

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS

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 5 - Marcus Landslide/Rock Knob Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) Rating C. The C version is a 7.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 740 ft. There are lots of great views to the east and north including the Superstitions and Four Peaks areas. Plus there are views of great granite boulders. No park fee. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 108 miles

RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Marcus-LandslideRock-Knob-Loop>

March 12 - Spring Valley Trail/Hells Canyon Wilderness (Lake Pleasant). Rating C. A 6 mile round trip hike with 900 ft of elevation gain. From the trailhead you immediately go down the road and drop down into the huge wash. Which, in fact, is Castle Creek. Then turn back to the left passing a couple of very large cairns in the creek. It's interesting to imagine what type of thunderstorm it takes to fill this broad swath. From the right side of the parking lot, you can see the cairns and the yellow loggin podium across the wide creek bed between some bushes. If not just remember it's north of the fence by maybe a tenth of a mile, almost opposite the parking lot. The Spring Valley Trail takes off up a small rise then heads fairly flat in a west-southwestern line (slightly left). This is a well maintained trail (lots of large cairns). You will pass through a fence and get distant views of Lake Pleasant as the trail slowly curves to the right. It will make a gradual decent into a wash. The wash is our turnaround point. After our break, we will return the way we came. Trail condition - an average hiking trail. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 97 miles RT (5 miles of dirt road).

After the hike you can drive about 2 miles further down the dirt road to the Castle Hot Springs Resort (which is expected to reopen in late 2018).

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Spring-Valley-Trail>

March 19 - Slim Shady, Made in the Shade Loop (Sedona). Rating C. This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. This is a very scenic hike with views of many named red rock formations, with a close-up view of Bell Rock. Trail Condition - Most of the trails in this area are good trails. There are restrooms at the trailhead. Park fee is free with a Golden Age Pass. Driving distance is approx 240 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Hiline-Trail>

March 26 - Library to Waterfall Trail (White Tanks). Rating C. This is a 7.3 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 550 ft. We head north from the White Tanks library with expansive views of the west valley, before turning on the Black Rock trail that connects to the Waterfall Trail. This could be a great hike after winter or monsoon rains. For those interested in seeing some of the desert wildlife in a controlled environment, there is a small nature center with several rattlesnakes, a Gila Monster, a tarantula, and some scorpions at the nature center in the library. Trail condition - an excellent hiking surface. Restrooms are in the library. Park Fee is \$2.00 per hiker (county park pass is good for 5 hikers). Driving distance is 24 miles RT.