

**B LEVEL HIKING GROUP – FRIDAYS – December, 2017**

**Meet at Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:15 am, depart at 7:30.**

**December 1 - Wilson Mountain Trail (Sedona). Rating B.** This is an in and out hike of 9-10 miles with an elevation gain of 2500 ft. The hike goes to a scenic overlook with great views of Sedona or all the way to the far side of Wilson Mountain with views of Sterling Pass, Vultee Arch and Oak Creek Canyon. There are great views of Sedona's red rock formations along the way. This hike starts at the Encinosa parking area which has a restroom and climbs the scenic north side of Wilson. Park fee is \$6.00 or free with a Senior Parks pass. Driving distance is approx. 260 miles RT.

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<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Wilson-Mountain>

**December 8 – Hackberry Springs Loop from Needle Vista Trailhead (Superstitions). Rating B-.** This is an 8-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. We will start at the Needle Vista Trailhead and do a lollipop loop. We work our way up to the top of a ridge, giving us great views of the mesa where Hackberry Spring originates. We'll go down to Hackberry Springs and then go to an arch where we will have our break. We then follow the trail back to the trailhead. There are lots of views of great rock formations for which the Superstitions are well known. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. No parking fee. Driving distance to the trailhead is 120 mi RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Hackberry-Spring-Loop>

**December 15 – Verrado/SOB/Skyline Crest Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating B.** This is a 9.5-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. The hike goes from the Lost Creek Trailhead in Verrado, goes on the SOB trail to Lost Creek trail. It then goes along the Skyline Crest trail before looping back on Quartz Mine into Verrado. The trails provide lots of great views of Buckeye and points east. Trail condition - an average hiking trail, but steep along the Skyline Crest trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

**December 22 – Saddle Mountain Loop (Tonopah). Rating B.** This is a 7-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1300 ft. The hike is roughly 1/3 trail and 2/3 bushwhacking, particularly the descent from the saddle visible from I-10. This hike provides outstanding views of the impressive, rugged rock formations that comprise the mountain. Trail condition - the early part of the trail is a very good surface but most of the hike is open desert, steep slopes and boulders with no real trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-10/Saddle-Mountain-Tonapah>

**December 29 – Skull Mesa, Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating B.** This hike is 12.4 miles roundtrip with an elevation gain of 3180 ft. Skull Mesa Trail #248 features panoramic views of the desert foothills and can be a good place to see deer and javelina. Due to the tall grasses in the area you'll find the rock cairns a useful guide to finding the path. From the west junction with Cottonwood Trail at an elevation of 3260 feet, the trail climbs numerous switchbacks, gaining over 1000 feet in a mile. Large porta-johns at the trailhead. Park fee is \$3.00 per person. Driving distance is approx. 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SevenSpringsRecreationArea/Skull-Mesa>