

"B" LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:45 a.m., depart at 7:00 (early meet/depart is 6:00/6:15...but, always check the weekly e-mail).

March 8 – Goldfield Mountains #8 - Horns of a Dilemma trail (Goldfield Mountains). Rating B. This is a 7-mile hike with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. The "C" version (6 mi/900 ft) goes up a narrow canyon below the horns and then up to a saddle opposite the horns before returning to the trailhead. The saddle offers great views of the horns and two lakes. The "B" version adds a hike up to the Horns of a Dilemma with expansive views of both Saguaro Lake and Canyon Lake as well as the area between them. No park fee. No restrooms. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Horns-of-a-Dilemma>

March 15 - Estrella Foothills Park SR/PA/RR/GR/BJ/UT/GR/JL/SR Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B. This is a 9.7-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and goes up to a high saddle. It then goes up and across the highest ridgeline (Blackjack trail) in the area and makes a small loop around the top. This part of the trail offers outstanding views of the entire southwest valley. The hike is in typical desert terrain. Trail condition - mostly an excellent hiking trail with one section of edginess across the ridgeline. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Estrella-Foothills>

March 22 – Brown Mountain-Balanced Rock Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating B. The "B" version of this hike combines the summit of Brown Mountain, Cathedral Rock, Amphitheater and Balanced Rock for a distance of 10.8 miles and elevation gain of 1250 ft. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weaver's Needle, Four Peaks, Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Balanced-Rock-Loop/B-HikeBrown-Mountain-Balanced-RockLynnW2017-2018/>

March 29 – Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial Trail (Yarnell). Rating B-. This is a 7.6-mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 1900

ft. The trail is a memorial to the Hotshots firefighting team from Prescott who lost their lives fighting the 2013 Yarnell Hill fire. It goes up, over and down the ridge where they lost their lives and includes plaques for each of the 19 fire fighters who died there. Trail condition - the trail is a good hiking surface but goes steadily up right from the parking lot. Restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park fee but limited parking. Driving distance is 160 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Granite-Mountain-Hotshots-Memorial-State-Park>