couple of miles.

Drive 1 mile from the point it becomes unpaved to Blue Tank Road.

Turn left on Blue Tank Road.

Go 1.3 miles to the Sophie Flats trailhead

Trailhead parking is on the right.

The last 2.3 miles are on an unpaved, but well-maintained road (SUV not needed).

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.

Wednesday March 24 - Victory View & Stairs Loop

(Verrado). Rating C. Mary Hill will lead. 7.4 miles and 900 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. It makes a loop over to and on the

SOB trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

<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.

Wednesday' March 31 - Sunrise Mountain, (a new loop trail). Pete Williams will lead. This is a 7.1 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. that goes from the Westwing Trailhead. There is an optional .25 mile trail to the top of one of the peaks. More than two-thirds of the hike is on new trails. There are interesting views of the surrounding communities. Tina Williams will reach 1,000 miles hiking with the club on this hike (in only 17 months).

New Directions to Peoria Trails – Sunrise and Westwing Mountains

Drive North on Loop 303 and exit at N. Lake Pleasant Parkway

Turn right on N. Lake Pleasant Parkway and go 2.0 miles.

Turn left on Westwing Parkway.

Turn right into Westwing Neighborhood Park.

There is no parking fee.

Rest rooms & water are at the trailhead.

Wednesday April 7 - Beardsley/Frog Tank/Roadrunner Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C. Carol Rice will lead. 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.

Wednesday April 14 - Dog Bone Airport Road Trailhead

Hikes (Buckeye). Rating C. Nancy Love will lead. In and out

hike of 7 miles & 800 ft. The Dog Bone trail system is a sister bike trail system to FINS. These hikes are in the far eastern section of the system.

While the overall hike is through typical desert terrain, there are several interesting rock formations as well as views of the surrounding

mountains. The first 2 miles (D hike) are on open desert with a gradual

incline to a saddle with a quartz outcropping. The C hike then continues for

another 1.5 miles across the side of the mountain to a field of quartz. Trail

condition – typical desert trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No

park fee. Driving distance is 32 miles RT.

Directions to Dog Bone – Airport Road Trailhead (Buckeye)

Drive south on Pebble Creek Pkwy for 9.3 miles and turn right (west) at Elliot Rd.

Continue on Elliott Rd for 2.6 miles and turn left (south) onto Rainbow Valley Rd.

Drive 2 miles on Rainbow Valley Road and turn right (west) on Ray Road.

Drive 2 miles and veer right as the road turns (and changes name to Airport road.

Drive 100 yards and turn left into a dirt parking area just this side of a dirt road going left.

Park here. Hike down the dirt road for .25 miles and turn right on the trail.

Wednesday, April 21 - 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 ft. It passes through three different "forests" - Saguaro, Jumping Cholla, and two types of Yucca. 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 Pebble Creek. Trail condition – Great hiking trail. Nice restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

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

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - 136th St Trailhead

Take Loop 303 North to I-17.

Turn left (North) on I-17...stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road.

Follow Dove Valley Rd about 10 mi as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Dr.

Take Cave Creek Road North (left) and turn right at next light on Dynamite Blvd Follow Dynamite (name changes to Rio Verde) and turn left on 136th Street.

For Granite Mt Loop, drive about 2 mi and park on the left under the power lines. There are nice restrooms at trailhead.

**Wednesday April 28 –
Baseline/Rainbow/Dysart/Toothaker Loop – Estrella Mtn
Park Rating C. Linda Schmillen leading.**

This is a 7.7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. The trail wanders through the front portion of EMRP with distant views to the north. It then goes south into more typical desert areas. Trail condition – very good hiking trail. There's a porta john at the trailhead. \$7 park fee per car. Driving distance is 20 miles R/T.

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkwy (south)
South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.
Turn right into Estrella Mountain Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Continue straight on Casey Abbott Dr North. Turn right on Casey Abbott Dr
South (first turn past turn-in to Nature Center). Baseline Spur trailhead is
just past the amphitheater. There is a porta john at the trailhead.