

D LEVEL HIKING GROUP - TUESDAYS

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

January 2 - Estrella Foothills Park Brethern South Loop - SR/PA/JR/RR/PA/SR Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating D. This is a 5.1 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 240 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and goes through several washes. The hike is in typical desert terrain. Trail condition - excellent hiking trail. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.

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

January 9 – Sidewinder/Octillo Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve). Rating D+ This is a 5.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 550 ft. The hike goes through typical desert terrain around a hill from the new trailhead off Carefree Highway with views of the Phoenix Sonoran Desert, Cave Creek and Anthem. New trailhead off Carefree Highway with a large box fan for cool down after the hike. Trail condition - average hiking trail surface. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

January 16 -Turnbuckle/Granite Falls/Chuckwalla Lollipop Loop – Skyline Regional Park –Rating D+ - This is about a 5.0 + mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 550 ft. in the western part of Buckeye’s New Skyline Regional Park including parts of the Granite Falls Trail and Chuckwalla Trail that are accessed from Turnbuckle Trail on the west side of the park. The trails meander through several areas with minimal elevation gain. This is one of the trails in Buckeye’s Skyline Regional Park. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park/Skyline-Regional-Park/16>

January 23 – Maricopa Trail (Lake Pleasant). Rating D. This is a 4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 400 ft. The hike starts below the Lake Pleasant dam at the East Beardsley Trailhead and follows the Maricopa Trail east to the east marina. The hike provided a good view of the dam from below. There is a good chance to see wild burros on this trail. The turn around point is up by the marina and returning to the trailhead. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee from this trailhead. Driving distance is 64 miles.

January 30 - Walking Jim Trail (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating D. An 4-4.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 400 ft. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek and offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (wild burros, etc). No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

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