

## **APRIL – MONDAY B HIKES**

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

**4/2/18: Saddle Mountain Saddle Trail (Tonopah). Rating B.** This is a 6+ mile in-and -out hike with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. The trail works its way up to the main saddle of Saddle Mountain with extensive views to the west (Eagletail Mountains) and south. There are great views of the rugged rock formations that comprise the mountain. Trail condition - the early part of the trail is a very good surface, but the last mile is along the side of the formation, is composed of loose stones, and is hard to follow. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles.  
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-10/Saddle-Mountain-Tonopah>

**4/9/18: Spur Cross to Maricopa Trail, Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating C-B.** This is a 6-10 mile hike with an elevation change of 500 ft. The hike starts out heading West on the Spur Cross trail and travels through typical desert terrain. On the return, turn right on the Dragonfly trail. On the Dragonfly trail you pass through a Saguaro forest with very tall Saguaro cactus. You then descend into a riparian area, which contains permanent pools of water and lots of vegetation. The trail then makes a loop around the Jewel of the Creek Preserve, which contains many different bird species and up to 20 different dragonfly species. Porta-johns are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$3.00 per person. Driving distance is 110 miles RT. [in February 2010, heavy rains wiped out the trail and many of the smaller cottonwood trees in the Preserve].  
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Spur-Cross-Loop>  
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Metate-Dragonfly-Trails>

**4/16/18: East Peak Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve). Rating C & B.** This is a 6 (C level) or 8.4 (B) mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation change of 800 ft and elevation gain of 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. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

**4/23/18: Quartz Mine/Lost Creek/Turnbuckle/Chuckwalla/Granite Falls/Turnbuckle Loop (Skyline Regional Park). Rating B.** This is a loop hike of 9.8 miles with an elevation gain of 1800 ft. This hike does a loop around the outer edges of the park (as of Aug 2016). There are lots of views of the west valley. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.  
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park/Outer-Loop-Trails>

**4/30/18: Groom Creek Trail #307, Bradshaws (Prescott). Rating B.** This is 9 mi. loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1600 ft. From the trailhead, the trail immediately forks. Take the right fork for a counter clockwise loop. 200 yards into the hike you reach a power line. The trail is distinct at this point, and it follows the power line road to the south. Follow the power line road for ¼ mi. until you cross a dirt road. The trail then turns east (left) and leaves the power line road. The trail rises and falls and crosses several washes as it gently climbs along Spruce Ridge. After climbing 3.5 mi. you reach a saddle where Trail #377 branches to the right. Stay left and continue the gentle climb for 2 more mi. until reaching the Spruce Mountain. Lookout. There are picnic tables and an outhouse here. This is a good spot to break. Take a 200 yard side trip to the Lookout Tower. From the picnic area the trail continues to the south and switchbacks down along Groom Creek. The trail here is steeper then the section you climbed to the top. From the top it is 3.5 mi. back to the trailhead. There is no park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 227 miles RT [SCG=9.0/2100/4.6]. [.http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Groom-Creek-Trail](http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Groom-Creek-Trail)