

Hello Thursday B hikers.

These are the hikes for February. I have put Quartz Peak back on again. Hopefully it works out this time. We have earlier meet and depart times for February. 7:00/7:15. Be sure and check Petes weekly email for correct times.

There will be several 6:30 departure times.

Clare

Feb 1

**Elephant Mountain trail, Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating C+.** This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1600ft. The hike starts out on the Spur Cross and Tortuga trails. Most of the early trail is very rocky. Besides the view of Elephant Mtn, there is a rock formation that looks like a Buffalo. There are many Saguaro cactus along the trail. Park fee is \$3. per person. Porta-john at the trailhead. Driving Distance is 110 miles RT. [SCG=7.2/1600/4.0].<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Elephant-Mountain-Trail>

Feb 8

**Quartz Peak (Estrella Mountains). Rating B+.** This is a 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2550 ft. Quartz Peak Trail, in the 14,400-acre [Sierra Estrella Wilderness](#), leads visitors from the floor of Rainbow Valley (elevation 1,550 feet) to the summit ridge of the Sierra Estrella at Quartz Peak (elevation 4,052 feet) in just 3 miles. Along the way, visitors are treated to a variety of Sonoran Desert plants and wildlife, scenic vistas, and evidence of the area's volcanic history. The views from the summit are spectacular--to the west is a dramatic panorama of rugged mountain ranges and desert plains, and to the east metropolitan Phoenix unfolds over the valley of the lower Salt River.

The trail begins at Quartz Peak Trailhead by following a closed four-wheel-drive track approximately 1/4 mile. Look to the left as you walk up the old road and see a narrow trail ascending the ridge to the north. The trail is poorly marked in places and does not extend to the summit--the final 1/4 mile to Quartz Peak is a scramble over boulder and talus slopes that requires careful footing. Quartz Peak is a point on the spine of the Sierra Estrella capped with an outcrop of white quartz.

Quartz Peak is accessed from Rainbow Valley and Riggs Roads in Rainbow Valley, &nbsp;Southwest of Pebble Creek. Trail condition - this is mostly a steep, boulder hopping, bushwhack hike. A high clearance vehicle is necessary to get to the trailhead. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is approx 70 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Quartz-Peak>

Feb 15

**Holbert/National/Kiwanis/Los Lomitas/Box Canyon Trails (South Mountain). Rating B.** Distance 9.0 miles round trip loop, with an elevation gain of 2000 ft. We carpool on I-10E to I-17S, Exit at 7th Ave, straight ahead to Central Ave. Turn Rt onto Central which goes into So. Mountain Park. There are no park fees. There is a restroom near the Holbert trailhead. This starts with a climb up Holbert Trail past Dobbins Lookout and on to the junction with the

National Trail. Turn right and proceed up the road and then follow the trail to the north of the microwave towers to the junction with the Kiwanis Trail. Take the Kiwanis down to the valley, then turn right onto the Los Lomitas trail to the junction with the Box Canyon Trail. Again turn right and follow the trail back to the parking lot. Restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 60 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Holbert-Trail>

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Feb 22

**La Barge Canyon Loop (Superstition Mountains). Rating B.** This is a lollipop loop hike of about 11.5 miles with an elevation gain of over 1000 ft.

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It is 11.5 miles long with a total ascent of over 1000 ft. The trail surface is a typical trail with some rocks, gravel, and sand with some streambed boulder hopping and scrambling in La Barge Canyon itself.

Follow First Water Trail for about 0.4 miles to the junction with Second Water Trail. Turn left onto Second Water Trail and follow it approximately 3.3 miles down into Boulder Canyon and the junction with Boulder Canyon Trail. Turn right on Boulder Canyon Trail and follow it for approximately 1 mile as it crosses back and forth over Boulder Creek to a cairn on the left that takes you up a faint trail to the back spine of Battleship Mountain to a saddle. Follow the trail down the other side into La Barge Box. (In warmer weather, this is a great spot to jump in the main pool and cool off). This section is a great spot to take a break and just explore part of this beautiful canyon.

After the break we then head down La Barge Creek, boulder hopping on what are initially some large boulders. As you make your way down La Barge Creek, you have an incredible view of Battleship Mountain on your left. La Barge Creek connects to Boulder Canyon and from there it is approximately 0.7 miles back to the junction with Second Water Trail. Then it is 3.3 miles back to the trailhead. Trail condition - half is on established average trail and half is a bushwhack through a rough canyon. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 124 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/La-Barge-Canyon>

Sent from my iPhone