

## **D LEVEL HIKING GROUP - TUESDAYS**

**Meet at the Eagles Nest Clubhouse at 7:15AM, depart at 7:30AM.**

**December 5 – Desert Park/Horseshoe/Gateway Loop Trails (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) Rating D+** This is a 5 mile Loop encompassing parts of Desert Park, Horseshoe and Gateway Loop with an elevation gain of approximately 600 ft. The trail is an excellent trail in the south part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve just off the Loop 101. This loop is through the Gateway Saddle in Scottsdale providing views of Scottsdale including West World. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT.  
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Toms-Thumb>

**December 12 – Saddle Mountain – West Trail (Tonopah - Exit 94). Rating D.** This is an interesting 4.5 mile hike with approximately 500 ft. of elevation gain on the northwest side of Saddle Mountain. It provides impressive views of a different part of the mountain. It goes through a wash and up to a saddle area with very interesting rocks. Trail condition - it is roughly half old road and half average trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No Park Fee. Driving distance is 95 miles RT.  
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-10/Saddle-Mountain-Tonapah/Saddle-Mountain-NW-Side/B-Exploratory-Hike-2LynnW2015/>

**December 19 – Mule Deer/Waterfall/Black Rock Loop Trails (White Tanks Mountains. Regional Park) Rating D.** 4.0 mile hike and elevation change of 300 ft, with a marked trailhead and trail in excellent condition. The hike begins up from Mule Deer from Ramada 3 to Ramada 4 crossing Waterfall Canyon Road joining Black Rock Trail to the Waterfall Trail and return. Among the unique features on the Waterfall Trail are the Indian petroglyphs (900-1300 AD) at about the halfway point on the trail. Further along, at the three-quarter point, more petroglyphs are encountered along with an old steel water tank. The trail ends at the waterfall, which has a vertical drop of about 80 ft. The falls are dry, however, except after a rain or during the winter. Restrooms and water fountain are at the trailhead. Park admission fee is \$6.00 per car. Driving distance is approx.. 30 miles RT.  
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Mule-Deer-Waterfal>

**December 26 - Black Canyon Trail - Glorianna Trailhead North (I-17 Exit 248). Rating D.** This is a 4-5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 200-300 ft. This segment of the Black Canyon Trail heads north along the east edge of Black Canyon and travels below the Sunset Point rest area, though you don't really see much of the rest area. It has typical desert vegetation with views up and down Black Canyon. There are several interesting little canyons with different points of interest in each - a dry waterfall in one, a large Saguaro in one, etc. The 2 smallest Saguaro (4 inches high) that we know of are on this trail. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No park fee. No rest rooms (Sunset Point Rest Area is 4 miles further up I-17 with easy return). Driving distance is 110 miles RT.  
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/Glorianna-TH-North>