

B LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:45 am, depart at 7:00. Early hikes will meet/depart at 5:45/6:00.

March 2 - Hackamore Trailhead Loop (Goldfield Mountains). Rating C/B. This is a 7-10 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1800 ft. The C version goes by one arch and a second arch is seen above the snack break area. The B version, 9.7 miles, 1800 ft., goes by Cottonwood Spring (usually wet), then goes up to, through and past the second arch. There are views of lots of golden mountains on this hike. No restrooms. No park fee. Driving distance is 120 miles.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Hackamore-Trailhead>

March 9 - Overton, Go John, Quartz, Flat Rock, Slate and Jasper Trails (Cave Creek Rec. Area). Rating B. This is a 9.6-mile hike on a combined trail loop with an elevation gain of about 1450 ft. We usually travel the trail in a clockwise direction but could dispatch a group counterclockwise, which provides steeper climbs. On the Lime Kiln trail about .3 miles from the Quartz trail intersection is a strange saguaro named the Michelin Man. About .5 miles from the trailhead (near the junction of the Jasper trail) is a group of 3 saguaros that look very much like the hiking club logo. Trail condition – average hiking trail. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. There is a park entrance fee of \$6.00 per car. Driving distance is 93 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Regional-Park/GoJohnOvertonQuartz-and-Variat>

March 16 - Estrella Foothills Park Northwest Loop - SR/PA/RR/GR/UT/PC/JL Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B-.

This is an 8-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and goes through several washes and up over a couple of saddles. 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>

March 23 - Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial Trail (Yarnell). Rating B-. This is a 7.5-mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 1825 ft. The trail is a memorial to the Hotshots fire-fighting team from Prescott who lost their lives fighting the Yarnell fire in 2013. It goes up over the ridge and down a steep slope to the memorial marking where they lost their lives, and includes plaques along the trail for each of the 19 fire fighters.

Trail condition - the trail is a good hiking surface but goes steadily up a very steep slope right from the parking lot. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles RT.

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

March 30 - Brown Mountain-Cathedral Rock-Balanced Rock Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating B. This loop encompasses several outstanding landmarks within the Brown's Ranch portion of the preserve. 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; lunch is normally enjoyed on the back "patio" of Cathedral Rock, accessed through an interesting passageway through the rocks. There are many different cacti species in the preserve and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains (not too likely in 2018). Trail condition - very good hiking trail. There is a nice Scottsdale-quality restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain>