

“B” LEVEL HIKING GROUP – MONDAY

Meet at the Eagle’s Nest clubhouse at 7:00 a.m., depart at 7:15 (Times subject to change for early starts. . . always check the weekly e-mail).

Monday, February 4, 2019--Eagletail Mountains Arches Loop (Eagletail Mountains)

Rating C+. This is a 7.2 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The highlight of this hike is the 6+ arches you can see along the way. But there are also many great rock formations to see. Trail Condition - only the last mile or so of the hike is on a trail - it is mostly open desert crossing many washes; the main wash you ascend is boulder hopping or loose rocky soil. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Eagletail-Mountains-Arches>.

Monday, February 11, 2019--Caterpillar Hill Trail (Verrado)

Rating B. This out and back hike is a challenging 9 mile hike all the way to the top of Caterpillar Hill (elevation gain is about 1800 ft). The first 2 miles are fairly flat, rising only 100 ft. Then the hike goes up the 9% grade Caterpillar Hill (700ft) over the next 1 3/4 miles. Finally, it goes up the chute you can see from I-10 to the top (800 ft in 3/4 mile). The white trail you see from Pebble Creek is a second 11% grade caterpillar trail. This hike crosses the top part of that trail. Trail condition - the flat part (first 2 miles) is a good trail, while Caterpillar Hill itself is very steep with no switchbacks. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/Caterpillar-Hill>

Monday, February 18, 2019--La Barge Canyon Loop (Superstition Mountains)

Rating B. This is a lollipop loop hike of about 11.5 miles with an elevation gain of over 1000 ft.

It is 11.5 miles long with a total ascent of over 1000 ft. The trail surface is a typical trail with some rocks, gravel, and sand with some streambed boulder hopping and scrambling in La Barge Canyon itself.

Follow First Water Trail for about 0.4 miles to the junction with Second Water Trail. Turn left onto Second Water Trail and follow it approximately 3.3 miles down into

Boulder Canyon and the junction with Boulder Canyon Trail. Turn right on Boulder Canyon Trail and follow it for approximately 1 mile as it crosses back and forth over Boulder Creek to a cairn on the left that takes you up a faint trail to the back spine of Battleship Mountain to a saddle. Follow the trail down the other side into La Barge Box. (In warmer weather, this is a great spot to jump in the main pool and cool off). This section is a great spot to take a break and just explore part of this beautiful canyon.

After the break we then head down La Barge Creek, boulder hopping on what are initially some large boulders. As you make your way down La Barge Creek, you have an incredible view of Battleship Mountain on your left. La Barge Creek connects to Boulder Canyon and from there it is approximately 0.7 miles back to the junction with Second Water Trail. Then it is 3.3 miles back to the trailhead. Trail condition - half is on established average trail and half is a bushwhack through a rough canyon. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 124 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/La-Barge-Canyon>

Monday, February 25, 2019--Windgate Pass/Gateway Trails

McDowell Sonoran Preserve (Scottsdale). Rating B. This is a 7 to 8+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 1300-1600 ft. The B version goes to the saddle at Windgate Pass giving views of Four Peaks and Weavers Needle. This hike starts at the Gateway trailhead area and passes through a typical Saguaro forest. This part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve has many crested barrel cacti. Trail condition - trail surface is typical desert but it is basically a steady uphill hike to the saddle. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Windgate-Pass>

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Loop>

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Loop-Windgate-Pass/Gatgateway-Loop-Windgate-Pass/>