

## Thursday “B” Hikes – April/May 2018

**Goat Camp/South Trail/Cell Towers (White Tank Mountains). Rating B.** This is a 8.5 mile round trip, out and back hike with an elevation change of 2450 ft. Trailhead elevation: 1500 ft; Highest elevation: 3950 ft. The trailhead marker is at picnic unit number one. The South Trail takes a northwesterly course for a relatively flat mile. Turn left here at the junction with the Goat Camp Trail and follow the natural terrain of the wash for .8 miles. This section is a gradual rocky climb to a streambed. Cross the stream and begin the .6 mile climb to the first summit. This section will cover a 600 ft elevation change. Continue on into the valley and begin another climb for 1 mile. Here you can see another hill across the valley from top. Turn left at this point and continue climbing for about .8 mile and 800 ft of elevation change to the cell phone towers. Turnaround at that point and enjoy the downhill hike. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Park fee is \$6.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Goat-Camp>

April 12

**Caterpillar Hill Loop (Verrado). Rating C+/B.** This is an 8 to 10.5 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 800-1600 feet. For the C+ version, the first 2 miles are fairly flat, rising only 100 ft. Then the hike goes up the 9% grade Caterpillar Hill (700ft) over the next 1 3/4 miles. You then come back down the 11% grade road you see from Pebble Creek. Finally, you skirt the hill between the two trails and return on the 2 mile flat portion of the trail. For the B version, you would go to the top of the hill before coming down the 11% grade road. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

April 19

Skyline outer loop trails. Approximately 10 miles

April 26

**Joshua Tree North Monolith (Highway 93). Rating C.** This is a 6.8 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of about 850 ft. It utilizes old jeep roads, regular trails, sandy wash, and an optional short climb to the top of a beautiful monolith. This area is part of the Tres Alamos Wilderness. There are good examples of Saguaros and Joshua trees living side by side in the desert. The rock outcroppings are very scenic as are the Joshua Trees. Trail condition - mostly on old roads with a couple of sections following animal trails. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Hwy93/Joshua-Tree-North>

May 3

**Petersen Long Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B.** This is a 15 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 ft. The trail goes through typical desert terrain with distance views of the west side of the Estrella Mountains. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$6.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 20 miles RT.