

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - WEDNESDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:00 am, depart at 7:15. Early hikes will meet/depart at 6:00/6:15.

February 7 - Brittlebush Trail (Sonoran Desert National Monument).

Rating C+. This is a fairly flat 8.1 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 300 ft. It goes through typical desert terrain with nice views of the surrounding mountains. At the far end of the trail is a series of Mexican Jumping Bean plants (unique in Arizona). We sometimes do a little bushwhacking along the route, but it's open desert and not difficult.

Trail condition - overall a pretty good trail. There are restrooms about a mile into the trail. No park fee. Driving distance is 116 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-2/Brittlebush-Trail>

February 14 - Blue Wash/Camp Creek Falls Trail (Cave Creek)

Rating C. This is a 7-8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1000 ft. It goes down a series of dry waterfalls to an intersection with Camp Creek. Just past the intersection going up the ridgeline is a section of the Maricopa Trail. We take that up to the road. On the return we stay in an interesting wash, which comes out at Camp Creek. Then we go up Camp Creek about a third of a mile to a wet waterfall of about 15 feet. Beyond that the creek stays above ground and meanders through a lush riparian area to a campground. The return goes up the ridge running parallel to Blue Wash, providing views of the whole area. Trail condition - part is in a sandy wash and part is an average trail with one steep section going out of the main wash. No restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 122 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Other>

February 21 - Caterpillar Hill Trail (Verrado). Rating C++. This is Pete's annual challenge hike for C hikers. There are 2 options: 1) a nice 7.5 mile hike (C+) up to the base of Caterpillar Hill (elevation gain is 900 ft), or 2) the challenging 9+ mile hike (really a solid B) all the way to the top of Caterpillar Hill (elevation gain is about 1800 ft). The first 2 miles are fairly flat, rising only 100 ft. Then the hike goes up the 9% grade Caterpillar Hill (700ft) over the next 1 3/4 miles. Finally, it goes up the chute you can see from I-10 to the top (800ft in 3/4 mile). The white trail you see from

Pebble Creek is a second 11% grade caterpillar trail. This hike crosses the top part of that trail. Trail condition - the flat part (first 2 miles) is a good trail, while Caterpillar Hill itself is very steep with no switchbacks. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/Caterpillar-Hill>

February 28 - Deem Hills Circumference Trail (Phoenix). Rating

C/C+. This is a 7-8.3 mile loop hike around the Deem Hills Recreation area with an elevation gain of 800-1350 ft. There are distinct vegetation areas on the different sides of the hills. Hiking the upper route adds just over a mile and 500 ft of EG, but offers excellent views of the northwest valley. There would be good wildflowers after a wet winter. Good views of the area (north of 101 and west of I-17). Trail condition - typical desert hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No Park Fee. Driving Distance is 60 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/DeemHillsPark/Circumference-Trail>