

C 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 - Goldfield Mountains Trail 6D + 3A - Golden Valley Trail with arches (Goldfield Mountains). Rating C+. This is an in and out hike of 7.0 miles with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. The first 2 miles of this hike is on an old rocky jeep trail through typical desert terrain. It then becomes a regular trail up through a golden rock valley. All around you is the golden rock that is famous in this area. At the saddle you get great views of the surrounding mountain ranges, including the Superstitions. The B level becomes very steep and goes up to Peak 3134 and provides 360 views all around. On the return we go up to a couple of arches called the Mask Arches. Trail condition – mostly on d roads, but the section up the golden valley is rough and steep. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 114 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Trail-6D>

March 9 - Overton, Go John & Quartz Trails (Cave Creek Rec. Area). Rating C+. This is a 8 mile hike on a combined trail loop with an elevation gain of about 1100 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 saguaro. About .5 miles from the trailhead (near the junction of the Jasper trail) there 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 C. This is a 8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 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 - West Wing Mountain Trail (Peoria). Rating C+. This is a 5 mile hike with an elevation change of 450 ft and elevation gain of 1300 ft which goes up, down and around the mountain peak. On the South side there are views of the local high-end community as well as views of the West Valley. There are many custom homes at the base of the mountain, including one with what looks like a castle (cabana) and bridge over a moat (pool). On the North side are views of the back of the New River Dam, the green valley behind the dam and mountain vistas beyond that. You hike the first .7 miles through an upscale residential area to get to the trailhead. Watch out for the barking dog head sticking out of the wall! The trail itself is well maintained, but there are several steep areas and numerous scenic overlooks. This hike can best be described as Robson Circle meets Vulture Peak. This is one of the more flexible trails with the optional routes available. It can range from a moderate to challenging C hike. After good winter rains, there would be a wide variety of wildflowers in bloom. Trail condition - overall an average hiking trail, but has a steep uphill and then a steep downhill section. There is no park fee. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 56 miles RT. [SCG=4.5/1100/2.9].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CityofPeoria/West-Wing-Mountain>

March 30 - Brown Mountain Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating C. The Brown Saddle portion is a loop hike of about 6 miles with an elevation gain of 600 ft. The trail to the summit is optional. 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. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain>