

**C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - WEDNESDAYS**

**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 7 - Black Canyon Trail - Government Springs North (I-17 Exit 248). Rating C.** This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 840 ft. The first couple of miles wander through the desert with little elevation change. It then follows the contours of several interesting canyons as it rises up to near the top of the plateau. There are lots of expansive views of a valley surprisingly devoid of development even though it's only a couple of miles from I-17. The turnaround point is a gate around 3.5 miles from the trailhead. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No park fee. No rest rooms (Sunset Point Rest Area is 4 miles further up I-17 with easy return). Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/Government-Springs>

**March 14 - Fat Man's Pass from the East (South Mountain). Rating C.** This is a 7.1 mi. round trip hike with an elevation gain of about 960 ft. A nice hike to Fat Man's Pass starting in Ahwatukee at the 48<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to South Mountain Park. The trail starts out flat going out of the parking lot on an old road, then climbs to Hidden Valley where it loops back through large rocks and tunnels. There are great views of the Valley from the ridge on which we will be hiking. This popular trail is considered to be fun by many past hikers. Trail condition – an average hiking trail, but a steady climb up to Hidden Valley. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There are no park fees. Driving distance is approx 66 mi RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-East>

**March 21 - Rainbow Valley/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C.** This is a 6.4 mile loop hike beginning on the west side of the rodeo. It has an elevation gain of 500 ft. The trail goes through typical desert terrain. The Rainbow Valley trail is wide and relatively flat. It ends at the Toothaker Trail. Turn left onto the Toothaker Trail to return to the rodeo. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. Restrooms & water are at the trailhead. Park entrance is \$6.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Rainbow-Toothaker>

**March 28 - Goldwater Lakes Loop (Prescott). Rating C+.** This is an 8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 700 ft. The hike goes through a pine forest and then skirts the two Goldwater lakes. After a break at picnic tables at the lake, the hike continues around and through a wooded section with groups of granite boulders. Trail condition – good hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. More restrooms and soda machines are at the lake where we will take our break. Park Fee is \$2.00. Driving distance is 200 miles RT.