

12/4/17: Joshua Tree North (Highway 93). Rating C+. This is a 7.5 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of about 800 ft. It utilizes old jeep roads, regular trails, sandy wash, and a little bushwhacking to go into a canyon with some wild apple trees. 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>

12/11/17: Rainbow Valley/Toothaker/Gadsden/Butterfield Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B. This is a 9.6 mile loop beginning on the west side of the rodeo. The Rainbow Valley trail is wide and relatively flat (320ft elev. Change). It intersects the Toothaker Trail. Turn right onto the Toothaker Trail to the Pedersen Trail. Turn left on the Pedersen Trail. Turn left on the Gadsden Trail, then right on the Butterfield trail and head back to the rodeo. A restroom is at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$6.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 20 miles

RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Rainbow-Toothaker-Gadsen>

12/18/17: Walking Jim North to Lucifer's Gate (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating C/B. The C version is a 7.4 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 600 ft. The B version is 11.1 miles with an elevation gain of 1300 ft and goes all the way to Lucifer's Gate at Burro Spring. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek before heading north on an old dirt road. It then continues along a canyon and creek to the spring. It offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (lots of wild burros have been seen). Trail condition - most of the trail is a good hiking trail with one section of loose stones on an old jeep road. The B extension is in a boulder filled sandy/rocky wash that gives new meaning to rock hopping. No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim-North>

12/25/17: Christmas Day, no hike.