

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - WEDNESDAYS

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 4 - Joshua Tree Central (Highway 93). Rating C. This hike is across the Tres Alamos Wilderness, an area of open desert full of Joshua Trees. The hike is about 8 miles with elevation gain of 700 ft. There are more and larger Joshua Trees here than in Joshua Tree National Park. This is a true Joshua tree forest. And there are several 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. Trail condition - this is mostly an open desert bushwhack hike with a few boulders to step around. No park fee. No restrooms. Driving distance is 150 miles.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Hwy93/Joshua-Tree-Central-Joshua-Tree-Forest>

April 11 - Peralta Trail #102 (Superstition Mountains). Rating C+. This is an in and out hike of about 6 miles (add .5 to go to GC) with an elevation gain of 1,500 ft – a steep, continuous climb. But it is one of the most beautiful hikes we do - Weaver's Needle will be in front of you at the top. We also go to a lone tree with terrific close-up views of Weavers Needle. An optional addition is to hike to Geronimo's Cave, which provides great views of the valley just hiked and points East. The Peralta Road turnoff is located 8.5 miles past Apache Jct. on Hwy 60 east. The trailhead is about 9 miles north on this road – the last 8 miles of which are dirt (a car usually has no problems getting through). Restrooms are available at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx 140 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Peralta-Trail>

April 18 - Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) loop (Estrella Mountain Ranch). Rating C+. This is an 7.5 mile double loop hike with an elevation gain of 1250 ft on several trails of the FINS bike trails system. The trails meander through several desert hills with many rock formations. There are also a couple of interesting areas - an enchanted forest of stuffed animals and a boneyard of dozens of cow bones. Trail condition - overall, this is a good biking trail. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRanch/Fantasy-Island-North>

April 25 - Beardsley/Frog Tank/Roadrunner Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C. 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. Restrooms with water are at the trailhead as well as along Roadrunner trail. Trail condition - good hiking trail. Park fee is \$6.00. Driving distance is 80 miles.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Beardsley-Trail>

May 2 - Black Canyon Trail- K-Mine Segment/ Black Canyon City Trailhead (I-17 Exit 242). Rating C/B. This is a 5 to 10 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 900 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. The B level continues across the river and follows an old jeep trail over several hills before picking up the continuation of the Black Canyon Trail. 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.

[SCG=5.4/800/2.7].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/K-mine-Segment-Exit-242>