

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:15 am, depart at 7:30.

December 3 - Black Canyon Trail – K-Mine Segment/Black Canyon City Trailhead (I-17 Exit 242). Rating C. This is a 5 to 7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. The hike goes 2.5 miles along a ridge that follows the Agua Fria River before descending down to the river using a series of sharp switchbacks. This stretch of the hike provides nice views of the river canyon as well as Black Canyon City. If the river is low, we continue across the river and follow an old jeep trail over several hills. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Trail condition - a good biking trail with one steep section just before crossing the river. No park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT - the last .25 miles are on a gravel road. The Rock Springs Café (great pies and burgers) is .8 miles from the trailhead and you will pass it to get back on I-17. [SCG=5.4/800/2.7].
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/K-mine-Segment-Exit-242>

December 10 - Apache Wash-Sidewinder-Ocotillo Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North Section). Rating C. This is an 8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. The loop combines several trails - the Apache Wash, Ridgeback, Sidewinder, and Ocotillo trails. There are expansive views of the north side of Phoenix, Anthem, and Cave Creek. The hike goes through rolling desert terrain. Trail condition - this is a very good hiking trail with no rocks, stones, steps, etc. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Apache-Wash-Trailhead>

December 17 - Joshua Tree North Monolith (Highway 93). Rating C. This is a 6.8 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 850 ft. It utilizes old jeep roads, regular trails, sandy wash, and an optional short climb to the top of a beautiful monolith. This area is part of the Tres Alamos Wilderness. There are good examples of Saguaros and Joshua trees living side by side in the desert. The rock outcroppings are very scenic as are the Joshua Trees. Trail condition - mostly on old roads with a couple of sections following animal trails and a sandy wash. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Hwy93/Joshua-Tree-North>

December 24 - Massacre Falls Trail (Superstitions). Rating C+. This is a 6.1 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of 1400 feet. You start at the Crosscut trailhead and turn left at the edge of the parking lot. The trail passes through typical desert terrain with lots of Saguaros and Jumping Cholla. The trail then starts heading uphill. You will pass various rock formations as you travel along the trail. You will see Massacre Falls ahead of you as you ascend. We go to a point directly below the falls - this is our turnaround point. Trail condition - average to rough hiking trail. There are no restrooms (though you can go 1.5 miles further up the road to the 1st Water trailhead which has restrooms and then return to the trailhead). No park fee from this trailhead. Driving distance is 122 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Massacre-Falls-Trail>

December 31 - * NEW HIKE *** BLM Trail LP2 & Canyon (Hwy 74, MM 14). Rating C.** This is an 8 mile loop hike on BLM land with an elevation gain of about 800 ft. The LP2 trail follows a wash for 2 miles and then becomes a regular trail. After passing the junction with LP3 in a wash, we follow the wash to a tight (not quite a slot) canyon, where we will have our break and then return to the cars. The trail wanders through typical desert terrain with assorted cacti and scrub brush. Trail surface - part is an average trail with 1-2 miles in a sandy wash. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT - on paved roads, with a dirt parking area.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/LP2Canyon>