

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:30 am, depart at 6:45. Early hikes will meet/depart at 5:30/5:45.

April 6 - Black Canyon 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 1050 ft. 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 ft) than large (over 5 ft). 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. No restrooms at the trailhead. No Park Fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BlackCanyonCity>

April 13 - Verrado Walkabout (White Tank Mountains). Rating C. This is a 7 mile loop hike with about 1000 ft of elevation gain. This hike wanders around the trails in Verrado. Lots of rock formations with the chance of assorted wildflowers in Spring. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

April 20 - Adobe Jack/Teacup/Sugarloaf Summit/Grand Central Loop (Sedona). Rating C. This is an upside down lollipop loop hike of 7.4-8.0 miles with an elevation gain of about 800 ft. This hike starts just off Hwy. 89A. While there are views of many houses, there are also some of the most scenic views in Sedona. You see many of the named rock formations for which Sedona is famous. The early part of the trail is very wooded, while the hike up to Sugarloaf summit is open with expansive views. Grand Central has an incredible 360 degree view at its high point. Trail condition - a typical Sedona trail with a bit of bare red rock. No restrooms. No park fee with a Senior Parks pass. Driving distance is 250 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Adobe-JackTeacupSugarloafGrand>

April 27 - Baseline/Rainbow/Dysart/Toothaker Loop

(Estrella Mtn Regional Park). Rating C. 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 \$6.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Baseline-Rainbow-Dysart>

May 4 - 200/202/8A/100/1A/304 Loop (Piestewa Peak). Rating C.

This is a 6 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. This hike goes up and around the peaks to the East of Piestewa Peak in that park. It provides views of Piestewa Peak as well as Scottsdale, Paradise Valley and downtown Phoenix. It passes through an interesting quartz field. 202 gives you an option of going around a mountain or up through a saddle. No park fee. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 66 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixMountainsPreserve/Circumference-Summit>